

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 15, 2023

A regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, June 15, 2023 in Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:12 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: G. Carpentier, Scugog, Chair
B. Basztyk, Brock
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
M. Nasir, Ajax
Councillor Shahid
D. Stathopoulos, Oshawa attended the meeting at 7:31 PM
B. Widner, Whitby
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: O. Chaudhry, Pickering
L. Nguyen, Youth Member

Also

Present: Councillor McDougall

Staff

Present: R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
A. Luqman, Senior Planner, Planning & Economic Development Department
S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by J. Cuthbertson, Seconded by K. Murray,
That the agenda for the June 15, 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 B. Baszyk,
That the minutes of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory
Committee meeting held on Thursday, May 18, 2023, be adopted.
CARRIED

5. Presentation

A) Wetland Key Performance Indicators, Yuestas David, Senior Research Scientist,
Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)

Yuestas David, Senior Research Scientist, Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), provided a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the Chevel Wetland key performance indicators.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Ecosystem and Climate Science at TRCA
- Research Questions
- Approach
- Site
- Characterization
 - Post-Restoration Wetland (2012)
 - Pre-Restoration Wetland (2010)
 - Drainage Area
- Annual Initial Model
- Annual Model Calibration – 2013
- Annual Model Validation – 2014
- Annual Key Performance Indicators (KPI) (2013 and 2014)
- Event-Based KPIs
- Water Quality
- Limitation
- Conclusions

Y. David responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether the water is being monitored for any volatile organic compounds or chemical pollutants; how the management of stormwater is determined if the wetland is being used for waterfowl habitat or containment trapping; the development of shorebird habitats during the migratory period; why some stormwater ponds are accessible to the public, but others are not and are behind chain link fences; and if there was consideration for whether the wetlands would be lined with a clay bedding like the stormwater ponds.

In response to a question from the Committee regarding pollinator planting and more perennial infrastructure being incorporated into Regional parks and other Regional spaces (such as park peripheries or larger boulevards), as well as the

benefits of initiatives such as “No Mow May” or planting drifts of pollinator friendly plants in some of the currently mowed spaces, Y. David advised that he could have those conversations with the ecologist or watershed planners and report back to the Committee.

6. Items for Action/Discussion

A) Appointment of Representative on Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) Advisory Committee

G. Carpentier advised that the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) Advisory Committee is looking for a representative from DECAC.

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by J. Cuthbertson,
That B. Foxton be appointed to the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) Advisory Committee as the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee representative.

CARRIED

B) Spring Bee Pollinator Distribution Project Update

A. Luqman advised that the remainder of the events were completed with great success and positive feedback from the public, and wanted to thank all of the committee members that participated or volunteered with the project.

A. Luqman advised that pollinator week begins June 19, 2023 and is managed by The Pollinator Partnership. She advised that there are materials available online and that she will email the link to the Committee.

K. Murray advised that she started a pollinator garden at her school that initially received a lot of push back from the school board, but it being certified as a pollinator garden as well as putting up signage helped with that.

C) Environmental Achievement Awards Update

A. Luqman advised that the Events Coordination Subcommittee met a couple of weeks ago to talk about how the awards would be approached this year and the possible opportunities for collaboration. She advised that timelines were discussed and whether the awards would be hosted in October or November, whether it would be an in-person, fully virtual or hybrid event, and the potential collaboration with Ontario Tech University (ONTechU). She further advised that the subcommittee will be re-visiting all of the award categories to ensure they are still relevant.

A. Luqman advised that a lot of discussion will occur over the summer, and that herself and M. Kawalec, Climate Change Coordinator, will also be meeting in mid July with staff from ONTechU. She advised that nominations would open over the summer, with a review period at the end of the summer/early fall.

D) "No Mow May" Initiative

J. Cuthbertson discussed the importance of promoting biodiversity and supporting pollinators such as bees and butterflies throughout the Region, and that the "No Mow May" initiative is an example of how homeowners can do just that.

Detailed discussion ensued regarding what efforts could be made to promote and support biodiversity on behalf of the Region that could include perennial/pollinator plots in verge or periphery areas.

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

That staff be requested to investigate the possibility of a perennial/pollinator plots pilot on Regional lands and report back to the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC).

CARRIED

7. For Information

A) Information Report #2023-INFO-43: Blackstock Landfill Mining Naturalization Project

A copy of Report #2023-INFO-43 of the Commissioner of Works was received.

B) Commissioner's Report #2023-P-19: Durham Region's Response to Provincial Consultation on Bill 97 – the Helping Homeowners, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023, the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement, and Related ERO Postings #019-6821, #019-6822, #019-6813

A copy of Report #2023-P-19 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

C) Information Report #2023-INFO-41: Quarterly Report – Commissioner's Delegated Planning Approval Authority, and Summary of Planning Activity in the Fourth Quarter of 2022

A copy of Report #2023-INFO-41 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

D) Information Report #2023-INFO-52: Quarterly Report – Commissioner's Delegated Planning Approval Authority, and Summary of Planning Activity in the First Quarter of 2023

A copy of Report #2023-INFO-52 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

E) Minutes of the May 9th, 2023 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Meeting

A copy of the minutes of the May 9th, 2023 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) meeting was received.

Moved by K. Murray, Seconded by K. Lui,
That Information Items 7. A) to E) inclusive, be received for information.
CARRIED

8. Other Business

A) Update from the Joint Trail Sustainability Advisory Committee

G. Carpentier advised that he sits on the Joint Trail Sustainability Advisory Committee (JTSAC) as the North Durham Nature representative. He advised that there are a number of organizations interested in this trail sustainability project, and that the purpose of the project is to raise money through parking fees to help the development and enhancement of trails and regional forests.

G. Carpentier expressed his concerns regarding discussions at the JTSAC meeting last week with respect to the one-year pilot that is set to expire in two weeks being extended into next year, and how it could be extended if it hadn't been approved yet; and that the Region did not appear to be present in this discussion when they should be. He advised that the next JTSAC meeting will be held in September.

Councillor Shahid requested that G. Carpentier forward her the information so that she could follow-up with the appropriate staff for more details.

B) Sharing DECAC Members' Contact Information

Discussion ensued regarding whether the Committee was interested in circulating a list of all of the members' contact information including emails and phone numbers. A. Luqman advised that she would email the Committee requesting consent to share this information, and if consent was received from everyone, then she would email the contact information to the Committee members.

C) June Bike Month

A. Luqman advised that June is Bike Month, which is a celebration of all things cycling, and that there are a number of events throughout the Region of Durham to participate in.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, September 21, 2023, starting at 7:00 PM in

the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

10. Adjournment

Moved by D. Stathopoulos, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

G. Carpentier, Chair, Durham Environment
and Climate Advisory Committee

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk