

/BT
Windsor, Ontario March 7, 2013

A meeting of the **Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee** is held this day commencing at 5:30 o'clock p.m. in the Board Room, Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant, 4155 Ojibway parkway, there being present the following members:

Charlie Wright, Co-Chair
Councillor Alan Halberstadt, Co-Chair
Councillor Hilary Payne
Derek Coronado
Ric Coronado
Roger Dzugan (alternate for Mark Bartlett)
Jesse Costa Gardner
Karen Fallon
Evan Freeman-Gibb
Paul Henshaw
John Miller
Tamara Stomp (arrives at 5:45 p.m.)

Regrets received from:

Mark Bartlett
Pauline Cheslock
Radwan Tamr

Also present are the following resource personnel:

James Bryant, County Engineering Department
Averil Parent, Environment & Sustainability Coordinator
Beth Toldo, (A) Committee Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Charlie Wright, Co-Chair calls the meeting to order at 5:34 o'clock p.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule "A" **attached** hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Nil.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT

None disclosed.

4. **MINUTES**

Moved by P. Henshaw, seconded by K. Fallon,

THAT the minutes of the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee at its meeting held February 7, 2013 **BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED** to reword the phrase on page 3 "*Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is the only wildlife refuge in North America*" to "*Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is the only **international** wildlife refuge in North America*".

Carried.

5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

5.1 Moved by Councillor Halberstadt, seconded by R. Dzugan

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$661.90 payable to Generator Design of Canada Inc. as part of the Energy Conservation Campaign.

Carried.

5.2 Councillor Halberstadt advises that Dan Burden, Executive Director of the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute (Green Speaker Series) will be conducting two presentations in Ontario. The walkability workshop costs \$5,000.00 plus 1/3 of his expenditures. Various groups could be approached for financial support; possibly the Downtown Windsor BIA, local architects, City Planners, etc. It is suggested that local media could be invited to attend. Friday June 7, 2013 is the potential date, but is conditional on raising sufficient funds. A. Parent agreed to contact the City Planner to determine if there are funds available to contribute to this initiative.

Moved by P. Henshaw, seconded by K. Fallon

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to set aside \$1,000.00 towards the Dan Burden Walkability Workshop in June 2013, conditional on raising the additional funds needed from various outside groups.

Carried.

5.3 Moved by P. Henshaw, seconded by E. Freeman-Gibb

That the application of Lindita Prendi for membership on the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee **BE ACCEPTED**.

Carried.

Moved by J. Miller, seconded by Councillor Payne

That the Revised Terms of Reference dated March 2013 for the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee outlining the *Composition & Selection of Members* **BE ACCEPTED**.

Carried.

6. COORDINATORS REPORT

Averil Parent indicates that the group has successfully secured St. Clair College, Essex Power, EnWin Utilities, the Windsor Essex Economic Development Corporation and EcoSpex as partners in the Energy Conservation Campaign. The campaign will be launched at the end of March with print, radio and online advertising. Plans include a Green Speaker Series event in collaboration with the Windsor Home Show to be held April 5-7, 2013 at the Exhibition Hall located at 635 Sprucewood. A solar powered shuttle provided by the City of Windsor Executive Director of Parks and Facilities will be on hand at the booth to provide high visibility to this green initiative.

7. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Air

D. Coronado advises that the 2012 Progress Report is available for viewing on the International Joint Commission (IJC) website (www.ijc.org/en/air_quality_2012/Progress_Report).

D. Coronado discusses the following salient points of interest regarding the new environmental concern on the Detroit River shoreline (Detroit side) just east of the Ambassador Bridge:

- The material that looks like piles of black coal is actually a petroleum coke product which has been filtered out of crude oil by a nearby Marathon Oil refinery.
- It has reached at least four storeys in height and is a few hundred metres in length along the Detroit riverfront.
- The property where the black pile is located is owned by Ambassador Bridge owner Matty Maroun. The property is leased by a railway company and its affiliates.
- Environmental concerns are mounting over the petroleum coke blowing into the air as well as run-off into the Detroit River.
- There has been a long history of problems of companies storing coal piles on the Detroit riverfront.
- There is a great potential for transboundary pollution.
- The current financial state of the City of Detroit impacts the proper monitoring of this industrial site or the dealing with environmental violations.
- Follow-up with City of Detroit, State of Michigan and the U.S. Federal Government is required on this issue. A. Parent to be in contact with the three levels of government to ensure the material is stored and handled safely.
- Councillors Halberstadt and Payne to raise this issue at the next Windsor City Council meeting (Monday March 18, 2013).

Moved by T. Stomp, seconded by D. Coronado

That the City of Detroit Environmental Affairs, State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the United States Environmental Protection Agency **BE CONTACTED** on behalf of the Windsor-Essex County Environmental Committee over the environmental concerns that are mounting regarding the petroleum coke being stock piled along the Detroit River shoreline (just east of the Ambassador Bridge), and

That a letter **BE SENT** from Windsor City Council to the three levels of government (City, State and Federal government) outlining the environment concerns over the stock piling of petroleum coke along the shoreline, and

That the City of Windsor **PETITION** the Town of LaSalle, the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA), Michigan Representative Rashida Tlaib (D-Detroit), U.S. Representatives Gary Peters (D-Bloomfield Township) and John Conyers (D- Detroit) as well as regional MPs and MPPs for support in this initiative.

Carried.

7.2 **Transportation**

It is noted that the Transit Windsor 2013 Budget has not been reduced by 10%. A new feature will be implemented in the new year to allow ridership to monitor where buses are (smart phone mobile tracking features). A special thank you was mentioned to all sub-committee members who attended the 2013 Operating and Capital Budget meeting.

7.3 **Provincially Significant Wetlands**

No report.

7.4 **Water Quality**

Matthew Child has left Essex Region Conservation Authority. Mike Nelson will serve as the new member on WECEC from ERCA.

Salient points of discussion regarding the water quality subcommittee are as follows:

- Two local area students will be volunteering time through ERCA
- We will continue to implement the communications strategy for “Overload” in order to increase its influence in the public realm.
- “Great Lakes Great Challenges” will be held March 14, 2013 on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester Michigan.

The daylong conference is free and open to the public. Focus will be on challenges facing the Great Lakes, such as harmful algae in Lake Erie and targeting solutions such as green infrastructure. If interested in attending, RSVP to the International Joint Commission Great Lakes Regional Office.

7.5 **Surplus Parks Strategy**

Salient points of discussion regarding Titcombe Park are as follows:

- Heavy support to naturalize Titcombe Park (seven acres of park at the corner of Malden and Titcombe Roads)
- The park is located near the Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve and the City has been leasing the land from the Ontario government.
- The Province desires to naturalize the land as do the neighbours.
- On a separate issue, it was noted that neighbours were upset regarding loosing South Tilston Park.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

- 8.1 Moved by T. Stomp, seconded by Councillor Payne
That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$386.35 payable to Dynamic Design & Promotion for the purchase of WECEC Environmental Promotional Pens.
Carried.

- 8.2 Salient points of discussion regarding the Asian carp crisis in the Great Lakes are as follows:
- Dr. Hugh MacIssac, Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research (GLIER), University of Windsor involved with Asian carp issue in the Great Lakes.
 - Asian carp are released in the southern United States and are migrating north.
 - Electrified barriers are an option in controlling this crisis.
 - Asian carp larvae has been found in the Great Lakes.

Moved by Councillor Payne, seconded by T. Stomp
That the resolution (***attached*** as Appendix "A") presented by the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative to the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee emphasizing the serious nature of the Asian carp crisis in the Great Lakes and the urgency of finding a solution **BE ENDORSED** and

That the City of Windsor **BE REQUESTED** to pass a resolution endorsing the same.

Carried.

8.3 Salient points of discussion regarding the Earth Day Registration are as follows:

- A. Parent is soliciting volunteers to man the booth or volunteer at Earth Day 2013 at Malden Park, Sunday April 28, 2013 (10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
- Advise A. Parent directly if you are able to volunteer

Moved by Councillor Halberstadt, seconded by R. Dzugan

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the amount of \$40.00 for booth space at the 2013 Earth Day event to be held at Malden Park on April 28, 2013.

Carried.

8.4 A. Parent indicates that Earth Hour will be observed on Saturday March 23, 2013 from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Salient points of discussion regarding Earth Hour are as follows:

- A. Parent to host an Earth Hour promotion at a local elementary school. Media will be invited to attend.
- EnWin is involved in promoting the event.
- Last year, Windsor residents decreased consumption by 2.3% during Earth Hour 2012. This represents approximately 6 megawatts or enough power to serve approximately 1,400 homes.
- C. Wright and T. Stomp to bring Earth Hour initiative to County Council on March 20, 2013.

Councillor Payne advises the City of Windsor has approved \$1.8 million at the 2013 Budget meeting to invest in a 5.5 km bike and recreational trail along Division and Cabana Roads. Also approved was the new east-west connector of bike lanes and sidewalks between Walker Road and the new Herb Gray Parkway.

T. Stomp comments on one of the Windsor Star articles provided to WECEC members by Councillor Halberstadt entitled "*Great Lakes full of plastic: Study*" by Claire Brownell. She indicates this issue was discussed at the last water quality meeting.

Councillor Halberstadt reminds WECEC members of the annual "Rose City Clean Sweep" litter removal program sponsored by the Environmental Services Department of the City of Windsor. April is the designated month. Garbage bags/gloves are provided by the City, and any group of volunteers who completes a cleanup of a specific area are to leave the filled garbage bags by the road side for the City to pick up. WECEC will co-sponsor a cleanup in the downtown Windsor area on Tuesday April 2, 2013 beginning at 8:30 until noon. A. Parent will send out an invitation with details. The plan is to gather at Maiden Lane.

9. **COMMUNICATIONS**

Nil.

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting will be Thursday April 4, 2013 at the Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant at 5:30 o'clock p.m.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 6:55 o'clock p.m.

CHARLIE WRIGHT, CO-CHAIR

(A) COMMITTEE COORDINATOR



AGENDA
WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held on Thursday, March 7, 2013
Meeting at 5:30p.m.
At LOU ROMANO WATER RECLAMATION PLANT

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

3. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT**

4. **MINUTES**

Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held February 7th, 2013 – *emailed separately.*

5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

5.1 Motion to approve an expenditure in the upset amount of \$661.90 payable to Generator Design of Canada Inc. (as part of the Energy Conservation Campaign) – *attached.*

5.2 Green Speaker Series proposal

5.3 Membership – *attached.*

6. **COORDINATORS REPORT**

WECEC Coordinator Monthly Report – *attached.*

7. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

7.1 Air

7.2 Transportation

7.3 Provincially Significant Wetlands

7.4 Water Quality

7.5 Surplus Parks Strategy

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

8.1 Motion to approve an expenditure in the upset amount of \$386.35 payable to Dynamic Design & Promotion from WECEC promotional pens – *attached.*

8.2 Asian Carp motion request by Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative – *attached.*

8.3 Earth Day Registration – *attached.*

8.4 Earth Hour

9. **COMMUNICATIONS**

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting will be April 4th, 2013 at the Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant at 5:30 o'clock p.m.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

MODEL RESOLUTION ON ASIAN CARP

Keeping Asian Carp Out of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence represent the largest body of surface fresh water in the world and are a vibrant, diverse ecosystem that is critically important to the economic well-being and quality of life of the Canadian and U.S. populations in the basin ;

WHEREAS, over 180 invasive species have entered the ecosystem over the years and caused widespread damage and disruption to the natural balance of the system, as well as significant economic damage;

WHEREAS, one of the most serious threats ever presented by invasive species currently comes from Asian carp, including silver, bighead, and black varieties;

WHEREAS, these varieties of carp were introduced to the southern United States for use in fish farms for algae control in the 1970's and escaped into the Mississippi River system as a result of floods and other means over the years;

WHEREAS, the invasive carp have migrated northward through the Mississippi River system over the years to a point where they are as far north as Wisconsin and Minnesota, and into Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, as well;

WHEREAS, the invasive carp have established dominant populations in many places in the river systems, reducing significantly or eliminating populations of the more desirable species of fish because of their voracious food consumption and prolific reproduction;

WHEREAS, the invasive carp are threatening to enter the Great Lakes at a number of points across the basin, but none appear to present as great a threat as the Illinois River and Chicago Area Waterway System;

WHEREAS, many federal, state, provincial, and local government agencies in the United States and Canada have worked diligently and expended tens of millions of dollars over the past 10 years on a variety of projects to stop the migration of the invasive carp and keep them out of the Great Lakes;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed and currently operates an electric barrier near Romeoville Illinois on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal that seems to have helped slow or stop the movement of the invasive carp toward Lake Michigan;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a multiyear, comprehensive study across the U.S. side of the Great Lakes basin called the "Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study" (GLMRIS) that examines 19 separate locations where invasive carp could cross from the Mississippi River Basin to the Great Lakes Basin, and considers a large number of potential ways to stop the further migration;

WHEREAS, including the invasive carp, there are 39 invasive species in the two basins that present a threat to cross over into the other basin in the near future;

WHEREAS, once an invasive species establishes itself in an ecosystem, it is exceedingly difficult to eradicate it, and it often inflicts serious damage on the ecosystem and imposes major costs in the form of efforts to control it;

WHEREAS, invasive species have already inflicted hundreds of millions in damage across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence, and invasive carp pose a serious threat to the \$7 billion sport and commercial fishery that support the economy and help define the culture of the entire region;

WHEREAS, Canadian and U.S. citizens across the basin have expressed serious concern about the invasive carp and other invasive species, and are demanding prompt action;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities initiative has taken the position by resolution that physical separation of the Mississippi River and Great Lakes basins in the Chicago Area Waterway System provides the most effective means of keeping the invasive carp from reaching Lake Michigan;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and Great Lakes Commission completed a report entitled "Restoring the Natural Divide" on January 31, 2012 that established the feasibility of physical separation of the two basins in the Chicago Area Waterway System that would also maintain or enhance water quality, flood control, and transportation in the System.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the invasive carp in the Mississippi River system pose one of the greatest threats to the integrity and well-being of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence ecosystem, including the 40 million Canadians and Americans who live there;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that preventing the invasive carp from entering the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence ecosystem needs to be approached with the greatest sense of urgency by all those responsible for dealing with this matter;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that physical separation is the most effective way to keep invasive carp from entering Lake Michigan through the Chicago Area Waterway System, and such barriers would also prevent the movement of many other invasive species from one basin to the other;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that physical separation is feasible and can be done in a way that maintains or enhances water quality, flood control, and transportation in the system;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should take all necessary steps accelerate its process to complete its work on the Chicago Area Waterway System portion of the study no later than December 2013, and give fair and thorough consideration to the physical separation option;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and all cooperating U.S. and Canadian agencies continue operation of the electric barrier, intensive commercial fishing, and other methods to keep the invasive carp out of the Great Lakes while a long term solution is found and implemented.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that additional work should be undertaken immediately to develop more details of the "Restoring the Natural Divide," report, with a special emphasis on ways to finance the necessary infrastructure investments;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, once a preferred option is identified, all parties should move forward to implement the solution in an expedited fashion with the greatest sense of urgency.