

Windsor Essex County Environment Committee
Meeting held July 4, 2019

A meeting of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee is held this day commencing at 5:00 o'clock p.m. in the Board Room, Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant, there being present the following members:

Leo Meloche, Deputy Mayor, Town of Amherstburg, Acting Chair
Councillor Kieran McKenzie
Keri Banar
Derek Coronado
Rosanna Demarco
Katie Kuker
Michael Schneider
Richard St. Denis
Jerry Zhu

Regrets received from:

Councillor Chris Holt
Hilda MacDonald, Mayor of Leamington
Radwan Tamr

Guests in attendance:

Dr. Anneke Smit, Associate Professor Faculty of Law, University of Windsor
Jennifer Barden, Wildlife Preservation Canada
Nancy Pancheshan, Save Ojibway
Tom Henderson, Detroit River Canadian Clean-up, Chair, Public Advisory Council
Andy Paling, Detroit River Canadian Clean-up, Vice Chair, Public Advisory Council
Hilary Payne, Detroit River Canadian Clean-up, Public Advisory Council

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Averil Parent, Environmental & Sustainability Coordinator
Amandeep Hans, Windsor Essex County Health Unit
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Committee Coordinator calls the meeting to order at 5:02 o'clock p.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule A attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

2. Election of Co-Chairs

It is generally agreed to defer the election to allow Councillor Holt and Mayor MacDonald to be in attendance.

Leo Meloche, Deputy Mayor, Town of Amherstburg has agreed to be Acting Chair for this meeting.

Additions to the Agenda

Moved by D. Coronado, seconded by Councillor McKenzie,
That Rule 3.3 (c) of the Procedure By-law 98-2011 be waived to add the following additions to the Agenda:

- 5. Tom Henderson, Detroit River Canadian Cleanup regarding funding for an eco-passage for animals only spanning the Ojibway Parkway
- 8.1 Dr. Anneke Smit, Associate Professor Faculty of Law regarding a Climate Change emergency research project with University of Windsor students

Carried.

3. Disclosure of Interest

None disclosed.

5. Presentations

Save Ojibway – Seasonal closure of Matchette Road and Malden Road

Nancy Pancheshan, Save Ojibway group and Jennifer Barden, Wildlife Preservation Canada appear before the Committee and provides the following as it relates to the seasonal closure of Matchette and Malden Roads:

- Ojibway supports 4,000 species, 22 are endangered and threatened species.
- Over 100 endangered species have been killed in the past two years.
- The communities of Burlington and Kitchener have proven road closures are an excellent method to protect our endangered species
- Requesting that Matchette and Malden Roads be closed for an 8 week period
- If no action is taken, there is a possibility of continued road mortality with the threat of extinction
- Alternate roads to take – Ojibway Parkway, Herb Grey parkway, Todd Lane or Laurier Parkway

In response to a question asked by R. Demarco regarding if there are businesses in this area, N. Pancheshan responds there are businesses on Malden Road.

M. Schneider suggests the use of speed bumps to slow down the traffic and to make it uncomfortable for people travelling down Matchette and Malden Roads.

Moved by Councillor McKenzie, seconded by K. Kuker,
That the presentation provided by Nancy Pancheshan, Save Ojibway and Jennifer Barden, Wildlife Preservation Canada regarding the potential seasonal closure of Matchette and Malden Roads **BE ACCEPTED.**
Carried.

Moved by D. Coronado, seconded by K. Kuker,
That the motion attached as Appendix “A” for “Temporary Road Closures at the Ojibway Prairie Complex” submitted by Wildlife Preservation Canada and Save Ojibway **BE APPROVED.**
Carried.
Councillor McKenzie and R. St. Denis voting nay.

Councillor McKenzie suggests the development of a wildlife strategic plan or policy for the City of Windsor.

A. Parent states the development of a wildlife plan by administration would require additional budget and staff time.

D. Coronado adds this situation is a “ticking clock” as species are being killed.

Tom Henderson, Detroit River Canadian Cleanup – Eco Passage for animals only spanning the Ojibway Parkway

Tom Henderson, Detroit River Canadian Clean-up, Chair Public Advisory Council appears before the Committee. An e-mail from Jacqueline Serran, Remedial Action Plan Coordinator, Detroit River Canadian Cleanup dated June 27, 2019 is distributed and

attached as Appendix “B”. He requests that the motion passed by their Public Advisory Council proceed to the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee and to City Council for approval. He provides the following comments relating to this matter:

- The Bridge Authority announced seed money in the amount of \$1.5 M for an eco-passage bridge connecting the Black Oak Heritage Forest and Ojibway Park.
- This will provide safe passage for area wildlife and species at risk in the Ojibway Prairie Complex.
- Eco-passages are designed to provide safe passage for animals to get around roads that block their natural movements. They are especially important for species at risk as these animals migrate back and forth among various habitats.
- Slow movers like snakes and turtles are difficult to see and are most in peril.
- 20,000 vehicles per day travel along the Ojibway Parkway and E C Row Expressway. This contributes heavily to wildlife death.

In response to a question asked by Councillor McKenzie regarding the cost of the eco-passages, T. Henderson responds he does not have that information.

Moved by R. Demarco, seconded by Councillor McKenzie,
That the presentation by Tom Henderson, Detroit River Canadian Cleanup regarding funding for eco-passages for animals only spanning the Ojibway Parkway **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

Moved by R. St. Denis, seconded by Councillor McKenzie,
WHEREAS, the Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority has announced as part of its community benefits package seed money as a joint project with the City of Windsor for an Eco-Passage (bridge) for animals only spanning the Ojibway Parkway; and
WHEREAS, additional funding will be required to complete the structure,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that City Council **BE REQUESTED** to consider that the balance of the funding required **BE INCLUDED** in the City’s 2020 Capital Budget.

Carried.

8. Subcommittee Reports

8.1 Air Quality

D. Coronado provides an overview of the Air Quality Subcommittee report which includes the following topics:

Municipal Climate Emergency Declaration

- IPCC Special Report Global Warming of 1.5C
- Canada's Changing Climate Report 2019
- Approximately 405 Canadian municipal councils (June 20) have declared a climate emergency, 365 in Quebec alone
- Definition of an Emergency – “A situation or an impending situation that constitutes a danger of major proportions that could result in serious harm to persons or substantial damage to property and that is caused by the forces of nature, a disease or other health risk, an accident or an act whether intentional or otherwise.” (*Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act R.S.O. 2000*)
- A Draft Resolution requesting the City of Windsor to declare a climate emergency is proposed.

Councillor McKenzie advises Dr. Anneke Smit, Associate Professor Faculty of Law, University of Windsor is proposing her students (for credit work) research the crafting of a resolution for the City of Windsor to declare a Climate Change Emergency including the specific elements that would be addressed with the declaration. The role WECEC would play would be important in terms of the outreach aspect. Over the course of the summer and into the fall, the Committee would meet with the various stakeholders that could be impacted by any kind of climate change policy, i.e. environmental groups, businesses, agriculture, etc. By the end of the semester, there may be coherent language and a well researched policy proposal to bring forward.

Dr. Anneke Smit appears before the Committee and provides the following comments:

- We will research and provide some support to ensure whatever goes forward from WECEC to the Standing Committee and Council will be as well researched as possible.
- We are told that 40% of greenhouse gas emissions are regulated by municipalities across the country. This is an issue that law school students are very interested in.
- The University of Windsor has a well established experiential learning program so there is some flexibility to do clinical pop-up activities to ensure that the students are well trained and supervised so the ethics of their work in the community is well understood.
- Proposing front loaded research to strengthen motion to Council, as well as engagement to ensure the community is aware of potential climate change emergency
- Students will be graded (10 students maximum) and will be undertaking this concurrent with the Municipal Law studies.

R. St. Denis suggests this matter be deferred until more information is gathered.

Councillor McKenzie proposes that the motion put forth by D. Coronado in the Air Subcommittee report be deferred and that a Climate Change subcommittee be established.

Moved by R. St. Denis, seconded by Councillor McKenzie,
That the draft resolution put forth by D. Coronado in the Air Quality Subcommittee report for the City of Windsor to declare a climate emergency and to outline additional actions to be taken to incorporate into existing plans and policies and the achievement of net zero carbon emissions before 2050 **BE DEFERRED**.

Carried.

R. Demarco voting nay.

Councillor McKenzie expresses concern that the motion put forth by D. Coronado will not be approved by Council and adds there is an opportunity to work with the University of Windsor to make this a regional policy that could become municipal law.

Moved by K. Banar, seconded by R. St. Denis,
That the presentation by Dr. Anneke Smit, Associate Professor Faculty of Law regarding the development of a proposal to declare a climate change emergency in Windsor Essex County in conjunction with the University of Windsor Law Students **BE ACCEPTED**.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor McKenzie, seconded by R. St. Denis,
That the Air Quality Subcommittee **BE REQUESTED** to move forward in the development of a proposal to declare a climate change emergency in Windsor Essex County in conjunction with Law Students from the University of Windsor in a Municipal Law and Climate Change course **BE APPROVED**.

Carried.

R. Demarco voting nay

The following WECEC members volunteer to sit on the Air Quality Subcommittee – K. Banar, D. Coronado, A. Hans, M. Schneider, J. Zhu, Dr. Smit, K. Kuker, Councillor McKenzie and Councillor Holt.

6. Business Items

6.1 Pat on the Back Awards

A. Parent thanks K. Kuker, K. Banar, R. St. Denis and M. Schneider for their assistance in the Pat on the Back Awards event. She adds WECEC received 15 applications and the following groups were presented with a \$500 award each:

- Greener Bins
- Forest Glade Public School
- Glenwood Public School
- CommUnity Partnership

R. St. Denis expresses concern that it might not have been clear that a group cannot win two years in a row and suggests only new applications be forwarded to the judges for consideration.

6.2 Priorities Discussion

A. Parent notes the priorities proposed at the April 25, 2019 meeting have been summarized into a list.

The Acting Chair requests that the list be modified to include less priorities.

7. Coordinator's Report

A. Parent provides an overview of the report.

8.2 Environmentally Sensitive Lands and Issues

No report.

9. New Business

9.1 Update on City of Windsor Environmental Issues

A. Parent reports administration is moving forward with the City of Windsor Climate Change Adaptation Plan. She indicates there will be more public consultation in the Fall 2019 when a draft of the plan is tabled at the Environment, Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee.

10. Communications

10.1 The CBC Windsor article regarding "How to Make Cities Healthier and Happier and Better Equipped to Fight Climate Change" is received for information.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on September 19, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. at the Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 7:00 o'clock p.m.

Leo Meloche, Acting Chair

Committee Coordinator