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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 16, 2023

A regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, November 16, 2023 in Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:01 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: B. Baszyk, Brock
O. Chaudhry, Pickering
P. Cohen, Post-Secondary Student
J. Cuthbertson, Member at Large, First Vice-Chair
B. Foxton, Uxbridge
K. Lui, Member at Large
K. Murray, Clarington, Second Vice-Chair attended the meeting at 7:04 PM
L. Nguyen, Youth Member
Councillor Shahid
B. Widner, Whitby
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: G. Carpentier, Scugog, Chair
M. Nasir, Ajax
D. Stathopoulos, Oshawa

Staff

Present: A. Chung, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
A. Luqman, Senior Planner, Planning & Economic Development Department
I. McVey, Manager of Sustainability left the meeting at 7:45 PM
***all staff members participated electronically**

In the absence of the Chair, J. Cuthbertson, First Vice-Chair, chaired the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by K. Lui, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
That the agenda for the November 16, 2023 Durham Environment and
Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) meeting, be approved.
CARRIED

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That the minutes of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory
Committee meeting held on Thursday, October 19, 2023, be adopted.
CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That the Closed minutes of the Durham Environment and Climate
Advisory Committee meeting held on Thursday, October 19, 2023, be
adopted.

CARRIED

5. Delegations

A) Challenging Climate Change Assumptions, Jeanette Miller

Jeanette Miller, participating electronically, appeared before the Committee to discuss challenging climate change assumptions.

J. Miller raised concerns that Durham Region is spending billions of dollars toward green energy when they are of the opinion that there is not a climate emergency. J. Miller referenced several areas of the document titled, "World Climate Declaration – There is no Climate Emergency" by the Global Climate Intelligence Group that was distributed to the Committee prior to the meeting. Particular reference was made on the statement "Scientists should openly address uncertainties and exaggerations in their predictions of global warming, while politicians should dispassionately count the real costs as well as the imagined benefits of their policy measures" as found on Page 3 of the document.

B) The Nature of Climate Change Science and the Cost of Net Zero Policies, James Bountrogiannis

James Bountrogiannis appeared before the Committee later in the meeting. See Item 5. B) on page 4 of these minutes.

6. Presentations

- A) Annual GHG Inventory (A recap of the Durham Climate Roundtable Greenhouse Emissions and Climate Action Report), Dr. Daniel Hoornweg and David Wotten, Ontario Tech University
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Dr. Daniel Hoornweg and David Wotten, participating electronically, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Annual Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Durham Region Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions – Scopes 1, 2, & 3, 2022
- Canada Greenhouse Gas Ranking Per Capita
- Closer to Home
 - Climate Emergencies Declared!
 - Net-Zero Targets Legislated!
- The Power of Politics
- European Union (EU) Carbon Border Tariff
- Strong Goals, Weak Plans
- Net Zero Targets Under Increasing Scrutiny
- Durham Community Energy Plan
- Migration Priorities (Community-Wide)
- Full Report Available Friday, November 17 at Brilliant Energy Website

Dr. D. Hoornweg D. Wotten responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether there are any numbers for Durham Region with respect to fugitive emissions (unintentional and undesirable emission, leakage or discharge of gases or vapors) from Regional infrastructure.

- B) Restoring and Protecting Pollinator Habitat in Rights-of-Way, Vicky Papuga, Rights-of-Way Pollinator Habitat Coordinator, Canadian Wildlife Federation
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Vicky Papuga, Rights-of-Way Pollinator Habitat Coordinator, participating electronically, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding restoring and protecting pollinator habitats in rights-of-way (ROW).

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Agenda
- The ROW Restoration Team at Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF)
- Canada's and Ontario's Role in Monarch Recovery
- The Right Way
- ROW can Provide Landscape- Scale, Connected Habitat
- Benefits of Habitat Restoration
- Addressing Invasive Plant Species
- Reduced Maintenance Costs
- Passive Restoration

- Adjust Mowing Practices Where Possible (Yearly or Cyclically)
- Active Restoration
- Steps Needed
- Wood Chip Trial on Roadside
- Assessing Pollinator Habitat Quality on ROW
- What Affects Site Quality?
- The CWF Rights-of-Way as a Habitat Program
- What CWF Offers
- Rights of Way as Habitat Working Group
- Building on Success
- Communities of Practice
 - Eastern Ontario
 - Southwestern Ontario
 - The Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area
- Building and Sharing Knowledge is Integral to Successful Restoration
- Online Resources for Partners in ROW Restoration
- Let's Work Together Toward Restoring Pollinator Habitat!

V. Papuga responded to questions from the Committee regarding the effectiveness of seed bombs; what the next steps would be for Regional staff, and the Town of Whitby staff in order to partner with the ROW Restoration Team at the CWF; and whether the benefits outweigh the risks to the wildlife when planting near roadways.

6. Delegations

B) The Nature of Climate Change Science and the Cost of Net Zero Policies, James Bountrogiannis

James Bountrogiannis, participating electronically, appeared before the Committee to discuss the nature of climate change science and the cost of net zero policies.

J. Bountrogiannis raised concerns with respect to net zero policies being too expensive of a venture; and what the effect of spending billions of dollars trying to achieve net zero will have on inflation and the cost of living for generations to come. He also highlighted the need to separate the climate issues from the environmental issues when discussing climate change science.

J. Bountrogiannis responded to questions from the Committee.

7. Items for Action/Discussion

A) Environmental Achievement Awards Follow-Up (Aneesah Luqman)

A. Luqman advised that the Durham Environment and Climate Forum was held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 from 7:00 – 9:00 PM at Ontario Tech University. She thanked the DECAC awards subcommittee members and all staff that

contributed to the successful event. She also noted that O. Chaudhry, P. Cohen, K. Lui, K. Murray, and Councillor Shahid were in attendance for the event and encouraged everyone to attend 2025 DECAC awards ceremony.

Discussion ensued regarding modernizing the application process for next time.

B) Introduction of the Durham Climate Dashboard (Ian McVey and Nayel Halim)

In the absence of I. McVey, A. Luqman advised that the Durham Climate Dashboard was recently launched, and that I. McVey and N. Halim will present the dashboard to the Committee in the New Year and provide a full demonstration.

C) Friends of Second Marsh – Letter of Support for the Love the Marsh! Campaign (Aneesah Luqman)

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by B. Basztyk,
That the draft letter of support for the Friends of Second Marsh – Love the Marsh! Campaign as presented, be approved.

CARRIED

D) ERO #019-7735: New Act Regarding the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve Easements and Covenants

A. Luqman advised that the deadline for comments is November 30, 2023.

E) ERO #019-7739: Proposal to Return Lands to the Greenbelt – Greenbelt Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023

A. Luqman advised that the deadline for comments is November 30, 2023.

F) 2024 DECAC Workplan and Terms of Reference

A copy of the 2024 Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) Workplan and Terms of Reference was received.

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by P. Cohen,
That we recommend to the Planning & Economic Development Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional Council:

That the proposed 2024 Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) Workplan be amended as follows, and as amended, be approved:

Under Item 2.0 (High Priority):

- Move “Promote and continue to implement the Environmental Achievement Awards” to medium priority;
- Under the second bullet, and second sub-bullet, add as a new sub-bullet “identify timelines for Spring of 2024”; and

- Add as a new bullet: “Participate in Durham Climate Forum in partnership with the Sustainability Team”.

Under Item 2.0 (Medium Priority):

- Move “Invasive and native species management and education” to high priority; and
- Move “Explore opportunities for a volunteer program” to high priority.

CARRIED

Moved by K. Lui, Seconded by K. Murray,
That we recommend to the Planning & Economic Development
Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional
Council:

That the proposed 2024 Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee
(DECAC) Terms of Reference, be approved.

CARRIED

G) 2024 Meeting Schedule

A copy of the 2024 DECAC meeting schedule was received.

Discussion ensued regarding the Committee meeting in-person in the New Year at least once with a suggested date of the June 20, 2024, DECAC meeting. A. Luqman advised that she would look into room availability for that date.

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That the 2024 Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee
(DECAC) meeting schedule, as presented, be adopted.

CARRIED

H) Mileage Reimbursement

A. Luqman requested Committee members to submit to her any travel expenses incurred with respect to DECAC business via email for reimbursement by the end of the year.

8. For Information

- A) Commissioner’s Report #2023-P-28: Durham Region’s response to Environmental Registry of Ontario Postings #019-7735 and #019-7739 related to a Proposed Act regarding the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve and Proposed Act to return lands to the Greenbelt – Greenbelt Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023
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A copy of Report #2023-P-28 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

- B) Commissioner's Report #2023-P-26: Decision Meeting Report – Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by CBM Aggregates, to permit the expansion of Aggregate Resource Extraction Area No. 2 in the Township of Brock, File: OPA 2022-003

A copy of Report #2023-P-26 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

- C) Resolution Passed at Brock Township Council Meeting Held on October 23, 2023, regarding Legislative Amendments to Improve Municipal Codes of Conduct and Enforcement

A copy of the resolution passed at the Brock Township Council meeting held on October 23, 2023, regarding legislative amendments to improve municipal codes of conduct and enforcement was received.

- D) Resolution Passed at Township of Oro-Medonte Council Meeting in Support of the Town of Georgina's Resolution Regarding Lake Simcoe Phosphorus Reduction Strategy

A copy of the resolution passed at the Township of Oro-Medonte Council meeting in support of the Town of Georgina's resolution regarding the Lake Simcoe Phosphorus Reduction Strategy was received.

- E) Resolution Passed at City of Pickering Council Endorsing the City of Hamilton's Request to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to Abandon Greenbelt Development

A copy of the resolution passed at the City of Pickering Council endorsing the City of Hamilton's request to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to abandon Greenbelt Development was received.

- F) Minutes of the October 10th, 2023 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC)

A copy of the minutes of the October 10th, 2023 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting was received.

Moved by O. Chaudhry, Seconded by B. Widner,
That Information Items 8. A) to F) inclusive, be received for information.
CARRIED

9. Other Business

There was no other business considered.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2024, starting at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

11. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM

J. Cuthbertson, First Vice-Chair, Durham
Environment and Climate Advisory Committee

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk