

Windsor Essex County Environment Committee

Meeting held November 17, 2020

A meeting of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee is held this day commencing at 4:00 o'clock p.m. via Zoom video conference, there being present the following members:

Councillor Chris Holt, Chair
Councillor Kieran McKenzie
Deputy Mayor Leo Meloche, Town of Amherstburg
Deputy Mayor Gord Queen, Town of Kingsville
Keri Banar
Derek Coronado
Katie Kuker (arrives at 4:02 p.m.)
Michael Schneider
Richard St. Denis
Jerry Zhu

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Karina Richters, Supervisor Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Chair calls the meeting at 4:01 o'clock p.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule A attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

Addition to the Agenda

Moved by Deputy Mayor Queen, seconded by R. St. Denis,
That Rule 3.3 (c) of the Procedure Bylaw 98-2011 be waived to add the following addition to the Agenda:

8.2 Ojibway Parkway Wildlife Crossing – Municipal Class EA – Notice of Study Commencement and Online Public Information Centre #1

Carried.

2. Declaration of Conflict

None disclosed.

3. Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by Deputy Mayor Meloche, seconded by K. Banar,
That the minutes of the Windsor Essex County Environment of its meeting held
November 14, 2019 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

4. Business Items

4.1 WECEC 2020 Operating Budget

The current balance of the WECEC 2020 Operating budget is \$6,072. Discussion
ensues regarding the practical use of the operating budget and the following
suggestions are provided:

- Pat on the Back Awards event to pursue and support for 2020/2021.
- Green Speaker Series for 2021, which could be hosted outside or held virtually.

Moved by Councillor McKenzie, seconded by K. Banar,
That the remaining funds in the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee
2020 Operating Budget **BE CARRIED FORWARD** to the WECEC 2021 budget.
Carried.

4.2 Update: WECEC Report No. 105: Declaring a Climate Emergency

Councillor McKenzie indicates that the City of Windsor adopted Report No. 105 –
declaring a Climate Emergency along with the Town of Tecumseh and the Town of
Amherstburg and ERCA. In May 2020, City Council unanimously supported the
acceleration of both mitigation and adaptation actions

Moved by R. St. Denis, seconded by Deputy Mayor Queen,
That the update regarding WECEC Report No.105 – Declaring a Climate
Emergency **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

4.3 Windsor's Climate Change Adaption Plan

Councillor McKenzie advises that the City of Windsor Climate Change Adaptation Plan relates to what the city should do to prepare for climate change. It comes down to the following objectives:

- To protect our public health and safety
- To reduce risk to buildings and properties
- To strengthen our infrastructure resiliency
- To protect biodiversity and enhance ecosystem functions
- To reduce community service disruptions
- To building community resilience

He notes that Council reports now contain a climate change section within the analysis risk section, which includes climate change mitigation and climate adaptation, which will assist Council in the decisions that are being made.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Meloche, seconded by D. Coronado,
That the update relating to the City of Windsor's Climate Change Adaptation Plan
BE RECEIVED.
Carried.

4.4 Tree Purchase for Earth Day 2020

K. Richters states that at the end of 2019, WECEC purchased trees for the 2020 Earth Day event. Unfortunately, Earth Day 2020 was cancelled due to COVID-19, so the staff at the City of Windsor greenhouses accepted the trees from seedlings, potted, and cared for the trees throughout the year. They are also prepared to winterize the trees (bring the trees back into the greenhouses) in the hopes that they can be planted in the Spring of 2021.

In response to a question asked by the Chair regarding if the allocation of trees will be split between the City and the County, K. Richters responds that the City Forester has plans for the trees; however, if ERCA requires some trees, that consideration will be given to this.

Deputy Mayor Meloche inquires about the distribution and allocation of the trees between the City and the County. He adds there should be some recognition to County efforts as well and adds that WECEC tends to centre more on Windsor activity as opposed to Windsor-Essex County.

Deputy Mayor Gord Queen indicates that a large number of trees were ordered in the Town of Kingsville and they are working with an environmental group from a local high school to do a major planting in 2021.

R. St. Denis reports that the Provincial Government has cut the funding to ERCA substantially. During the last election, the Federal Liberals promised to provide funding for the planting of trees, which would assist ERCA in that endeavour. He suggests reaching out to the local Member of Parliament to ensure that the Federal Government fulfills their agreement to provide funding for trees. He requests that WECEC be invited to the location when the trees are planted by ERCA.

Moved by Councillor McKenzie, seconded by Deputy Mayor Queen,
That the update provided by the Supervisor Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change regarding the tree planting for Earth Day 2021 **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

Moved by R. St. Denis, seconded by Deputy Mayor Queen,
That as the Provincial Government cut funding for the planting of trees in Ontario and as the Federal Government made a commitment to make funding available to plant trees in Windsor-Essex County, that a letter **BE SENT** to Irek Kusmierczyk, Member of Parliament to request funding for the planting of trees in Windsor-Essex County.
Carried.

4.5 Confirm and Ratify E-mail Poll

Moved by Councillor McKenzie, seconded by R. St. Denis,
That the following motion **BE CONFIRMED AND RATIFIED**:

That APPROVAL BE GIVEN to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$1,500 in support of a virtual event organized by the University of Windsor to be held on September 22, 2020 entitled "The City's Broken Promise – Confronting anti-Black racism across Canadian urban landscapes",
Carried.

4.6 Confirm and Ratify E-mail Poll

Moved by Deputy Mayor Queen, seconded by K. Banar,
That the following motion **BE CONFIRMED AND RATIFIED**:

That approval be given to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$28.25 payable to eliquidMEDIA for the domain renewal for wecec.org.
Carried.

4.7 Confirm and Ratify E-mail Poll

Moved by D. Coronado, seconded by M. Schneider,
That the following motion **BE CONFIRMED AND RATIFIED**:

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario is planning to ramp up the greenhouse gas pollution from Ontario's gas-fired power plants by more than 300% by 2025 and by more than 400% by 2040; and,

WHEREAS to help fuel this massive increase in fossil fuel electricity and climate threatening pollution, the provincial government recently purchased 3 gas plants at a cost of \$2.8 billion and Enbridge is hoping to build a new pipeline through Hamilton to import fracked gas from the U.S.; and,

WHEREAS Ontario is set to throw away more than a third of the greenhouse gas reductions it achieved by phasing-out its dirty coal-fired power plants due to a power plan built around ramping up gas-fired generation to replace the output of the Pickering Nuclear Station (scheduled to close in 2024); and,

WHEREAS there is a better way to keep our lights on. We can meet our 2030 climate target and lower our electricity bills by phasing-out our gas-fired power plants by 2030 and embracing lower cost and cleaner options:

- Reverse cuts to energy efficiency programs and stop under-investing in this quick to deploy and low-cost resource. We can ensure we maximize our energy efficiency efforts by paying up to the same price per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for energy efficiency measures as we are currently paying for power from nuclear plants (e.g., up to 9.5 cents per kWh).
- Return Ontario to leadership in developing increasingly low-cost renewable energy resources. Support renewable energy projects that have costs that are below what we are paying for nuclear power and work with communities to make the most of these economic opportunities.
- Accept Quebec's offer of low-cost 24/7 power from its massive water power system. Quebec has offered power at less than one-half the cost of re-building our aging Darlington and Bruce Nuclear Stations and Ontario can only benefit by making a long-term deal with its green energy-rich neighbour. Quebec's system of reservoirs can be used like a giant battery to back-up made-in-Ontario renewable power, eliminating the need to use gas-fired power plants.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Windsor requests the Government of Ontario to place an interim cap of 2.5 megatonnes per year on Ontario's gas plants' greenhouse gas pollution and develop and implement a plan to phase-out all gas-fired electricity generation by 2030 to ensure that Ontario meets its climate targets

And further, that the County of Essex **BE REQUESTED** to consider adopting the resolution as outlined above.

Carried.

5. Subcommittee Reports

5.1 Air Subcommittee

D. Coronado reports that the motion relating to the “Draft Phase-out of Gas-fired Electricity Generation” has been passed by Kitchener, Hamilton and the Town of Halton Hills. He adds that Enbridge has withdrawn the proposal regarding the proposed pipeline to the OEB at this time; however, it may be revisited later.

Moved by R. St. Denis, seconded by Deputy Mayor Meloche,
That the Air Subcommittee update provided by D. Coronado **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

5.2 Environmentally Sensitive Lands and Issues Subcommittee

No report.

5.3 Public Engagement Subcommittee

No report.

6. New Business

6.1 Essex Region Energy Plan

K. Richters advises that ERCA is putting together an Essex Region Energy Plan similar to the Community Energy Plan developed for the City of Windsor. They are making great headway and will be before council by the spring of 2021. They are also approving targets that exceed the City of Windsor 2017 Plan. The most notable difference in their Plan is the inclusion of the impact that the greenhouses are having on their greenhouse gas emissions.

6.2 Town of Essex – Climate Change Adaptation Plan

K. Richters indicates that the Town of Essex received funding through FCM to undertake a Climate Change Adaptation Plan, which includes a Community Stakeholder’s Steering Committee. Once the draft Plan is in place, possibly early in 2021, it will be provided to WECEC.

6.3 City of Windsor Carbon Budget

K. Richters states that a carbon budget is defined as follows:

The latest science indicates that in order to restrict warming to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius, total CO2 emissions from all anthropogenic sources around the globe since 1870, should not exceed 2500 Gigatonnes (Gtonnes). Presently approximately 2100 Gtonnes have been emitted leaving 400 Gtonnes as a global carbon budget.

Per IPCC, warming needs to be maintained to 1.5 degrees Celsius in order to prevent “Climate Breakdown”. The IPCC compared impacts from of a changing climate at a 2 degrees Celsius increase over the goal of limiting temperature increases to a 1.5 Celsius increase, and found the following:

- As many as 457 million more people exposed to climate risks and related poverty;
- Twice as many people suffering from water scarcity;
- Twice as many plants and three times as many insects losing their habitat;
- An ice-free arctic every 10 years instead of 100 years;
- The exposure of 2.6 times as many people to extreme heat at least every five years;
- Double the decline in global fisheries.

K. Richters indicates that the City of Windsor will have to reduce our carbon emissions to 3.2 tonnes per person by 2030 and to net zero by 2050. Currently, the City of Windsor and the County are at approximately 9 tonnes per capita. Therefore, we have ten years to get from 9 tonnes down to 3.2 tonnes. When we look at the calculations under our current forecasted project lines for greenhouse gas emissions, we will exceed our 2030 carbon budget by 2025 for the City of Windsor and our 2050 carbon budget by 2029.

The following table shows various cities and the date the carbon budget will be exhausted:

City	Budget Exhausted
Windsor	2029
Edmonton	2028
Toronto	2033

Vancouver	In progress
Oslo, Norway	Current 2.3 T/capita. On track to net-zero 2030
Frankfurt, Germany	2031
Manchester, UK	2028

K. Richters adds that the City of Edmonton will exhaust their budget in 2028 and adds they are moving forward with bold initiatives that look at electrification of all transit within the next ten years.

D. Coronado asks that further updates regarding the carbon budget be provided as the carbon budget also affects the financial budget of the City of Windsor. Not only does this show the excessive carbon footprint of the city, but it also identifies where we are going to be unless we make the changes that are necessary and go beyond the changes that are in the Climate Emergency Declaration. This has financial ramifications and affects peoples' lives in serious ways as well.

In response to a question asked by Councillor McKenzie regarding regular updates to Council, K. Richters responds that a greenhouse gas report will be provided annually.

The Chair states that the adaptation/mitigation lens will be included in every Council report. He asks if there was a development to help our carbon budget, would this be shared with WECEC and is this the kind of information that would be brought to Council?

K. Richters responds that unlike the other cities noted in the foregoing table, the City of Windsor's carbon budget was done internally with city resources. It would be difficult with our current resources to look at the development and say what the impact is. There may be opportunities from a corporate side to try to downscale the carbon budget to the respective city budget. Our corporate inventory is approximately two per cent of our community inventory and thought has been given to making this into a corporate tool where we could look at corporate actions and how this would impact our two per cent.

The Chair adds that this does affect the bottom line on many decisions made at the Council table.

Moved by R. St. Denis, seconded by K. Banar,

That the update provided by the Supervisor Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change regarding the City of Windsor Carbon Budget **BE RECEIVED.**

6.4 Advancing WECEC Priorities

K. Richters refers to the \$6,000 remaining in WECEC's 2020 Operating Budget and asks for if there are any initiatives for consideration, i.e. Green Speakers. She notes that the funds can be carried forward to 2021 if approved but that there is also the possibility that the carry forward may not be approved.

Councillor McKenzie advises that the City of Windsor is about to go into an RFP process for camera controlled smart initiatives for all of the city's signalized intersections for new infrastructure. He adds there is an opportunity for WECEC to comment on what they would like to see in the RFP.

Moved by K. Kuker, seconded by Councillor McKenzie,

That the remaining funds in the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee 2020 Operating Budget **BE CARRIED FORWARD** to 2021, and if that request is denied, that trees be purchased for planting to be equally allocated to the City of Windsor and the County.

Carried.

Councillor McKenzie indicates that one of the WECEC priorities relates to the organics diversion and recycling program. The Windsor Essex Solid Waste Authority recently passed a resolution to embark upon a process to develop and implement a regional organics waste program that would include all of the municipalities. There are regulations that will be coming forward in 2025 that requires the City of Windsor to achieve certain targets. Other municipalities have lower targets and some in our region have no targets whatsoever.

Moved by Councillor McKenzie, seconded by Deputy Mayor Leo Meloche,

That the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee recommends that the initiative by the Windsor Essex County Solid Waste Authority to develop and implement a regional food and organics waste management plan **BE SUPPORTED** by all municipalities in Windsor-Essex, and further, that correspondence **BE SENT** to each member municipality as well as the County of Essex to provide notification of this initiative.

Carried.

In response to a question asked by D. Coronado regarding the timelines, Councillor McKenzie responds that the requirement from the province is for a full 75 per cent of organic waste from the City of Windsor to be diverted now into some sort of management plan or recycling by 2025.

Deputy Mayor Leo Meloche states that over the years, the Town of Amherstburg has developed a recycling program and has been looking at waste diversion. He notes he brought up the subject of the necessity of weekly garbage pickup at one of the Council

meetings and adds that garbage trucks are going to some homes with only one third of a pail of garbage.

Councillor McKenzie adds this is an interesting idea and he will work with the Deputy Mayor to develop some language to bring forward.

6.5 University of Windsor Cities & Climate Action Forum – Windsor Essex Youth Climate Council

K. Richters advises that this group has been working with the Cities and Climate Action Forum, Youth Councils of Canada and the Peel-based Community Climate Council to build an organized local youth presence on climate issues. She adds that more than thirty youth participated in the first meeting and weekly meetings via Zoom video conference will commence on November 24, 2020.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Gord Queen, seconded by R. St. Denis,
That the update regarding the University of Windsor Cities and Climate Action Forum – Windsor Essex Youth Climate Council **BE RECEIVED.**
Carried.

7. Communications

Moved by Deputy Mayor Gord Queen, seconded by R. St. Denis,
That the following Communications **BE RECEIVED:**

- 7.1** Windsor Star Article – September 23, 2020: Urban design expert addresses anti-Black racism across city landscapes
- 7.2** CTV Article – October 27, 2020: Greenhouse light pollution bylaw approved by Kingsville council
- 7.3** Government of Canada – October 7, 2020 Canada one-step closer to zero plastic waste by 2030

Carried.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 City of Windsor – Global Covenant of Mayors

K. Richters reports that Mayor Drew Dilkens signed the City of Windsor to be part of the Compact of Mayors, which is now the Global Covenant of Mayors of Climate

Change and Energy. Every year we report on our greenhouse gas emission for corporate community. We look at our risk and vulnerability for climate change adaptation and we look at addressing all of our actions that we are undertaking and review indicators. The report goes to the carbon disclosure project to rate cities against different baselines and this year, similar to last year, the City of Windsor received an “A” rating. The City of Windsor received an “A” for adaptation and a ‘B” for our mitigation.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Meloche, seconded by D. Coronado,
That the update regarding the City of Windsor – Global Covenant of Mayors **BE RECEIVED.**
Carried.

8.2 Ojibway Parkway Wildlife Crossing – Municipal Class EA – Notice of Study Commencement and Online Public Notification Centre #1

K. Richters states that the information relating to the online public notification centre #1 is posted on the City of Windsor’s website. Comments will be received during a two-week period (November 19-December 3, 2020).

Moved by Deputy Mayor Gord Queen, seconded by Councillor McKenzie,
That the update regarding the Municipal Class EA and the Notice of Study Commencement and Online Public Notification Centre #1 for the Ojibway Parkway Wildlife Crossing **BE RECEIVED.**
Carried.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the call of the Chair.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 5:09 o’clock p.m.

CHAIR

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR