

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 15, 2024

A regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, February 15, 2024 in Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:00 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: J. Cuthbertson, Member at Large, Chair
B. Baszytk, Brock
G. Carpentier, Scugog, First Vice-Chair
P. Cohen, Post-Secondary Student
K. Lui, Member at Large
K. Murray, Clarington attended the meeting at 7:19 PM
M. Nasir, Ajax
L. Nguyen, Youth Member
B. Widner, Whitby
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: O. Chaudhry, Pickering
B. Foxton, Uxbridge
Councillor Shahid
D. Stathopoulos, Oshawa

Staff

Present: S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
N. Halim, Sustainability Policy Advisor
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
A. Luqman, Senior Planner, Planning & Economic Development Department
***all staff members participated electronically**

2. Election of Officers for 2024

Election of the DECAC Second Vice-Chair

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, called for nominations for the position of Second Vice-Chair of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee.

Moved by G. Carpentier, Seconded by P. Cohen,
That K. Murray be nominated for the position of Second Vice-Chair of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee.

Moved by M. Nasir, Seconded by B. Basztyk,
That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

K. Murray indicated prior to the meeting that she would stand.

K. Murray was acclaimed to the position of Second Vice-Chair.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by P. Cohen, Seconded by B. Widner,
That the agenda for the February 15, 2024 Durham Environment and
Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) meeting, be approved.

CARRIED

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by K. Lui, Seconded by G. Carpentier,
That the minutes of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory
Committee meeting held on Thursday, January 18, 2024, be adopted.

CARRIED

6. Presentations

A) Durham Climate Dashboard (Nayel Halim, Sustainability Policy Advisor)

Nayel Halim, Sustainability Policy Advisor, participating electronically, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Durham Climate Dashboard.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Durham Climate Dashboard
 - Objectives
 - Key Drivers
- Development Process
 - Environmental Scan & Research
 - Staff Consultation
 - Data Collection Framework
- Reporting Process
 - Connection to the Strategic Plan
- Durham Climate Dashboard: Demo

N. Halim responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether more metrics could be provided on the decisions made by Regional Council, the

subsequent actions made, and the impact that those actions have had on the Region's greenhouse gas emission reduction targets; and whether staff have considered having a newsfeed/blog on the dashboard that would discuss the activities of Committees and Council with respect to anything related to climate in order to raise more awareness for Durham Region residents.

In response to a question from G. Carpentier with respect to the rising criticism of installing bike lanes and reducing the number of active car lanes and whether this is being considered in the Durham Transportation Plan, N. Halim advised that he would forward this question to the transportation team and get back to him directly.

B) Update on Courtice District Energy System Project (Nayel Halim, Sustainability Policy Advisor)

Nayel Halim, Sustainability Policy Advisor, participating electronically, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding an update on the Courtice Energy System Project.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- District Energy – An Introduction
- Strategic Alignment
- Project History & Context
- District Energy Options Evaluated
- District Energy Options Evaluated – Heating Only
- Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC) Heating Only – District Energy Systems (DES) Business Case
- DES Business Case
 - Sensitivity Analysis
- Potential for Low-Cost Financing and Grants
- District Energy Ownership Models
- Target Project Development Timeline & Process

N. Halim responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether the two schools located near the Courtice GO Station could be heated with district energy after the expansion of the district energy program; and whether there has been any consideration for the reduction of greenhouse gases during the infrastructure and digging phases.

7. Items for Action/Discussion

A) Update on DECAC Attendance at Port Perry Lions Club Waste Diversion Event

A. Luqman advised that G. Carpentier and K. Lui will be participating in the waste diversion event as representatives of Durham Environment and Climate Change Advisory Committee (DECAC) as well as the Scugog Environmental and Climate Change Advisory Committee (SECCAC). She advised that the event will take

place on February 24, 2024 in Port Perry and that staff will be putting together handout materials including copies of the Climate Resiliency Guide that DECAC created and various swag items for G. Carpentier and K. Lui to provide to the residents.

B) Update on Pollinator Funding, re: DECAC Motion for Pollinators on Regional Facilities and Rights-of-Way

A. Luqman advised that the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) has approved funding in the amount of \$8,000 for the Region to implement pollinator gardens on rights-of-way and on Regional property, and an additional amount of funding for signage. She advised that staff have met internally to talk about what the next steps will be and to arrange a meeting with the CWF within the next few weeks to discuss potential sites, seedlings, and specific pollinators etc., as the CWF has specific requirements that will need to be met.

A. Luqman advised that more updates will be available at the March DECAC meeting.

C) DECAC Spring Pollinator Project – 2024 Planning

A. Luqman asked the Committee if they would be interested in the Spring pollinator project again this year. She stated that if there was interest then the planning would need to begin now, and volunteers would be needed for filling and labelling the seed packets, as well as handing them out at the Region's eight composting events. She advised that volunteer hours would also be available for any students that are interested in participating.

8. For Information

A) Information Report #2024-INFO-03: 2023 Source Water Protection Annual Report

A copy of Report #2024-INFO-03 of the Acting Commissioner of Works was received.

B) Updates on Durham Region's Transition to Extended Producer Responsibility and Organics Program Changes – Presentation Slides to February 7th, 2024 Works Committee

A copy of the updates on Durham Region's Transition to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Organics Program changes presentation was received.

In response to a question from the Committee regarding clarification with respect to pulling in more business and restaurant compost, A. Luqman advised that she would forward the question to the Works Department staff.

C) Commissioner's Report #2024-COW-7: Request for Funding from the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority for the Acquisition of Land adjacent to the

Long Sault Conservation Area in the Municipality of Clarington (3029 Regional Road 20)

A copy of Report #2024-COW-7 of the Commissioners of Finance and Planning & Economic Development was received.

In response to a question from the Committee with respect to whether DECAC can support the request from the CLOCA, A. Luqman advised that she would take that question back to the appropriate staff for more information.

- D) Commissioner's Report #2024-COW-6: Request for Funding from the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority for the Acquisition of Land in close proximity to the Long Sault Conservation Area in the Municipality of Clarington (Hubble Property)
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A copy of Report #2024-COW-6 of the Commissioners of Finance and Planning & Economic Development was received.

- E) Commissioner's Report #2024-COW-4: Approval of Memoranda of Understanding between Durham Region and Partner Conservation Authorities
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A copy of Report #2024-COW-4 of the Commissioners of Finance and Planning & Economic Development was received.

- F) Commissioner's Report #2024-COW-1: Courtice Transit-Oriented Community District Energy System Preliminary Business Case Update
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A copy of Report #2024-COW-1 of the Chief Administrative Officer was received.

- G) Town of Ajax Receives Award of Appreciation for Commitment to Sustainability for Energy Efficient Pool Cover
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A copy of the article titled, "Town of Ajax Receives Award of Appreciation for Commitment to Sustainability for Energy Efficient Pool Cover" was received.

- H) Ajax Waterfront Erosion Mitigation Project
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A copy of the link to the Ajax Waterfront Erosion Mitigation Project was received.

- I) Lynde Shores Conservation Area Restoration Projects
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A copy of the links to the Lynde Shores Conservation Area Restoration Projects was received.

J) Minutes of the January 16th, 2024 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Meeting and DAAC Resolution – Backyard Chickens within Urban and Rural Settlement Areas

A copy of the January 16th, 2024 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Meeting and DAAC Resolution – Backyard Chickens within Urban and Rural Settlement Areas was received.

Detailed discussion ensued regarding the DAAC resolution with respect to backyard chickens within urban and rural settlement areas and the overall negative connotation it portrayed. The Committee agreed that avian viruses are to be taken seriously but that there is a lot of science and research on this topic that was not addressed, and that there are benefits for having backyard chickens.

A. Lugman advised that she would share DECAC's views with the DAAC staff liaison.

Moved by K. Murray, Seconded by P. Cohen,
That Information Items 8. A) to 8. J) 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, March 21, 2024, starting at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

11. Adjournment

Moved by P. Cohen, Seconded by L. Nguyen,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM

J. Cuthbertson, Chair, Durham Environment
and Climate Advisory Committee

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk