

/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