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Windsor, Ontario March 1, 2012

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  
Pauline Cheslock  
Matthew Child  
Derek Coronado  
Rick Coronado  
Roger Dzugan (alternate for Mark Bartlett, arrives at 5:40 p.m.)  
Karen Fallon  
Paul Henshaw  
Phil Roberts  
Tamara Stomp (arrives at 5:40 p.m.)  
Radwan Tamr

**Regrets received from:**

John Miller

**Also present are the following resource personnel:**

James Bryant, County Engineering Department  
Averil Parent, Environment & Sustainability Coordinator  
Beau Wansbrough, Planner II  
Karen Kadour (A) Committee Coordinator

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Charlie Wright, Co-Chair calls the meeting to order at 5:23 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**

None.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT**

None.

4. **MINUTES**

Moved by K. Fallon, seconded by P. Roberts,  
That the minutes of the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee at its meeting held February 2, 2012 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.  
Carried.

5. **PRESENTATION**

Dan Dufour, Carolinian Canada Coalition is present to provide information relating to the “Erie Coastal Stewardship Trail Concept”. A document entitled “Erie Coastal Stewardship Trail Concept Summary – November 2011 – Exploring the Story of the Coast from Essex to Niagara” is **attached** as Appendix “A”. The salient points of discussion relating to the Erie Coastal Stewardship Trail are as follows:

- Inspired by urgent threats to Lake Erie’s coastal landscape, Carolinian Canada and partners are planning a 700 km trail network
- The vision of this endeavour promotes a series of interlocking driving, walking riding and paddling stewardship trails along the Lake Erie north coast and its major inland river valleys.
- Work began on the Erie Coastal Stewardship Trail in 2009, with initial support from Parks Canada and later the Ontario Trillium Foundation.
- To launch the trail quickly, a road cycling route will be established first. A combination of hiking, paddling, off-road cycling and wheelchair routes will be then connected by a Coastal Parkway or driving route.
- The trail is divided into 3 Coastal Regions – From the Detroit River to Wheatley to the Grand River to the Niagara River.
- Coastal Community Hubs are being identified where trail users can choose from a variety of experiences, route lengths and Stewardship Themes.
- Current funding from Parks Canada will cease in a few months.
- Municipalities to fund the development of the trails within their own regions.
- Final plan to be completed by summer 2012.

In response to a question asked by C. Wright, Co-Chair regarding the fact that the Detroit River is not located on Lake Erie, D. Dufour explains the Detroit River is a major tributary to Lake Erie.

P. Roberts suggests that recommendations and concepts relating to the Erie Coastal Stewardship Trail Concept be developed and provided to City/County Councils.

Moved by T. Stomp, seconded by R. Coronado,  
That Administration from the City of Windsor and the County of Essex **BE ENCOURAGED** to liaise with the Carolinian Canada Coalition in an effort to further develop the concepts for the Erie Coastal Trail.  
Carried.

**6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**6.1 Renewable Energy Media Campaign**

A. Parent indicates that letters requesting support for the Renewable Energy Campaign have been sent to various solar companies in Windsor as well as the Economic Development Corporation and the Regional Chamber of Commerce. She notes that meetings will be convened the week of March 5, 2012.

**6.2 New WECEC Appointments**

A. Parent states that the St. Clair College elected student government president will be put forth to sit on WECEC. She advises that a similar model has been suggested for the University of Windsor representative.

**6.3 Updated WECEC Strategic Plan**

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair states there is a need to develop policy statements and resources to assist in the development of policy statements.

M. Child recommends that policies be developed for natural heritage matters.

P. Roberts indicates that the last WECEC Strategic Planning Session was held approximately two years ago.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** A. Parent to research if similar Municipal Environment Committees are successful in developing policy statements and how this process might work for our committee.

**6.4 Green Speaker Series**

A. Parent suggests David Ulrich, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative as a future speaker for the “Green Speaker Series”. She states Mr. Ulrich will be in Windsor from March 27-28, 2012 and he is requesting travel costs and hotel accommodations. As Mr. Ulrich will be in Windsor on March 27-28, 2012

(Tuesday/Wednesday) it is suggested he be contacted to determine his Saturday availability, perhaps in April 2012.

R. Tamr leaves the meeting at 6:35 o'clock p.m.

## 7. COORDINATOR'S REPORT

A. Halberstadt indicates that the Provincially Significant Wetlands Subcommittee requested a deferral of the Planning Department's report regarding the Ojibway Shores property.

The Environment & Transportation Standing Committee at its meeting held January 25, 2012 adopted the following motion:

Moved by Councillor Payne, seconded by Councillor Halberstadt,

**THAT** the City Planner **BE REQUESTED** to provide additional information to the Environment and Transportation Standing Committee regarding the environmental significance of Candidate Natural Heritage Site No. 37 as a linkage from the Detroit River to the adjacent City and Provincially owned natural heritage areas to the east (i.e. Black Oak Prairie Heritage Park, Ojibway Park/Tom Joy Woods, Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve, and the Spring Garden ANSI); and

**THAT** the City Planner **BE REQUESTED** to provide a summary of the City's long-term employment land supply noting those properties with water access; and

**THAT** the City Solicitor **BE REQUESTED** to provide a legal opinion as to the validity of the June 1992 Agreement between the Windsor Harbour Commission and the Corporation of the City of Windsor; and further

**THAT** the City **PURSUE** further discussion with the Federal Government regarding the environmental benefits and cost savings associated with the preservation of the Ojibway Shores lands as natural heritage.

Carried.

Councillor Sleiman voting nay.

Councillor Valentinis was absent when the vote was taken on this matter.

Councillor Payne advises that a study to determine if there are endangered species in the Candidate Natural Heritage Site No. 37 has never been undertaken. He notes there is a need to determine what species are present on that site.

## 8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

### 8.1 Air

D. Coronado states that the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario is releasing a Special Report to review "*Climate Ready – Ontario's Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan 2011 – 2014*". *Climate Ready* is a plan released by the Ontario government which

outlines measures the government is taking to prepare the province for warmer temperatures, and more severe weather events, due to climate change. A Media Advisory entitled “Environmental Commissioner of Ontario to release Special Report on climate change adaptation” is attached as Appendix “B”.

The document entitled “2010 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Data from Large Facilities Now Available – First release of data through the National Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reporting program is attached as Appendix “C”.

## **8.2 Transportation**

A letter from Dean Cleve, Chair Transportation Subcommittee dated March 1, 2012 subject matter “University of Windsor Student Bus Pass Proposal” is distributed and amendments are provided by the Committee.

Moved by R. Coronado, seconded by P. Henshaw,  
That the letter as amended **BE SENT** from the Transportation Subcommittee to the University of Windsor regarding support of the U Bus Pass Program.  
Carried.

Note: A copy of the amended letter from the Transportation Subcommittee to the University of Windsor regarding support of the U Bus Pass Program is attached as Appendix “D”.

## **8.3 Provincially Significant Wetlands**

P. Roberts provides an overview of the meeting held February 8, 2012 with the Windsor Essex Mobility Group (WEMG). The salient points of discussion relating to the February 8, 2012 meeting are as follows:

- WEMG highlighted their compensation strategy, designed to provide compensation where possible adjacent to existing PSW features as well as include additional land acquisition to support a 120 meter buffer around the 15 Ha of compensation wetland to be developed.
- Several positive elements were realized by this plan (recognition of the 3:1 ratio and the 120 meter buffering sets valuable precedence). All of the land acquisition is complete at this point.
- Discussion regarding additional opportunities including compensation value for linking the LaSalle Woodlots to Spring Garden ANSI through the Todd Lane/Lennon Drain corridor and similarly the Black Oak Heritage Park area to the Ojibway Complex through the Ojibway Parkway . At this point WEMG are not willing to discuss the Ojibway option.

In terms of wetland evaluations of publically owned properties, P. Roberts states that WECEC has had success in requesting evaluations for “suspect” PSW woodlots owned by the City of Windsor which has afforded those woodlots the highest degree of protection, a step which may have contributed to the St. Clair Woodlot debate.

C. Wright, Co-Chair leaves the meeting at 7:12 o’clock p.m. Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair assumes the Chair.

C. Wright, Co-Chair returns to the meeting at 7:15 o’clock p.m.

M. Child reports that ERCA owns 4,000 acres of land across the region including 19 conservations areas. He notes that several species are at risk. He provides the following comments relating to PSW evaluations:

- ERCA has applied for funding to do additional inventories on the properties that are less vulnerable
- Focus on all publicly owned properties
- Only the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) can identify the PSW’s
- WECEC to develop a list of priority sites for wetland evaluations (possibly with the MNR).

#### 8.4 Water Quality

M. Child advises that the outcomes of the March 20, 2012 Water Quality Subcommittee meeting will be provided for WECEC.

### 9. NEW BUSINESS

#### 9.1 Clean Across Canada 2013

Councillor Halberstadt asks if WECEC is interested in participating in the Clean Across Canada 2013 initiative.

Moved by Councillor Halberstadt, seconded by P. Cheslock,

That WECEC participate in the Clean Across Canada Litter Campaign to be held in 2013, and further, that additional details **BE PROVIDED** once the parameters are identified.

Carried.

#### 9.2 Website Additions: Pat on the Back and Green Speaker Series page additions

Moved by T. Stomp, seconded by P. Henshaw,

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$650. to update the WECEC website to allow for information relating to the Green Speaker Series to be posted to the website.

Carried.

**9.3 Waste to Energy FIT Program**

D. Coronado to provide information relating to the Waste to Energy FIT Program.

**10. COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 29, 2012 at 5:30 o'clock p.m. in the Board Room, Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant, 4155 Ojibway Parkway.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 7:35 o'clock p.m.

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Charlie Wright, Co-Chair

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(A) Committee Coordinator