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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM REGION ROUNDTABLE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

June 17, 2022

A regular meeting of the Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change was held on Friday, June 17, 2022, in the Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 10:00 AM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: D. Hoornweg, Citizen Member, Chair
Councillor Crawford, Works Committee
C. Desbiens, Citizen Member
T. Hall, Citizen Member
Regional Chair Henry attended the meeting at 10:30 AM
Councillor Hight, Planning & Economic Development Committee
J. Kinniburgh, Citizen Member
G. MacPherson, Citizen Member
C. Mee, Citizen Member
R. Plaza, Citizen Member
K. Senyk, Citizen Member
K. Shadwick, Citizen Member
J. Taylor, Citizen Member, attended the meeting at 10:03 AM
M. Vroegh, Citizen Member, Vice-Chair, left the meeting at 10:30 AM
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: E. Baxter-Trahair, CAO
Councillor Chapman, Health and Social Services Committee
P. Cohen, Youth Citizen Member
Councillor Leahy, Finance & Administration Committee

Staff

Present: S. Austin, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Office of the CAO
C. Goodchild, Manager, Policy Planning & Special Studies, Planning and Economic Development Department
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
M. Kawalec, Climate Change Coordinator, Office of the CAO
I. McVey, Manager of Sustainability, Office of the CAO
T. Fraser, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Highet, Seconded by K. Shadwick,
That the minutes of the Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change
meeting held on Friday, April 22, 2022, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Delegations

There were no delegations.

5. Presentations

A) Durham Greener Homes Program Update – Kyle Mennie, Manager – Home
Energy Solutions, Windfall Ecology Centre

Brent Kopperson, Executive Director, Windfall Ecology Centre, provided a
PowerPoint presentation with an update on the Durham Greener Homes
Program.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Introduction
- Agenda
- Durham Greener Homes Program Overview
 - Durham Greener Homes
 - Description
- The Launch
 - Launch Event
 - Digital Media
- Marketing results
 - Webpage Visits
 - Applicants, Active and Appointments
 - Customer Feedback

I. McVey asked that DRRCC members be ambassadors for the program and
spread the word about the program.

B) City of Pickering Sustainable Design Standards – Chantal Whitaker, Manager
Sustainability and Strategic Environmental Initiatives & Grant McGregor, Project
Manager Strategic Initiatives. Public consultation is ongoing at Let's Talk
Pickering

Chantal Whitaker, Manager Sustainability and Strategic Environmental Initiatives, and Grant McGregor, Project Manager Strategic Initiatives, City of Pickering, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Pickering Integrated Sustainable Design Standards.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Vision for a Sustainable Future
- Benefits of Sustainable Design Standards
- How are the standards being developed?
- Project Overview
- Public Survey #1
- Development Community Survey #1
- Public Survey #2
- Pickering Integrated Sustainable Design Standards
- Tiered Performance Approach
- Draft Checklist #2 – Guiding Principles
- Draft Checklist #2 – Performance Measures
- Next Steps
- Stay Connected

C. Whitaker and G. McGregor responded to questions with respect to whether stormwater management has been included; whether a sunset date for natural gas has been proposed; and the possibility of creating a challenge and highlighting the builders who are already going above and beyond.

I. McVey advised that the Region continues to collaborate with the development industry on understanding the most cost efficient way to higher levels of energy performance and how to build capacity within the industry.

C) Whitby Climate Adaptation Plan (Draft) – Jade Schofield, Project Manager – Sustainability and Climate Change, Town of Whitby & Eleri Davies, Consultant – Sustainable Solutions Group

Jade Schofield, Project Manager, Sustainability and Climate Change, Town of Whitby, provided a presentation regarding the draft Whitby Climate Emergency Response Plan.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Today's Objective and Agenda
- Engagement questions
- About Sustainable Solutions Group (SSG)
- Whitby's Climate Emergency Response
 - Whitby Climate Action Timeline
 - Climate Emergency Response Plan

- Phase 1: Climate Adaptation Plan
 - An Adapted Whitby
 - How We Engaged
- Phase 2: Climate Mitigation Plan
 - The Process: Mitigation Plan
 - Project Outputs: Mitigation
- Merging the Technical and Engagement Processes
 - CityInSight Model Overview
 - How We Engage
- We Want Your Feedback

J. Schofield advised that the feedback questions will be available on menti.com for a couple of days to provide feedback.

J. Schofield responded to questions with respect to the recommended net zero pathway for 2045 and the adoption of Community Area Land Need Scenario 2a by Regional Council.

D) Durham Region Natural Heritage System Climate Vulnerability Assessment – Jonathan Ruppert – Senior Research Scientist, Ecosystem & Climate Science, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Jonathan Ruppert, Senior Research Scientist, Ecosystem & Climate Science, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, provided a presentation regarding the Durham Region Natural Heritage System Climate Vulnerability Assessment.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Agenda
- Climate, Ecosystem & Human well-being
- Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA)
- GTA Precedents
- Key Objectives – Rapid Assessment to compare climate futures between Peel and Durham
 - Peel-Durham Climate Comparison
 - Climate Projections under high and moderate emission scenarios for Mean Annual Temperature
 - Mean Annual Temperature under high emission scenario
 - Annual Total Precipitation under high emission scenario
 - Conclusion
- Key Objectives – Complete NS-CCVA for the Durham Region using available data
 - NS-CCVA Indicators
 - 1. Habitat Patch
 - 2. Sensitive Vegetation
 - 3. Wetland Vulnerability

- 4. Soil Drainage
 - 5. Ground Surface Temperature
 - Overlay Analysis (Additive Scoring)
 - Additive Vulnerability Score
- Key Objectives – Assess alignment of NS-CCVA with Durham’s proposed Official Plan Natural Heritage System (NHS) and Enhancement Opportunity (EO) areas
 - NHS + EO Areas
 - NHS + EO in Whitebelt
 - Conclusions
- Acknowledgements

J. Ruppert responded to a question with respect to the Enhancement Opportunity (EO) areas.

E) Concept proposal – Durham Climate Commission - Ian McVey, Manager of Sustainability, Durham Region

Ian McVey, Manager of Sustainability, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding a proposal for a Durham Climate Commission. He advised that Greg Waclawek – Trent University, Joseph Young – Ontario Tech University, and Susan Wyse – York University, were also in attendance.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Context – Limited Regional Influence over major sources of emissions and resilience factors
- Durham Climate Commission – evolution of the DRRCC – rationale for change
- Governance Models – Southern Ontario Case Studies
- Durham Climate Commission – Proposed Structure
- Durham Climate Commission – Proposed Mandate
- Durham Climate Commission – Tools/Functions
- Final thoughts

I. McVey responded to questions with respect to whether this proposal has been shared with the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee; the proposed membership process; and next steps.

Discussion ensued with respect to the proposed changes to the structure of Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change and members indicated their support for the concept.

I. McVey displayed a proposed motion to endorse in principle. Discussion ensued with respect to the process to amend the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee terms of reference; and engaging the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee on proposed changes.

Moved by Councillor Crawford, Seconded by J. Kinniburgh,
That the Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change (DRRCC) endorse in principle the concept of transitioning the DRRCC from an advisory committee of Regional Council to an independent entity with the following core characteristics:

- A mandate to enable community oversight and shared accountability for progress towards the implementation of climate action plans at the local and Regional level through the publication of an annual climate progress report, delivery of an annual forum to highlight challenges, opportunities and celebrate success;
- Supported by a secretariat based within a local academic institution, with core funding provided by the Region and local area municipalities; and
- Governed by a Board or steering committee with diverse representation across the Region – including elected officials, and leaders from institutions, industry, and the community at large;

That Regional staff consider how current functions served by the DRRCC as an advisory committee could be fulfilled through an amended terms of reference and scope of activities of the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee;

That Regional staff engage with the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee to seek their input on the proposed changes; and

That Regional staff report back to the DRRCC in September with a more detailed description of the proposed change in DRRCC mandate.

CARRIED

6. Items for Information and Discussion

A) Canada's National Adaptation Strategy – open for consultation until July 15th

A link to Canada's National Adaptation Strategy consultation website was provided to the Committee members prior to the meeting.

- B) Canadian Green Retrofit Economy Study – released June 2022 by the Canada Green Building Council
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A link to the Canadian Green Retrofit Economy Study was provided to the Committee members prior to the meeting.

- C) Envision Durham – Land Needs Assessment – May 25th decision of Regional Council
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A copy of the resolution passed by Regional Council on May 25, 2022, was provided as Attachment #2 to the agenda.

Discussion ensued with respect to the consultation process and decision of Regional Council. The Committee thanked Chair Hoornweg for his presentation at the May 25, 2022, Regional Council meeting.

- D) E-Mission Zero – DRT Fleet Electrification Plan

A copy of Report #2022-DRT-10: E-Mission Zero – DRT Fleet Electrification Plan was provided to the Committee members prior to the meeting.

Ian McVey advised that the DRT Fleet Electrification Plan was approved at the June 8, 2022, Transit Executive Committee meeting.

- E) Durham Region Freight and Goods Movement Forum – June 22 and 23

A registration link for the Durham Region Freight and Goods Movement Forum was provided to the Committee members prior to the meeting.

7. Correspondence

There were no communication items to be considered.

8. Other Business

- A) Durham Greener Homes Program

Regional Chair Henry and I. McVey advised that the Durham Greener Homes Program was recognized at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) 2022 Annual Conference.

- B) Victoria Street Reconstruction and Widening Project

Regional Chair Henry advised that Durham Region has received the Ontario Public Works Association (OPWA) Project of the Year Award for the Victoria Street Reconstruction and Widening Project in the Town of Whitby.

C) Lake Scugog Enhancement Project

Regional Chair Henry advised that at the June 14, 2022, Finance & Administration Committee meeting, a motion was passed to contribute \$1.2 million to the Lake Scugog Enhancement Project. He noted that this item will be considered by Regional Council at their meeting to be held on June 29, 2022.

D) Transportation Association of Canada Climate Action Achievement Award

I. McVey also advised that Durham Region in partnership with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, was a finalist for the Transportation Association of Canada Climate Action Achievement Award for moving towards a flood resilient transportation system.

E) Northeast Pickering Lands

G. MacPherson inquired about the possibility of the DRRCC discussing the future development of land in Northeast Pickering at the September meeting. He advised that he would like to consider a motion similar to that approved by the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee requesting that Regional Council support the inclusion of the lands in the Greenbelt Plan.

C. Goodchild provided a brief overview of the next phase of the Growth Management Study, and she advised that a report is expected at the September 6, 2022, Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting with an update. She offered to provide a presentation at the September DRRCC meeting.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change will be held on Friday, September 16, 2022 starting at 10:00 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by K. Shadwick,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,

D. Hoornweg, Chair, Durham Region Roundtable on
Climate Change

T. Fraser, Committee Clerk