

Windsor Essex County Environment Committee Meeting held November 29, 2018

A meeting of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee is held this day commencing at 5:30 o'clock p.m. at the Ojibway Nature Centre, there being present the following members:

Councillor Paul Borrelli, Chair
Councillor Fred Francis
Mayor Nelson Santos, Town of Kingsville
Derek Coronado
Debby Grant
Mike Nelson

Regrets received from:

Mayor Aldo DiCarlo, Town of Amherstburg
Joe Passa
Edwin Tam

Guests in attendance:

Frank Butler
Jennifer Escott
Amandeep Hans
Tom Henderson, Detroit River Canadian Clean Up, regarding ***Item 2.1***
Ian Naisbitt
Steve Tuffin

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Averil Parent, Environmental & Sustainability Coordinator
Karina Richters, Supervisor, Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change

1. Call to Order

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 6:33 o'clock p.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule "A" attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by D. Grant,
That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$406.80 payable to eliquidMEDIA for the hosting fees for the WECEC website.
Carried.

2. Declaration of Conflict

None disclosed.

3. Minutes

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by D. Grant,
That the minutes of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee of its meeting held April 5, 2018 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

Presentations

2.1 Tom Henderson, Detroit River Canadian Cleanup – Tree Planting on Airport Lands

Tom Henderson, Chair, Public Advisory Committee, Detroit River Canadian Cleanup provides the following comments relating to tree planting on airport lands and his resultant motion:

- Students from the David Suzuki School along with Councillors and others participated in the tree planting on airport lands in 2013.
- Prior to the tree planting, machine work was undertaken on 7.5 acres of land for the purpose of merging two of the three woodlots.
- The far eastern woodlot runs along Lauzon Road to the centre woodlot for a total of 15 acres.
- The intention was for planting trees on 7.5 acres in 2013 and to plant on the remaining 7.5 acres in the following season.

T. Henderson proposes the following wording for a motion from the Public Advisory Committee, Detroit River Canadian Cleanup to WECEC:

“Whereas the Essex Region Conservation Authority and the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup received permission by Windsor City Council decision M250-2013 dated June 17, 2013 to plant trees and shrubs on a 7.5 acre parcel of land between the middle and easternmost woodlots at a cost of \$30,000 utilizing ERCA and DRCC professional staff, elementary school students and adult volunteers; and

Whereas 83.9% of the trees and shrubs were reported as surviving as of Fall 2014 as per survival monitoring surveys completed by ERCA's Restoration Biologist and Acting Forester; and

Whereas in 2015 Airport management refused ERCA permission to enter the area to maintain the planting resulting in 90% loss, as determined by Windsor Airport

staff, due to wild grassland weeds taking over within the tree rows which were no longer being maintained

Therefore, be it resolved that Windsor Airport be required to underwrite the \$30,000 cost to replace the lost trees and to agree that ERCA be permitted to enter the property in the future as required to maintain the planted trees, shrubs and native herbaceous groundcover.”

Councillor Francis states he reviewed the 2013 agreement between the Airport, the Little River Enhancement Group and ERCA. He expresses concern that the motion cannot proceed unless indemnification is provided in the agreement.

T. Henderson responds that the rationale for the indemnification request is that Trees Ontario contributed the funding for this project. Trees Ontario requested an update on the progress of the trees and they approached ERCA for this information. ERCA indicated the Airport would not allow access to the property. His proposal is to restore the funding that was lost as the project died.

M. Nelson indicates he cannot speak to the indemnification clause, however, he adds ERCA has not been able to access the property to assess the survival of the trees and to report back to some of the granting agencies. He suggests an amendment to the motion would be to “work with administration to find alternative locations for future tree plantings.

Councillor Francis provides the following comments relating to this matter:

- This issue relates to the Airport, ERCA and the City of Windsor.
- Suggestion for all three parties to meet and to discuss the matter.
- Proposes that this matter go before the Airport Board for comment and a resolution of the Board to come back to either ERCA or City Council.
- Suggestion for the Legal Department to vet this matter as there is no indemnification and, to look at the unintended consequences of other organizations who in the future may be hesitant to plant trees

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by D. Grant,

That Administration from YQG Windsor International Airport **BE REQUESTED** to provide a formal submission and/or for a representative to attend a future meeting of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee to address the matter of tree planting on the airport lands

Carried.

M. Nelson and D. Coronado voting nay.

Clerk’s Note: Kate Tracey, Legal Counsel has advised “the term of the consent to enter agreement expired on October 31, 2013. Accordingly, all terms and conditions contained therein are no longer in force, including the indemnity provisions”.

2.2 Mike Nelson, ERCA - Wetlands

The PowerPoint Presentation entitled “Wetlands – November 29, 2018, Michael Nelson” is **attached** as Appendix “A”. M. Nelson provides an overview of the presentation that includes information relating to the following topics:

- What is a wetland?
- What kind of wetlands do we have in Ontario?
- Where are the wetlands in Windsor and Essex County?
- What are some of the things that wetlands do?
- What threats are facing wetlands today?
- What actions are underway?

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by D. Grant,
That the PowerPoint Presentation entitled “Wetlands” provided by Mike Nelson **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried.

5. Business Items

5.1 WECEC 2018 Annual Report

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by D. Grant,
That the WECEC 2018 Annual Report provided by the Environment and Sustainability Coordinator **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried.

A. Parent advises the balance of the WECEC 2018 Operating Budget is \$5,258.38 and she suggests a carry forward of the funds to 2019 to be directed to the Green Speaker Series.

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by D. Grant,
That Administration **BE REQUESTED** to consider a carry forward of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee’s residual operating budget in the amount of \$5,258.38 to 2019 for the purpose of retaining speakers for the Green Speaker Series.

Carried.

Clerk’s Note: *Items 7.1.1. to 8.21 were not discussed due to an impending loss of quorum. These items will be discussed at the next meeting of WECEC.*

7. Subcommittee Reports

7.1 Air

7.1.1 Municipal Climate Action Needs Provincial Support

7.1.2 City Climate Plan Report Card 2018

7.2 Environmentally Sensitive Lands and Issues

8. New Business

8.1 Update on City of Windsor environmental initiatives

8.1.1 Degrees of Change Climate Change Adaptation Plan

8.2 Update on Essex County environmental initiatives

8.2.1 Town of Tecumseh initiatives

9. Communications

None.

10. Date of Next Meeting

To be determined.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 6:15 o'clock p.m.

CHAIR

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR