

## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

#### **DURHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**September 23, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, September 23, 2021 in Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:03 PM. In accordance with Provincial legislation, electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

#### **1. Roll Call**

Present: G. Carpentier, Scugog, Chair  
O. Chaudhry, Pickering  
S. Clearwater, Whitby  
J. Cuthbertson, Clarington, Second Vice-Chair  
C. Doody-Hamilton, Member at Large  
G. Layton, Oshawa  
K. Lui, Member at Large, First Vice-Chair  
K. Murray, Member at Large attended the meeting at 7:07 PM  
D. Nguyen, Youth Member  
S. Panchal, Youth Member  
S. Yamada, Regional Councillor, Town of Whitby  
**\*all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: R. Dickinson, Brock  
B. Foxton, Uxbridge  
B. Shipp, Member at Large  
D. Stathopoulos, Member at Large  
M. Thompson, Ajax

#### **Staff**

Present: S. Glover, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
A. Luqman, Project Planner, Planning & Economic Development Department  
L. Malyjasiak, Works Technician, Waste Services, Works Department  
A. Porteous, Supervisor, Waste Services, Works Department

#### **2. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by C. Doody-Hamilton, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,  
That the agenda for the September 23, 2021 DEAC meeting, as  
presented, be approved.

**CARRIED**

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by S. Clearwater, Seconded by J. Cuthbertson,  
That the minutes of the regular DEAC meeting held on Thursday,  
June 17, 2021, be adopted.

CARRIED

Moved by O. Chaudhry, Seconded by G. Layton,  
That the minutes of the special DEAC meeting held on Thursday,  
July 8, 2021, be adopted.

CARRIED

Moved by S. Clearwater, Seconded by G. Layton,  
That the closed minutes of the special DEAC meeting held on  
Thursday, July 8, 2021, be adopted.

CARRIED

**5. Presentations**

A) Stormwater Management, Krista Chomicki, Great Lakes Scientist, Toronto  
Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)

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Krista Chomicki, Great Lakes Scientist, Toronto Region Conservation  
Authority (TRCA), provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Stormwater  
Management.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Presentation Outline
- Western Durham Nearshore Water Quality Monitoring Program
- Parameters Measured
- From Land to Lake
- Stormwater Drains Emptying Directly to Lake Ontario by Pickering-Ajax
- While Looking at Lake Ontario Data
- Problem Identification
- Frisco Storm Drain
- Solution: Sewershed Work
- July 2017
- With Funding from Environment Canada and Lab Support from York and Durham
- Average Removal Efficiency – Event Basis
- May 2016
- Other Ways to Mitigate Stormwater and Impact Water Quality?

- Soil & Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) Modeling in Duffins Watershed
  - TP Source Tracing
- Priority Restoration Areas
- Reforestation in Rouge Watershed
- Stormwater Outfalls
- Tile Treatment Wetlands
- Lake Ontario Tributary Monitoring
- Storm Event Sampling
- GLIER – Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research
- Stormwater Retrofits
- Study Sites
- Goals
- Take Home Messages

K. Chomicki responded to questions from the Committee regarding how the data collected in the lakes compares to the interim Provincial Water Quality Objectives and Guidelines (PWQOG); whether the application of living machines (a form of ecological sewage treatment and water purification that mimics a natural wetland system to treat wastewater) in the industrial drainage basins to reduce the contaminants in run-off has been considered as studied by John Todd, Biologist; whether there was any consideration of on-site controls for the industrial areas discharging into the Frisco ditch; whether the SWAT models can be used to predict loading from more extreme weather events that may occur as a result of climate change; reforestation within high density housing areas and whether information can be communicated to municipalities regarding the different scenarios identified with respect to the effects on climate change; and whether the SWAT modeling can be turned into reality if the area being modelled is already built up or staged for future developments.

B) Long-Term Waste Management Plan 2021-2040, Angela Porteous, Region of Durham Waste Management

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Angela Porteous, Supervisor, Waste Services, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Long-Term Waste Management Plan 2021-2040.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Update since June
- Council Approved Guiding Principles
- Council Approved Vision
- Council Approved Objectives
- Targets and Actions
- Objective 1: Engage with Residents to Build an Understanding and Awareness of the 5Rs and the Region's Waste Management Programs and Services

- Target 1A: Increase Public Engagement on the 5Rs Through Partnerships, Increased Accessibility, and Different Media
- Objective 2: Reduce the Quantity of Waste We Create
  - Target 2A: Support Residents in Making Behavioural Changes to Reduce Food Waste
  - Target 2B: Support Residents in Making Behavioural Changes to Reduce the Amount of Waste Generated
- Objective 3: Increase Diversion of Waste from Disposal and Support the Circular Economy
  - Target 3A: Increase Diversion of Organics from Disposal
  - Target 3B: Revise Waste Management By-law 46-2011 to Reflect Changes to Regional Collection and Processing Programs and Services
  - Target 3C: Develop a Transition Plan that Supports EPR Programs
  - Target 3D: Advocate for the Expansion of Existing EPR Programs and for Additional EPR Programs to Manage More Materials
- Objective 4: Support the Region's Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Climate Change Mitigation Efforts
  - Target 4A: Develop Initiatives to Offset or Reduce GHG Emissions from Solid Waste that Contribute to Corporate GHG Emissions
- Objective 5: Protect or Improve Water, Land and Air Quality in Durham Region
  - Target 5A: Optimize the Operations of Waste Management Facilities (WMFs)
  - Target 5B: Increase Accessibility of Waste Management Programs and Services
  - Target 5C: Explore Options to Reduce Environmental Impacts of Closed Landfills and Potential for Future Community Use
- Next Steps
- Discussion – Targets and Actions

A. Porteous responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether there are any short-term goals or actions that can be implemented immediately as opposed to the many long-term goals listed in the LTWMP; and whether there are any rehabilitation plans for the Brock West Landfill site.

## **6. Items for Discussion/Input**

### **A) Update from DEAC Environmental Awards Subcommittee**

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A. Luqman advised that the DEAC awards are being held October 14, 2021 at 7:00 PM. She advised that it is a virtual event where the winners will be announced live, and the physical awards will be mailed out to the recipients. She also advised that certificates are being given to all those nominated for an award but not selected.

A. Luqman advised that the welcome speaker will be G. Carpentier and that the keynote speaker will be Regional Chair Henry.

G. Layton advised that A. Luqman and C. Acosta have drafted the agenda for the DEAC awards and all that is remaining is to put together a few very brief videos that staff requested from the nominees regarding their projects.

B) Update from DEAC Webinar Series Subcommittee

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A. Luqman advised that there are four webinars planned for the Fall. The four webinars are:

- September 21, 2021 - Getting Your Garden Ready for Winter
- October 5, 2021 - Benefits of an Urban Forest
- October 18, 2021 - Clean-Up Efforts and Waste Reduction Initiatives
- November 2, 2021 - Sustainable Energy for Homeowners

In response to a question from the Committee regarding viewership of the webinars and whether the webinars are archived, A. Luqman advised that she is trying to determine viewership and that the webinars are recorded and posted to the Region of Durham's YouTube page. She also advised that she would share the public service announcement regarding the webinars with the Committee members.

**7. For Information**

A) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report and Regional Fact Sheet for North and Central America

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A copy of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report and Regional Fact Sheet for North and Central America was received.

A. Luqman advised that I. McVey, Manager of Sustainability may sit on the panel but that she will follow-up and get back to the Committee.

B) Commissioner's Report #2021-INFO-82 – Regulatory Proposals (Phase 1) under the Conservation Authorities Act

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A copy of Report #2021-INFO-82 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

S. Clearwater referenced Section 4.28 of Report #2021-INFO-82 that stated that community advisory board members will be able to discuss opportunities to co-ordinate with other environmental initiatives in the Conservation Authorities (CA's) jurisdiction (e.g. municipal). She stated that it would be an opportunity for the community advisory boards, if approved, to identify any issues with development in their areas.

- C) ERO-019-0198 – Decision Summary on Proposed New Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health
- A copy of ERO-019-0198 – Decision Summary on Proposed New Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health was received.
- D) Commissioner's Report #2021-INFO-55 – Durham Region Strategic Plan 2020-2024 Goals and Priorities – Year One Progress Update
- A copy of Report #2021-INFO-55 of the Chief Administrative Officer was received.
- E) Commissioner's Report #2021-INFO-57 – COVID-19 Implications to the Durham York Energy Centre Operations
- A copy of Report #2021-INFO-57 of the Commissioner of Works was received.
- F) Commissioner's Report #2021-INFO-58 – Facts about the Regional Municipality of Durham's Mixed Waste Pre-Sort and Anaerobic Digestion Facility
- A copy of Report #2021-INFO-58 of the Commissioner of Works was received.
- G) Commissioner's Report #2021-COW-9 – Response to the Canadian Radioactive Waste Policy Review
- A copy of Report #2021-COW-9 of the Chief Administrative Officer was received.
- H) Commissioner's Report #2021-P-16 – Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan Update
- A copy of Report #2021-P-16 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.
- I) Article on the DEAC Climate Resiliency Guide (Features in the Toronto Star and Durham Region News) – A Durham Resident's Guide to Preparing for Climate Change
- A copy of the article on the DEAC Climate Resiliency Guide (Features in the Toronto Star and Durham Region News) – A Durham Resident's Guide to Preparing for Climate Change was received.
- A. Luqman advised that the article celebrated the Durham Resident's Guide to Preparing for Climate Change for all the topics that it covered, and that there were some unexpected tips found by residents as well.

Moved by S. Clearwater, Seconded by C. Doody-Hamilton,  
That Information Items 7 A) to 7 I) inclusive, be received for  
information.

CARRIED

**8. Other Business**

**A) Durham Region Protocols on Roadside Mowing**

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G. Carpentier raised his concerns regarding Durham Region's protocols on roadside mowing. He stated that he believes that the roadside mowing occurs at the wrong time of year as it occurs during the breeding season of birds. He added that litter is being mowed over, creating fragmented pieces that are being picked up by birds. He also stated that with the roadside mowing occurring at the wrong time of year, there is a concern of seeds of invasive species being spread.

G. Carpentier highlighted two articles titled: Reduce Roadside Mowing Policy – Promises Multiple Benefits and Managing Roadsides and Rights of Way for Pollinators.

Moved by J. Cuthbertson, Seconded by S. Clearwater,  
That Planning staff be requested to follow-up with the appropriate Works staff in order for them to examine their roadside mowing policies to take into consideration the environmental, financial, and biodiversity benefits; and following that review, make a presentation to the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee (DEAC) with their findings.

CARRIED

**B) Durham Food Charter**

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G. Carpentier advised that there is a series of consultations occurring to look at food and how we make it more accessible. He stated that there are 6 pillars as follows:

- 1) Food is Sacred
- 2) Food is for People
- 3) Values Food Providers
- 4) Works with Nature
- 5) Localize Food Systems
- 6) Builds Knowledge and Skill

G. Carpentier advised that each group worked on a specific pillar and he prepared a brief document of his notes to submit to the Durham Food Charter for inclusion into a final report which is scheduled to be completed in the Spring of 2022.

A. Luqman advised that she would circulate G. Carpentier's notes and the consultation guide after the meeting.

C) Water Pollution Control Plant Meeting

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S. Clearwater advised that she attended the water pollution control plant meeting September 23, 2021 at 3:00 PM where K. Chomicki also gave a presentation which was more engineering oriented. She stated that they showed an installation video of outfall diffuser upgrades which highlighted divers installing duckbills that diffuse the pollution.

S. Clearwater also advised that K. Chomicki stated there will be more of an emphasis on nitrates.

**9. Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, October 21, 2021 starting at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

**10. Adjournment**

Moved by O. Chaundhry, Seconded by G. Layton,  
That the meeting be adjourned.  
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM

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G. Carpentier, Chair, Durham  
Environmental Advisory Committee

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S. Glover, Committee Clerk