AGENDA
And Schedule "A"
To the minutes of the meeting of the
WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Thursday, January 5th, 2011
Meeting at 5:30p.m.
At YQG WINDSOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
BOARDROOM

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT

4. MINUTES

Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held December 1st, 2011 - ***emailed separately.***

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 Speaker Series - Elizabeth May, Leader, Green Party of Canada

5.2 Renewable Energy Media Campaign

5.3 New WECEC Appointments

6. COORDINATORS REPORT

WECEC Coordinator Monthly Report - ***attached.***

7. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Air

7.2 Transportation

7.3 Provincially Significant Wetlands

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Notice of Motion: Blue W community-based tap water promotion campaign

Whereas:

The City of Windsor has adapted a policy to promote tap water at municipal buildings therefore promoting a choice between tap water and bottled water;

Whereas:

The reduction of bottled water consumption decreases the amount of energy consumed to handle the waste and/or recycling of plastics;

Whereas:

The promotion of readily available free tap water positively affects the low socio-economic sector;

Whereas:

Tap water available in the summer contributes to the Regional Heat Alert and Response Plan therefore potentially decreasing the amount of heat related illness;

Whereas:

Tap water represents a healthier choice to individuals, specifically children when compared to sugar laden soft drinks;

And Whereas:

Businesses offering tap water free of charge may be seen as socially and environmentally responsible therefore increasing commercial foot traffic and aligning shops with community interests;

Therefore Be It Resolved That:

City Council participates in the Blue W Community-based Tap Water Promotion Campaign which encourages businesses to offer municipal tap water free of charge to Windsor residents. This will be promoted through the Blue W website and smart phone applications, a media campaign as well as store front window stickers.

8.2 Lake Erie algal blooms - ***attached.***

8.3 WECEC Strategic Plan Review - ***attached.***

9. COMMUNICATIONS

9.1 WECEC letter of support for the Zero Waste opposition campaign to the Detroit Incinerator ***attached.***

9.2 WECEC request to have WindsorOntarioNews.com article changed- ***attached.***

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 2nd, 2011 at the YQG Windsor Airport Board Room at 5:30 o'clock p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

WECEC COORDINATOR MONTHLY REPORT
AVERIL PARENT

- DECEMBER, 2011 -

ONGOING INITIATIVES

1. Provincially Significant Wetlands Subcommittee

Members of the sub-committee met with various staff from the City of Windsor and ERCA for a follow-up meeting regarding the airport woodlots and the recent City Council request to produce a report describing their significance and value. The report is in good shape and the sub-committee will be notified of when it will go to the Environment and Transportation Standing Committee.

Carolinian Canada held their second meeting regarding a Lake Erie Trail at the end of November. The meeting was held quite far away so members of the sub-committee could not attend, however proceedings from the meeting will be sent to us for our review and comment.

The sub-committee has submitted a letter to WindsorOntarioNews.com regarding mistakes made in the *"No de-icing airplanes...at an airport?"* article. The letter is attached to the January meeting agenda. Currently, we have not received a response from the online newspaper.

2. Regional Integrated Community Sustainability Plan

Contact has been made with members from the Inter-Municipal Planning Consultation Committee (IMPCC) to begin discussions with the group regarding a Regional Sustainability Plan.

3. Speaker Series - Elizabeth May

Elizabeth May has agreed to speak in Windsor at the end of January. This event will kick off our "Green Speaker Series". On Saturday, January 28th Elizabeth will speak at an event for the public. The Dr. David Suzuki Public School has been tentatively booked from 10:00am until 12:30am on Saturday, January 28th. A light breakfast buffet of pastries, fruit, coffee, tea etc. will be in the entrance of the school from 10:00 to 10:30am. Elizabeth May will begin speaking at 10:30am.

Janine Bratt from Taste Bud Foods will cater the event. She catered the "Pat on the Back" awards with great success. She uses local and seasonal ingredients where possible. Similar to "Sustain This", advertising the event will be done mainly through media release, personal emails, small posters and the internet. Posters for the event will be available at the January meeting.

6.0

4. Renewable Energy Media Campaign with Generator Design

The media campaign is underway, with first steps being taken to approach the solar industry asking them to support our campaign. We will begin developing the content of the public service announcements and newspaper ads/editorial content shortly.

The campaign will hope to encompass all forms of renewable energy under the Green Energy Act. However, we will begin by highlighting the solar industry in Windsor-Essex. Mark Bartlett has agreed to help champion this initiative through his contacts in the sector.

IMPORTANT UPDATES AND INFORMATION

1. Letter of support for Zero Waste's appeal against the Detroit Incinerators operating permit

WECEC has sent a letter of support for Zero Waste's campaign against the Detroit Incinerator to the US Environmental Protection Agency. The letter will be attached to the January meeting agenda.

2. Student Positions on WECEC

The WECEC Coordinator has made contact with the University of Windsor as well as St. Clair College regarding the creation of two Student positions on the Committee. St. Clair College is very keen to help advertise for the position. The University of Windsor has yet to respond.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS. REPORT

BD 34/11

FROM: Chitra Gowda, MASc., Water Quality Specialist
Matthew Child, MCIP, Director of Watershed Restoration
Stan Taylor, P.Eng., Director of Source Water Protection
Tim Byrne, Coordinator of Flood & Erosion Control
Richard Wyma, CSLA, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

SUBJECT: Water quality including Lake Erie algal blooms

DATE: November 2, 20 I I

ACTION SPECIFIC:
- Building and Strengthen Relationships -Action 3 Enhance Existing Collaborations
- Developing Science - Action 6 Continue Regional Monitoring

PURPOSE

To provide the Board of Directors with an overview of ERCA's water quality projects and programs, especially as they relate to the algal blooms in Lake Erie and elsewhere, and bacteria which results in beach postings and closures.

REPORT SUMMARY

- One of ERCA's top priorities is protecting and enhancing water quality, and we have related programs addressing this priority.
- After many years of measurable water quality improvements, water quality in the Great Lakes has been deteriorating due to increases in biologically available nutrient loadings, among other factors. Harmful algal blooms and swimming beach postings or closures are resulting with increasing frequency.
- Non-point sources of pollution (pollution associated with diffuse land uses) are the primary driver of current water quality problems.
- **An ongoing focus on monitoring and science, as well as an increase in the scale and intensity of water** quality improvement projects are required to improve water quality in our tributaries and the Great Lakes.

BACKGROUND

Introduction/Context

Protecting and enhancing water quality is one of ERCA's top priorities, and ERCA has programs in place to measure surface and groundwater quality, and to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners, municipalities and other sectors for projects that improve or protect water quality. This report summarizes water quality problems in our region, ERCA programs that are addressing these

water quality problems, and some next steps that Administration have or will shortly be initiating to further enhance regional water quality.

Water quality has long been a resource management threat in the Essex region, as it has been throughout most of southwest Ontario and beyond. Several, significant water quality studies undertaken previously (e.g., International Joint Commission's Pollution from Land Use Activities Research Group (PLUARG) in the 1970s, Province of Ontario/Conservation Authority Clean Up Rural Beaches (CURB) Program in the 1990s), as well as ongoing Great Lakes initiatives that ERCA is involved in (e.g., Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan) confirm that the sources of water quality problems have evolved since the late I960s when water quality was severely degraded and Lake Erie was declared 'dead'. At that time, problems were related to point sources of pollutants (discharges from pipes that are usually regulated through provincial permitting processes), which were substantially addressed through significant investments in municipal pollution control plants and changes to phosphorus limits in detergents further to the 1972 Canada-US *Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.* After over 20 years of improved water quality in the Great Lakes including Lakes Erie and St. Clair, water quality problems have been worsening for the past several years, in large part due to non-point sources (NPS) of pollutants, which are associated with diffuse land uses and are often not regulated. Specific NPS water quality parameters of concern include nutrients (especially phosphorus which is usually the limiting nutrient for algal growth) and bacteria (especially£. *coli* which determines beach postings and closures).

The current algal problem in the lower Great Lakes, especially Lake Erie, is caused by a complex interplay of factors. Algal growth is driven to a large degree by phosphorus loadings, and while overall phosphorus loadings are fairly stable, the biologically available fraction of total phosphorus has been increasing. Biologically available phosphorus is typically found in phosphorus applied to lawns, gardens and agricultural areas, as well as livestock and human waste. Weather is also driving current algal problems - more frequent and intense storms that we have been experiencing (and are expected to **continue as climate changes) increases runoff and erosion and flushes phosphorus into our watercourses** and into the Lakes. Additionally, the presence of aquatic invasive species such as the zebra mussels tend to concentrate available nutrients in the nearshore (shallow waters near the shore) where algal growth is already abundant because light can penetrate to the lake bed. Finding solutions to current water quality problems will require a combination of improved understanding through monitoring and science, as well as an increase in the scale and intensity of projects that improve water quality, particularly but not **exclusively addressing non-point sources of nutrients, bacteria and other conventional pollutants.**

In addition to ongoing vigilance regarding water quality problems in Ontario's Great Lakes watersheds, there needs to be a similar emphasis as on the US side. The overall water quality influence from US sources is much greater than Canadian sources, as acknowledged in several binational Great Lakes agreements including the *Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement* and *Lake Erie Binational Nutrient Management Strategy.* Substantial resources are presently being provided to the eight Great Lakes' States through the *Great Lakes Restoration Initiative* for projects that improve water quality and habitat. A **commensurate focus on the Canadian side is required to meet our obligations under existing agreements** and our moral obligation to better manage our shared lakes, which comprise 20% of the planet's surface **freshwater resource.**

Further information on regional water quality can be found on our website:

Watershed Report Card (2006) - http:ljwww.erca.org/downloads/watershed_report_card06.pdf

Water Quality Status Report (2009): http:ljwww.erca.org/downloads/watershed_water_quality_report_09.pdf

Existing Water Quality Programs and Activities

ERCA's ongoing water quality programs and activities are briefly described below.

Water Quality Monitoring

ERCA has maintained water quality monitoring and enhancement programs since the early 1980s, with a brief interruption due to significant provincial cutbacks in the late 1990s. Our water quality monitoring **program consists of surface water and groundwater components. Eight groundwater monitoring wells** are sampled several times annually by Ministry of Environment (MOE) as part of an ongoing partnership program with ERCA.

ERCA's surface water monitoring program includes 19 sites that are sampled monthly as well as during select precipitation events, and 5 nearshore (Lake and Detroit River shoreline) sites. Through a partnership with the MOE, samples for 8 of the 19 sites are tested by an MOE laboratory, and the data form part of the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network. The nearshore sites are sampled during wet weather runoff events only. Our monitoring data for 2011 are typical of prior year's results, in that **we routinely experience exceedances for several 'conventional' parameters. For example, total** phosphorus ranges for 2011 are between I to 130 times the Provincial Water Quality Objective of 0.03 mg/L for streams and rivers. The highest levels of total phosphorus occur in Mill Creek (3.9 mg/L), Sturgeon Creek (3.9 mg/L) and Lebo Drain (3 mg/L) - tributaries that drain to the Lake Erie. *E. coli* counts ranged between IO to 7,200 counts/ I00 ml of sample, with the highest counts occurring in Duck Creek, Pike Creek and Mill Creek. In 2011, during wet weather events, the *E. coli* at Sturgeon Creek was found to be the highest, at greater than 20,000 counts/I 00 ml of sample. The Health Unit limit is I00 counts/ I00 ml, and therefore beaches are regularly posted (> I00 counts/ I00 ml) or closed (> 1,000 counts/ I00 ml) throughout the swimming season. Beach postings/closures result in a loss of recreational value and affect quality of life for the region's residents and tourism.

Our water quality monitoring program provides information on long-term water quality trends as well as current water quality conditions. The data obtained are used to identify priority pollution problems and **areas, and may assist in assessing the effectiveness of best management practices in reducing pollutant** loadings.

Water Quality Enhancement

Since the 1990s ERCA has maintained a rural non-point source pollution (NPS) remediation program, which is currently part of our Clean Water-Green Spaces Program. This program is geared to improving water quality in our rural areas, which is accomplished through several related activities.

Priority areas for water quality project investment are developed using sophisticated modelling tools in partnership with the University of Windsor. Annualized Agricultural NPS (AnnAgNPS) modelling uses our water quality monitoring results and other data sets (soil type, slope, existing vegetation type) to

identify parts of watersheds that have the highest potential to export phosphorus and other contaminants to adjacent watercourses. A package of information on our Clean Water-Green Spaces program is then **mailed to landowners in these priority areas. We also respond to landowners inquiries from outside our priority areas, where project ideas are consistent with our criteria.**

Once a landowner has expressed interest in a water quality improvement project, technical staff attend the site with the landowner to discuss potential project opportunities in accordance with our eligibility criteria. High priority opportunities are developed in detail for subsequent implementation by the landowner or ERCA crews (e.g., planting a buffer strip along a watercourse) or a contractor (e.g., rock chute or other soil erosion control structure). As part of this process the landowner is required to sign a Stewardship Agreement, wherein they agree not to alter or destroy the project works, among other **conditions.**

Since there is a broader community benefit to improved water quality, financial assistance is available through Clean Water-Green Spaces in accordance with the Board approved guidelines below.

Buffer strips and wind breaks	Upto 75%	$3,000
Soil erosion control structures (e.g., rock chutes, header tile retrofits, etc.)	Upto 75%	$3,000
Well capping	Upto 50%	$1,500
Septic system upgrades (Detroit River watersheds only)	Upto 33%	$5,000
Tree planting - Blocks of up to 5 acres (2 hectares)	Upto 75%	$5,000
Tree planting - Blocks larger than 5 acres (2 hectares)	Upto90%	**no maximum**

ERCA typically completes between 60-80 of these types of projects annually with primarily private landowners. Funding for the program comes from Clean Water-Green Spaces levy, federal and **provincial governments, landowners, and private sector donations.**

Refereed scientific studies confirm that these types of projects can improve both water chemistry and benthic invertebrate (aquatic insect) health at the site level, and that overall stream ecosystem quality improves when a number of projects are completed within the same, small subwatershed (see for example, Yates, AG; Bailey, RD; and JA Schwindt, 2007. Effectivness of Best Management Practices in Improving Stream Ecosystem Quality. *Hydrobio/ogia* 583: 3310334). ERCA's 2006 Water Quality Report Card found that overall, surface water quality in our region was steady- onequarter of monitoring **stations were improving, one quarter were deteriorating, largely in urban/near-urban areas, and one half** were staying the same. These findings were based on the previous five years of data, a time when significant growth in the region was being experienced. These findings suggest that our water quality **enhancement program, as well as the efforts of municipalities and other organizations and landowners,**

are having an effect in the rural parts of our region. However, they also highlight the fact that if we are to make significant overall improvements to water quality, the scale and intensity of these projects must increase, and must be sited so that the investment yields the greatest possible environmental response.

Education and Outreach

Public sector organizations can only accomplish so much through direct project interventions. To a large **degree, improvement in our regional environment requires influencing the behaviour of residents, landowners, and organizations. This is achieved through a number of mechanisms, including education and outreach.**

ERCA's *Watershed Report Card,* was published in 2002 and updated in 2006. The Report Card **summarizes surface water quality in streams and near-shore areas, groundwater quality, forest** conditions, and overall watershed health. Conservation Ontario has recently revised the watershed report card grading guidelines and has strongly recommended that Conservation Authorities across the province produce their Watershed Report Cards in 2012, based on the revised guidelines. ERCA 's Water Quality Specialist is member of Conservation Ontario's Watershed Report Card Implementation Committee, and we plan to release the updated Report Card for Essex Region watersheds and near□ shores in 2012.

ERCA's education and outreach programs include our Friends of Watersheds program, which organizes **community-based stream cleanups, riparian (streamside) tree plantings, and storm drain marking** projects. ERCA staff routinely speak to groups of technical and non-technical audiences about local water **qualit}' issues and initiatives.**

Planning and Regulations

ERCA also addresses water quality matters through its planning and regulations functions. From a planning perspective, ERCA works collaboratively with municipalities to develop policies that protect and enhance water quality, which are incorporated into municipal Official Plans and related planning documents. ERCA's advice on water quality issues is used by the municipality to negotiate with developers during a development review process and when dealing with environmental advocacy groups and private individuals on property specific matters.

During the review and development of new Official Plans by municipalities, ERCA offers policies to municipalities on all resource management assets including policies relating to the long term protection of water resources. and stormwater management. Recently updated Official Plans have included policies to recognize the importance of preparing watershed and subwatershed management plans, as well as regional stormwater management studies. ERCA has also recommended policies in the Official Plans for **municipalities to work with partner agencies to develop municipal wide septic system management programs and detailed watercourse protection policies.**

Similarly, for over ten years, the ERCA regulations program has worked collaboratively with municipalities to ensure that appropriate stormwater management quantity and quality controls are implemented for new development. ERCA utilizes the *"Stormwater Management Planning and Design*

Manual (March 2003)", prepared by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) as guidance for **stormwater review. This document was prepared in consultation with Conservation Ontario.**

From a stormwater quality perspective, the stormwater management systems typically include wetlands, wet ponds with forebays, and in-construction sediment/erosion control plans. Where development size **and/or conditions warrant, end of pipe treatments such as oil grit separators are also used.**

With regard to shoreline and inland watercourse works (including municipal drainage), ERCA requires **that appropriate sediment/erosion control measures be implemented to ensure that sediments are not** transported into downstream watercourses and lakes. Control of these sediments also reduces the potential for attached nutrients to be transported into the downstream systems.

Most recently, ERCA has been consulted by the MOE and municipalities regarding stormwater **management concerns related to greenhouse development within the Essex Region.**

Next Steps

This report emphasizes that our region experiences water quality impairments due to primarily non-point sources of conventional contaminants including, but not limited to, phosphorus and bacteria. These pollutants, sometimes combined with other factors, lead to reduced recreational (swimming) opportunities along our shorelines, and harmful algal blooms in our Great Lakes and other standing waters. Mitigating the harmful effects of water quality will require additional science to better **understand the specific sources, transport and fate of contaminants, and an increase in the scale and** intensity of ongoing project work to enhance existing water quality.

Administration have or will soon be initiating some priority activities in the areas of both science and water quality enhancement. This is particularly timely given the current community focus on algal and related Great Lakes water quality issues, and will also position ERCA to partner with both upper levels of government which are presently renegotiating important Great Lakes agreements, including the *Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement* and *Canada-Ontario Agreement.* Priority activities are briefly discussed below.

Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan Nutrient Mitigation Priorities

Environment Canada has provided $10,000 in funding for 2011/12 for ERCA to develop specific nutrient mitigation priorities, as part of the process to implement the Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) Binational Nutrient Strategy. Project deliverables include the estimation of phosphorus loadings for select watersheds in our region, assessing the effectiveness of existing water quality beneficial management practices in reducing phosphorus impacts to watercourses that drain to lakes St. Clair and Erie and the Detroit River through literature review, and where possible, existing modelling studies. The activities will provide key insights into the scale and intensity of NPS projects that are required to improve local water quality, which will subsequently be pursued through expanded partnerships with **Environment Canada and others.**

Harmful Algal Bloom Proiect

Harmful algal blooms (HAB) have been recurring in the western and central basins Lake Erie in recent years. In October 20I I, the HAB spread further into Lake Erie and was reported to be the worst since the I960s. This received widespread media attention. ERCA staff received several calls from concerned residents, and subsequently the role of ERCA as a quick responder has been recognized. In 2012 a protocol will be developed further refining our role based on discussions with MOE, water treatment plant operators, the Health Unit and other interested organizations. Likely roles include distribution of information materials to landowners and residents, water quality sampling, and possibly others. Our involvement is not expected to result in additional levy-based funding needs.

Microbial Source Tracking for Beaches

A project plan is currently being developed for microbial source tracking, which will help identify where bacteria (E. coli) is coming from. Microbial source tracking (MST) is an emerging field that helps determine the sources of fecal contamination in aquatic systems. The MST approach is based on **comparing the similarity of microorganisms collected from aquatic systems to microorganisms collected** from nearby fecal pollution sources to make inferences about the likely source of fecal contamination. Recent pilot studies have indicated that computer-aided modelling of flows and current patterns will also be an essential part of these studies. Possible upper level government and private sector funding sources **are being investigated in addition to confirming partner organizations. MST results are essential to** develop specific beach/nearshore management plans for priority beaches to improve the health and quality of our beaches.

St. Clair College - ERCA Partnership Proiect

In early April 20I I, a phosphorus sampling project was started through an informal, no-cost partnership between ERCA and St. Clair College. This involved ERCA advising and training students to sample Pike Creek and Turkey Creek monthly and during wet weather events, with lab analysis completed at the College's lab. Starting November 20I I, chlorides will also be sampled at three locations in urban **watersheds, in order to examine the effects of road salt application. Administration are currently** discussing a continuation of the phosphorus and chloride sampling projects, as well as the possibility of including other parameters such as *E. coli* and metals. This project will provide valuable training and real□ world application for second and third year students at the college who use the data for their final year technical report, while enhancing ERCA's surface water sampling program.

Integrated Watershed Management (IWM)

Integrated Watershed Management involves a fulsome consideration of the various natural processes affecting an area of land that drains to a specific river or water body. Processes such as water quantity **and flow, water quality, biodiversity, erosion and sediment transport and their interrelationships are** considered together to develop a coordinated, implementation-oriented strategy for improving watershed health, and therefore the overall quality-of-place in which residents live, work and play.

ERCA is locally advancing the principles of IWM and continues to have very substantial involvement in varied aspects of water quality protection or enhancement, such as our ongoing lead role in Source

Water Protection Studies and Plans, development and implementation of the Lake St. Clair Management Plan, and watershed based studies such as the current Big Creek Watershed Management Plan, and various other projects. A key opportunity exists for ERCA to demonstrate the value of !WM to many areas of municipal function (e.g., public works and engineering, planning, parks, etc.) and residents.

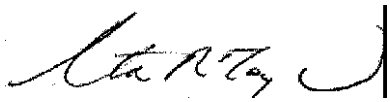
RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report BD **34/11** be received for information, and

THAT ERCA continue to strengthen and evolve our water quality programs to respond to prevailing **science and implementation needs though partnerships with other levels of government, businesses, academic institutions and landowners.**

Chitra Gowda, MASc.
Water Quality Specialist

Matthew Child, MCIP
Director of Watershed Restoration



Tim Byrne,
Coordinator of Flood & Erosion Control

Stan Taylor, P.Eng.
Director of Source Water Protection

Richard Wyma, CSLA,
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

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Distribute pol[i:;y statements to City and County Councils

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- Describes when a task will be completed
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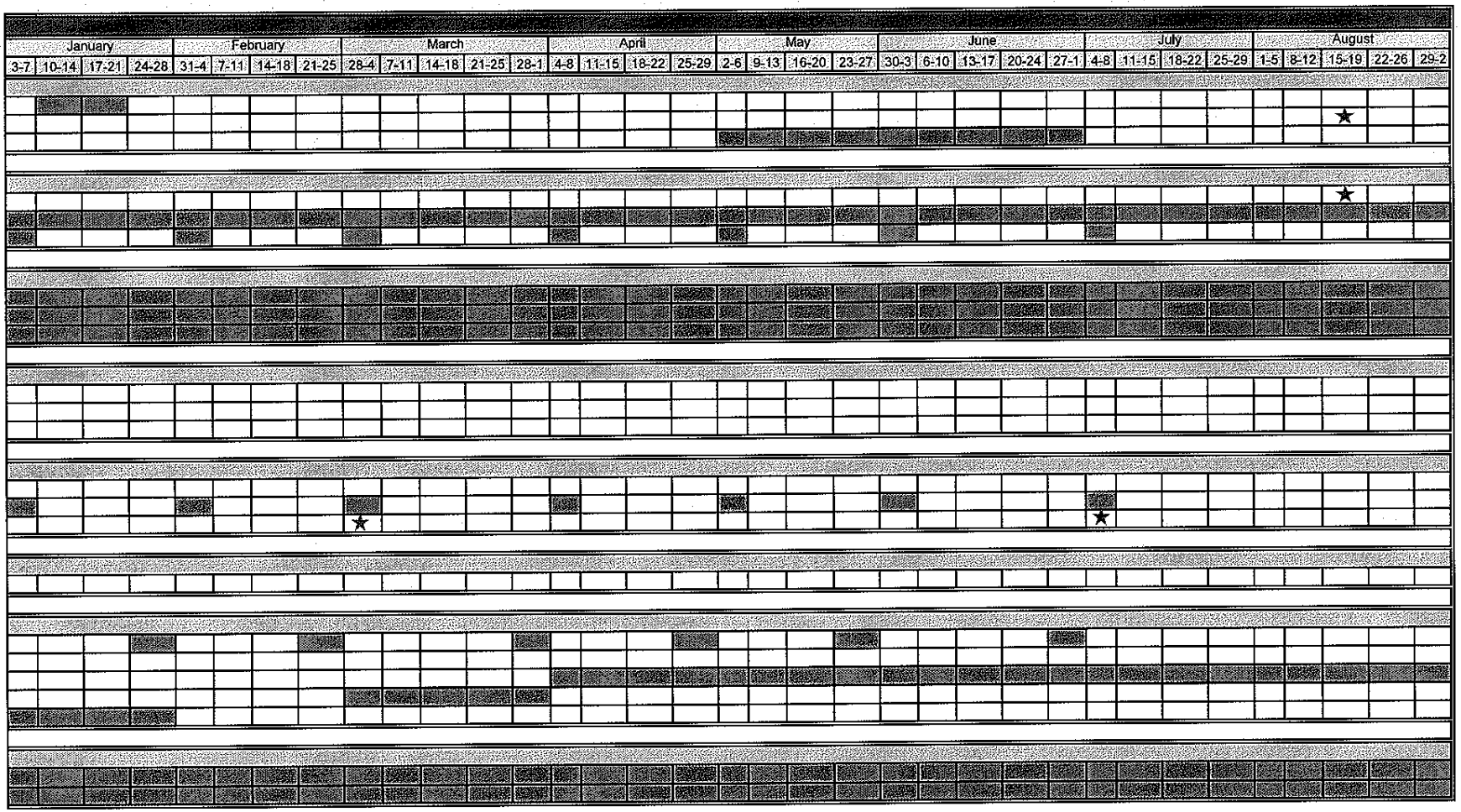
q/' Denotes a completed task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Windsor Essex County

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Council Services Department• 350 City Hall Square West, Room 203 • Windsor, Ontario N9A 6S1 •
Tel: 519-253-7111 ext. 290 • Email: aparent@city.windsor.on.ca

December 1•1, 2011

Attention: Lisa Jackson
Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Support for the* "Zero Waste" *Petition Requesting the Administrator Object to the Issuance of the Proposed Title V Operating Permit for the Greater Detroit Resource Recovery Facility, Permit No. MI-ROP-M4148-2011

Dear Administrator Jackson,

The Windsor Essex County Environment Committee (WECEC) is in support of the petition being conducted by *Zero Waste* requesting that the EPA decision to renew the operating permit for the Greater Detroit Resource Recovery Facility be reversed. WECEC encourages this action based upon the significant adverse impacts of the facility on the surrounding and downwind communities.

WECEC is an advisory Committee to the City of Windsor and the County of Essex. Various community sectors are represented on the Committee, including citizens, educators, business representatives, environmental organizations, as well as labour and health representatives. The City of Windsor Council has expressed their disapproval towards the most recent ROP approval and has requested WECEC offer resources and support towards the "Zero Waste" petition.

Windsor and Essex County, Ontario are downwind of the Municipal Incinerator. Each year in Ontario, transboundary air pollution causes 2,700 premature deaths, puts almost 12,000 people into hospital and causes minor illness symptoms in about 2.7 million others. (Ministry of the Environment (MOE): *Transboundary Air Pollution in Ontario,* June 2005).

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE) estimates that the Municipal Incinerator annually emits 263.52 tons of carbon monoxide, 1,729.89 tons of nitrogen oxides, 199.74 tons of sulfur dioxide, 12.14 tons of particulate matter, 3.62 tons of volatile organic compounds, 0.03 tons of lead, and more than 41 tons of other hazardous air pollutants. A study by the Detroit Free Press noted that the Municipal Incinerator released 396 pounds of lead into the air between 1998 and 2001, and soil tests in the neighborhood to the east of the Incinerator showed high lead levels along three streets, of between 532 and 604 ppm. In addition, EPA estimated that in 1999 the Municipal Incinerator released approximately 320 pounds of mercury, making it the third largest source of mercury emissions in the state. The facility has a long history of substantial air emissions.

The ROP should consider the cumulative effects of all the pollution sources affecting the residents of this community and those downwind of the facility. The Municipal Incinerator is far from the only pollution source in this community. Its emissions must be considered in conjunction with the pollution created by other sources. Because of the significant number of pollution sources in the community and the poor public health already existing in the community, the emissions from the Municipal Incinerator, which is one of the largest pollution sources in the area, must be considered adverse.

Thank you for your attention with this request.

Sincerely,

Alan Halberstadt
Committee Co-chair

Charlie Wright
Committee Co-chair

cc: Cheryl Newton, EPA Region 5
Susan Hedman, EPA Region 5

Council Services Department• 350 City Hall Square West, Room 203 • Windsor, Ontario N9A 6S1 •
Tel: 519-253-7111 ext. 290 • Email: aparent@city.windsor.on.ca

Windsor Essex County

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Council Services Department• 350 City Hall Square West, Room 203 • Windsor, Ontario N9A 6S1 • Tel: 519-253-7111 ext. 290 • Email: aparent@cit:y.windsor.on.ca

December 6[1]\ 2011

Attention: Ron Stang
WindsorOntarioNews.com

Re: Requested changes to the November 24[1]\ 2011 WindsorOntarioNews.com article "No de-icing airplanes...at an airport?"

To Mr. Ron Stang,

The Windsor Essex County Environment Committee (WECEC) is requesting the following changes be made to the November 24th, 2011 article entitled *"No de-icing airplanes...at an airport?"* due to the fact that many of the statements made in the article are false. The below points have been investigated by WECEC and fact checked by personnel from ERCA, the City of Windsor and the Windsor Airport.

- There are currently no environmental affects to the airport woodlots as a result of de-icing procedures. It is the committees understanding that the airport follows a de-icing protocol mandated by law to ensure that no negative environmental effects occur. Regional stormwater drainage mapping available from the Essex . Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) illustrate that the airfield stormwater drainage system does not include the airport woodlots or associated agricultural land.

- The airport woodlots currently consist of 74.5 acres. The Airport Master Plan designates a 120 meter buffer around the woodlots for their protection. The Plan also states that an additional 70 acres of land has the potential to be used to connect the three woodlots. The land area for the woodlots including the buffer and connecting lands is 269.5 acres total, not 310.5 as stated in the article.

- Even with 269.5 acres being set aside for natural heritage and open space, the available employment lands on airport property will total over 850 acres. 850 acres is just slightly lower than the actual space reserved for actual aircraft use at approximately 42% of the total airport area. Compared to the approximate 13% reserved for open space land use which incidentally matches the ERCA biodiversity strategy for the Essex Region calling for 12% natural cover, a fact that Councilor Valentinis should be aware of from his tenure on the ERCA Board of Directors.

- Currently, the airport woodlots are not identified as high risk wildlife areas for the airport. The woodlots have existed on airport property for many years and if they were creating a concern the airport would have been required to create wildlife mitigation plans for the woodlots. According to airport personnel the highest risk species are Gulls and Geese which do not use swamp woodlots as habitat. In fact the closest woodlot to runway approaches is the Devonwood Conservation Area, also a provincially significant wetland.

- The Airport Master Plan clearly identifies one of the constraints to further development is stormwater capacity with respect to developing all 850 acres of employment lands. In fact, if the woodlots were removed, their capacity to mitigate stormwater would also be removed. A stormwater management plan for the airport and vicinity would likely look to the development of a swamp woodlands system to mitigate the risk of attracting gulls and geese as typical stormwater retention features routinely do.

- From recent media on the MRO hangar development at the airport it is fairly obvious the City of Windsor cannot sell the property of the airport. Property is leased from the airport authority to which they publish $3.97/ sq.m for non-aviation land use (the highest rate category). By our calculations, the annual revenue from an acre of land is $16066.59. If the entire open space land area (270 acre) was to be leased at this rate the total annual income would be $4.3 million. The notion that land value would be as high as $200,000 an acre is outrageous when in fact the land cannot be sold and it would take at least 12 years for the airport authority to generate that value for one acre. Needless to say none of this math adds up to $45 million.

It strikes this committee odd that the Windsor Airport Master Plan, since public consultation, has been vetted (we would presume) by the Airport Authority, City of Windsor Administration, the Airport Board of Directors, the Essex Region Conservation Authority, Transport Canada, Navigation Canada and finally the Windsor Environment and Transportation Steering Committee prior to being sent to City Council; that we

would now require Councilor Valentinis to identify concerns of wildlife attraction and land value from the environmental portion of this plan.

The Committee would like to see these changes posted publicly on the WindsorOntarioNews.com website.

Thank you for your attention with this request.

Sincerely,

Alan Halberstadt
Committee Co-chair

Charlie Wright
Committee Co-chair

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