

## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

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

**March 18, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, March 18, 2021 in Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:00 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  
B. Foxton, Uxbridge  
G. Layton, Oshawa  
K. Lui, Member at Large, First Vice-Chair  
K. Murray, Member at Large  
D. Nguyen, Youth Member  
S. Panchal, Youth Member  
B. Shipp, Member at Large attended the meeting at 7:20 PM  
M. Thompson, Ajax  
J. Whalen, Post-Secondary Member  
S. Yamada, Regional Councillor, Town of Whitby  
**\*all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: R. Dickinson, Brock  
D. Stathopoulos, Member at Large

#### **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

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

Moved by K. Murray, Seconded by C. Doody-Hamilton,  
That the agenda for the March 18, 2021 DEAC meeting, as  
presented, be approved.

**CARRIED**

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by C. Doody-Hamilton, Seconded by G. Layton,  
That the minutes of the regular DEAC meeting held on Thursday,  
February 18, 2021, be adopted.

CARRIED AS AMENDED  
(See Following Motions)

Moved by S. Clearwater, Seconded by C. Doody-Hamilton,  
That page 4 of the February 18, 2021 DEAC minutes, under Item 7.  
B) Commissioner's Report #2021-INFO-10 – 2020 Source Water  
Protection Annual Report, be amended to add the words "drinking  
water threats (SDWTs)" after the word "significant", and the words  
"on the following threats" followed by a bulleted list:

- The application of agriculture source material to land;
- The application of commercial fertilizer to land; and
- The application of pesticides to land" after the word "eye", so  
that the paragraph now reads as follows:

'Concerns were raised by S. Clearwater regarding the seven remaining  
significant **drinking water threats (SDWTs)** in Durham Region noted in  
Report #2021-INFO-10 of the Commissioner of Works, and that the DEAC  
should be keeping an eye on the following threats:

- **The application of agriculture source material to land;**
- **The application of commercial fertilizer to land; and**
- **The application of pesticides to land.'**

CARRIED

Moved by S. Clearwater, Seconded by C. Doody-Hamilton,  
That page 5 of the February 18, 2021 DEAC minutes, under Item 8.  
A) Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant Committee, be  
amended to add the sentence "It was determined that there would  
be a 23% improvement in water quality." after the words  
"(importance of reforestation on water quality)", and to add the  
words "There was also" before the words "a presentation" so that it  
now reads as follows:

**'It was determined that there would be a 23% improvement in water  
quality. There was also** a presentation regarding the engineering of the long  
outfall pipes that go out into the water, with a focus on phosphorus.'

CARRIED

## **5. Presentations**

### **A) Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit**

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Hailey McWilliam, Environmental Planner, IBI Group, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Purpose
- 2014 Frequent Rapid Transit Network
- Study Area
- Why Bus Rapid Transit?
- Project Benefits
- Project Schedule: Overall Timeline
- What We've Heard So Far
- Preliminary Design
  - Proposed BRT Stop Locations
  - Preferred Preliminary Design
    - City of Pickering
    - Town of Ajax
    - City of Oshawa
  - Kingston Road at Liverpool Road, Looking West Today
  - Kingston Road at Liverpool Road, Looking West with BRT
  - Bond Street at Stevenson Road, Looking West Today
  - Bond Street at Stevenson Road, Looking West with BRT
- Environmental Studies
- Environmental Features
  - Natural Heritage
  - Tree Investigation
- Climate Change
- Environmental Assessment
- Next Steps

H. McWilliam responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether more trees can be included in the designs to reduce heat island impacts; whether the streetscaping will include a green infrastructure component; if a bus stop will be added at the Toronto Zoo; whether staff have considered implementing carbon offsetting, alternative energy sources, or any other energy management strategies (in relation to the climate change piece); whether consultation has occurred with the local indigenous communities; lessons learned from the similar work recently completed to Highway 7 in York Region; whether winter safety protocols are required for the red bus lanes; if there has been a tree canopy study completed for Durham Region to identify where the replacement trees should be placed; what plant species will be used and if they will be salt tolerant; whether the buses will be electric;

and if there is any early modelling for the CO<sub>2</sub> reduction that introducing electric buses would provide.

**6. Items for Discussion/Input**

A) DEAC Youth and Student Membership Replacement Update

G. Carpentier welcomed Derek Nguyen, Shlok Panchal, and Jocelyn Whalen to the Committee and asked the new members to provide a little background on themselves.

B) Endorsement of DEAC Climate Resiliency Homeowner's Guide

G. Carpentier thanked committee members and A. Luqman for all of the hard work that went into creating the Climate Resiliency Homeowner's Guide.

Moved by J. Cuthbertson, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,  
That we recommend to the Planning & Economic Development  
Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional  
Council:

That the proposed Climate Resiliency Homeowner's Guide as presented, be approved.

CARRIED

C) Update from DEAC Environmental Awards Subcommittee

G. Layton advised that the nomination forms are now on-line and went live on March 3, 2021 with a submission deadline of April 30, 2021. She provided a brief background on the DEAC Environmental Awards for the new members.

D) Update from DEAC Webinar Series Subcommittee

J. Cuthbertson advised that the DEAC webinar series would be 20-40 minutes in length followed by a question and answer period.

Discussion ensued regarding various topics of interest, including:

- Seed Starting and Intro into Gardening (Spring)
- Backyard Chickens
- Mental Health Resilience and Community Building during a Climate Crisis
- CO<sub>2</sub> Drawdown Solutions
- Community Gardens/Urban Gardens
- We Grow Food (Oshawa)
- Soper Creek Wildlife Rescue

E) Spring Bee Pollinator Seedling Distribution Project Update

A. Luqman advised that the next steps for the Spring Bee Pollinator Seedling Distribution Project is to procure the seeds and design the label for the packages. She advised that the Waste Department will be hosting two compost giveaway days in May in the Township of Scugog and the Town of Ajax, where DEAC will distribute the seedling packages.

F) Report #2021-P-7: Envision Durham Proposed Policy Directions Report

A. Luqman advised that she is looking into the possibility of a presentation from the Planning Department at the May DEAC meeting to provide an overview of the Envision Durham Proposed Policy Directions Report.

G) Notice of Study Completion for the Additional Water Storage and New Pumping Station Newcastle Urban Area, Clarington, Municipal Class Environmental Assessment

A. Luqman advised that the Region of Durham has initiated a Schedule B Class Environmental Assessment to plan for additional water storage and pumping capacity to service the Newcastle Urban Area.

A question was raised regarding whether staff would consider converting the water storage and pumping station into a facility that stored water and energy and in turn brought in some revenue in this current build or as a phase 2 to this build. It was also pointed out that pumped water storage is something that is being looked at in order to de-carbonize the electrical grid. A. Luqman advised that she would pass these comments on to the appropriate staff.

H) Ajax Reinforcement Project by Enbridge

The project overview and report for the Ajax Reinforcement Project by Enbridge was provided as a link to the Committee and received.

**7. For Information**

A) Commissioner's Report # 2021-INFO-20 – Management of Toxics in the Environment

A copy of Report #2021-INFO-20 of the Commissioner of Works was received.

B) Commissioner's Report # 2021-INFO-22 – Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan Update

A copy of Report #2021-INFO-22 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

C) Commissioner's Report # 2021-INFO-24 – Proposed Federal Clean Fuel  
Standard Regulation – Land Use and Biodiversity

A copy of Report #2021-INFO-24 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

Reference was made to the concerns raised by the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC), as noted in Report #2021-INFO-24, that biofuels produced on ineligible lands would not qualify for a carbon credit under the CFS, and the suggested setback requirement from riparian zones and water bodies where biofuel crops would not be accepted for clean fuel carbon credits is too large and would exclude large amounts of land which are currently farmed. As a result of these concerns, the reference year for land use changes has been changed from 2008 to 2020, meaning that the industry will not be penalized for land use changes prior to the CFS regulations being implemented. Concerns were raised that the change to the reference year could contribute to a significant drinking water threat due to fertilizers, pesticides etc.

D) Commissioner's Report #2021-INFO-25 – Provincial Consultation on  
Growing the Size of the Greenbelt

A copy of Report #2021-INFO-25 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

E) Canada's Net Zero Future – New Report from the Canadian Institute for  
Climate Choices

A copy of Canada's Net Zero Future – New Report from the Canadian Institute for Climate Choices was received.

F) DAAC minutes from its January 16, 2021 meeting

A copy of the January 16, 2021 DAAC meeting minutes was received.

G) Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines – Review of Long-  
Term Energy Planning Framework (Public comments accepted until April 27,  
2021)

A copy of the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines – Review of Long-Term Energy Planning Framework was received.

Moved by K. Murray, Seconded by J. Cuthbertson,  
That Information Items 7A) and 7G) inclusive, be received for  
information.

CARRIED

**8. Other Business**

A) Port Granby Citizen Liaison Group

S. Clearwater advised that the Port Granby Citizen Liaison Group had to postpone their in-person activities until the Fall.

B) Earth Day Activities

G. Carpentier asked if Durham Region had a role in Earth Day or what they do to support or participate in Earth Day. A. Luqman advised that Smart Commute used to incorporate Earth Day into their Carpool Week activities in partnership with Metrolinx and that she would look into this further.

Discussion ensued regarding the DEAC participating in Earth Day activities next year, such as a possible white elephant sale or a film screening.

**9. Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, April 8, 2021 starting at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

**10. Adjournment**

Moved by O. Chaudhry, Seconded by S. Clearwater,  
That the meeting be adjourned.  
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM

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G. Carpentier, Chair, Durham  
Environmental Advisory Committee

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S. Glover, Committee Clerk