

AGENDA
WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held on July 1st, 2014
Meeting at 5:30p.m at the Windsor International Airport

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

3. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT**

4. **MINUTES**

Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held June 5th, 2014 - *emailed separately.*

5. **PRESENTATION**

City of Windsor administration representatives - WECEC process.

6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

6.1 Green Speaker Series update

6.2 Draft Terms of Reference - *attached.*

7. **COORDINATORS REPORT**

WECEC Coordinator Monthly Report - *attached.*

8. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

8.1 Air

8.2 Transportation

8.3 Provincially Significant Wetlands

8.4 Water Quality- *attached.*

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

10. **COMMUNICATIONS**

10.1 City of Windsor Energy Management Plan, Council Report June 2014- *attached.*

10.2 Public Information Centre notification for the 6th concession Environmental Assessment- *attached.*

10.3 Windsor Utilities Commission Public Information Centre notification - *attached.*

10.4 Wallaceburg Courier Press: *Board of health could consider policy over seafood sales* June 18th 2014 - *attached.*

10.5 The Chatham Voice: *Woodlot Management under Fire* July 1st 2014 - *attached.*

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is **September 4th 2014** at the Windsor International Airport at 5:30 o'clock p.m.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Windsor Essex County Environment Committee (WECEC) Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of the WECEC is to provide advice on environmental issues to the City of Windsor, County of Essex and its area municipalities.

Mandate

- WECEC was established as a volunteer advisory committee through resolutions of Windsor City Council and the County of Essex within the meaning of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2005, c.25 (the 'Act')

WECEC receives referrals to address specific environmental concerns from the City of Windsor, County of Essex and its area municipalities, as well as,

WECEC is proactive and will advise on matters identified through its own initiative.

Scope of Activities

The scope of WECEC will include activities of primary responsibility for which an annual work plan will be developed, such as:

- developing policies for consideration by the City and County regarding ongoing environmental concerns,
- develop responses related to Federal and Provincial actions in public and private undertakings affecting the ecosystem to be forward to City and County Councils,
- identify and examine issues and new alternatives of an ecological nature that may affect the natural environment of the region and to advise City and County Councils on such matters,
- review and provide advice regarding the environmental implications of studies, plans, proposals and other documents as may be referred to the Committee,
- to advise on and recommend studies that could assist in increasing awareness of environmental concerns; solutions to environmental problems and/or enhance environmental conditions in the region,
- report annually on the state of the regional environment, and provide the report to City and County Council,
- liaise with other organizations, committees, and agencies with similar interest in protecting and preserving the natural environment of Windsor and the County of Essex,
- coordinate partnership funding by collecting funds from organizations, committees and agencies to further collaborative environmental projects and events for Windsor and Essex County,
- participate in other committees where WECEC is required or suggested by the City of Windsor and County of Essex and its area municipalities, and,
- conduct an annual performance evaluation of the WECEC Coordinator

The scope of WECEC may include activities of secondary responsibility that will be conducted in partnership with other organizations, committees and agencies, such as:

identify and implement community outreach activities which support the growth of environmental awareness and appreciation,
provide advice on regional environmental resources,
provide advice on regional environmental data,

Composition and Selection of Members

WECEC will be comprised of seventeen (17) fourteen (14) members of which two (2) members will be from County Council and two (2) members will be from City Council. The remaining -1-;.1.Q-members will be volunteers from the public.⁷

Operation of the Committee

- Meetings will be held monthly and are open to the public. Additional meetings can be called by the Chair.
- In camera discussions will only be held in strict compliance with procedural by-laws.
- Quorum will be established when -9 members are present (50% + **1**).
- WECEC will see to achieve consensus on decisions. Recommendations are "carried" if supported by a majority. Only resolutions as they appear in the adopted minutes may be considered as officially representing the position of WECEC.
- WECEC will advise respective staff of the City of Windsor and County of Essex by resolution on matters that were referred to them.

Resources to the Committee

- The Committee will have an annual budget comprised of contributions from the City of Windsor and the County of Essex.
- Administrative Support will be assigned through the City of Windsor, Council Services.

Review

- The Terms of Reference will be reviewed on an annual basis as part of the establishment of the annual work plan. Any changes will be put forward as recommendations to City and County Council for approval.

**WECEC COORDINATOR MONTHLY REPORT
AVERIL PARENT**

- JUNE 2014 -

ONGOING INITIATIVES

1. Green Speaker Series: Susan Chan

Green Speaker Susan Chan spoke to the public on Tuesday July 8th at 7:00pm at the Ojibway Nature Centre. Susan discussed neonicotinoids (found in pesticides) which may be threatening pollinators and our agricultural system. This event was advertised through the WECEC website and Facebook page, email, posters and a media release.

2. Reports to Council

Report No. 82 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:

That all surrounding municipalities in the Windsor-Essex region **BE ENCOURAGED** to enter into discussion regarding the development of regional transportation for Windsor-Essex County.

This report was received for information at the May 21st Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting. This report was received for information at the June 9th Council meeting

WECEC BUDGET - SUMMARY

| 2014 Budget | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Expense | Credit | Expenditure | Status |
| 2013 Budget | \$8,000.00 | | |
| Website domain renewal | | \$76.32 | Committed |
| Website hosting fee | | \$427.10 | Committed |
| Earth Day | | \$35.00 | Paid |
| Provincial EAC Symposium | | \$75.00 | Paid |
| June meeting at Ojibway | | \$108.00 | Paid |
| Pat on the Back | | \$2,298.69 | Paid |
| Green Speaker - Sue Chan | | \$1,000.00 | Committed |
| Green Speaker #2 - ? | | \$1,000.00 | |
| Green Speaker #3 - ? | | \$1,000.00 | |
| Airport meetings (July-Dec) | | \$282.50 | Committed |
| LID video | | \$1,000.00 | Committed |
| Totals | \$8,000.00 | \$7,302.61 | |
| TOTAL REMAINING | | \$697.39 | |

Windsor Essex County

Environment COMMITTEE

4155 Ojibway Parkway • Windsor, Ontario N9C 4A5
Tel: 519-253-7111 ext. 290 • Email: aparent@city.windsor.on.ca

Carolyn O'Neill
Integrated Environmental Policy Division
Land and Water Policy Branch
Ministry of the Environment
Great Lakes Office
135 St. Clair Avenue West, Floor 6
Toronto **ON M4V 1P5**

June 5th 2014

Dear Ms. O'Neill,

On behalf of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee we would like to commend the Ministry of the Environment for the development of the 8th Canada Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health.

Great Lakes water quality is of great concern to Windsor and Essex County and we as an Environment Committee have done public education and awareness particularly on phosphorus and its effect on Lake Erie.

We are in support of the Annex's proposed, in particular the Nutrients Annex to implement on the ground actions in rural, urban and agricultural landscapes to reduce excess nutrients therefore reducing algal blooms.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments towards your Policy.

Sincerely,

//

Alan Halberstadt
Committee Co-chair

Charlie Wright
Committee Co-chair

WECEC Recommendation re. the International Joint Commissions Lake Erie Ecosystem Priority (LEEP) Report

Whereas in February of 2014 the International Joint Commission released the Lake Erie Ecosystem Priority (LEEP) report providing policy advice on solving the algae bloom issue in Lake Erie;

Whereas the LEEP report concludes that the Maumee and Detroit River are the largest contributors to the phosphorus loading in Lake Erie, and that 66% of the bloom is from agriculture/rural nonpoint sources, mostly from Ohio. In addition, at least half of the annual load occurs in the spring (March 1 - June 30) but 90% of the annual load is deposited in select rain events; and

Whereas the recommendations of the LEEP report include, but are not limited to:

- Setting Loading Targets:
 - Proposed 37% reduction in total phosphorus (TP) and 41% reduction in dissolved reactive phosphorus (DRP) for the Maumee River and Lake Erie west basin tributaries (includes the Detroit River);
 - Proposed 46% reduction in TP and 78% reduction in DRP from the Lake Erie west basin and central basin tributaries.

Developing Agriculture & Non-point Solutions - provide incentive and regulatory interventions focused on:

- the critical March-June period;
- priority watersheds;
- mandatory certification standards for fertilizer applicators;
- linking insurance with conservation performance;
- ban fertilizer applications on frozen ground;
- mandatory septic inspections.

Urban Areas:

- improve adoption of green infrastructure;
- prohibit sales and use of phosphorous fertilizers for lawn care (with some exceptions).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City and County Council **RECEIVE** the Lake Erie Ecosystem Priority report and its recommendations and strive to implement them where possible;

And further **BE IT RESOLVED** that City and County Council send letters to the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture inquiring as to how the proposed recommendations will be implemented in Ontario.

**Note to Clerk: Please forward this recommendation to all Essex County municipalities.

WECEC Recommendation - Rain Garden demonstration projects in all Windsor and Essex County Municipalities.

Whereas rain gardens are designed to absorb runoff from impervious urban areas diverting it from storm drains or combined sewers therefore recharging groundwater, diverting stormwater from municipal infrastructure and reducing polluted runoff into the local water bodies;

Whereas rain gardens constructed with native plants improve biodiversity and provide food for pollinators;

Whereas the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) has already begun working with member municipalities to create rain gardens at various locations including Harrow, Leamington, and Windsor;

Whereas ERCA staff will provide expertise to design and build a rain garden and help monitor its effectiveness;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that every Windsor Essex County member municipality strive to complete a demonstration rain garden by the end of 2015 in partnership with the Essex Region Conservation Authority.

**Note to Clerk: Please forward this recommendation to all Essex County municipalities.