

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097.

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 18, 2024

A regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, January 18, 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. Baszyk, Brock
G. Carpentier, Scugog, First Vice-Chair
P. Cohen, Post-Secondary Student attended the meeting at 7:05 PM
B. Foxton, Uxbridge
K. Lui, Member at Large
L. Nguyen, Youth Member
Councillor Shahid attended the meeting at 7:30 PM
B. Widner, Whitby
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: O. Chaudhry, Pickering
K. Murray, Clarington
M. Nasir, Ajax
D. Stathopoulos, Oshawa

Staff

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

2. Election of Officers for 2024

Election of the DECAC Chair

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

Moved by G. Carpentier, Seconded by B. Widner,
That J. Cuthbertson be nominated for the position of Chair of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee.

Moved by J. Cuthbertson, Seconded by G. Carpentier,
That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

J. Cuthbertson advised that he would stand.

J. Cuthbertson was acclaimed to the position of Chair.

Election of the DECAC First and Second Vice-Chairs

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

Moved by J. Cuthbertson, Seconded by B. Baszyk,
That G. Carpentier be nominated for the position of First Vice-Chair of
the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee.

Moved by J. Cuthbertson, Seconded by G. Carpentier,
That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

G. Carpentier advised that they would stand.

G. Carpentier was acclaimed to the position of First Vice-Chair.

Moved by J. Cuthbertson, Seconded by G. Carpentier,
That the election of the DECAC Second Vice-Chair be deferred to the
February 15, 2024, DECAC meeting.

CARRIED

J. Cuthbertson assumed the position of Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by B. Widner, Seconded by B. Baszyk,
That the agenda for the January 18, 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 B. Widner, Seconded by K. Lui,
That the minutes of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory
Committee meeting held on Thursday, November 16, 2023, be adopted.

CARRIED

6. Presentations

A) Ontario Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment, Shannon Logan, Durham Sustainability Office

Shannon Logan, Policy Advisor, participating electronically, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Ontario Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Presentation Outline
- Ontario Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment (PCCIA)
- Areas of Focus and Level 1 Categories
- Structure of the Natural Environment Area of Focus
- Geographic Regions
- Findings Summary
 - Natural Environment
 - Infrastructure
 - People and Communities
 - Food and Agriculture
 - Business and Economy
- Natural Environment – Adaptive Capacity Ratings
- Snapshot of Adaptation Priorities – Central Region
- Adaptation Options – Natural Environment
- Cross-Sectoral Considerations
- Next Steps

S. Logan responded to questions from the Committee regarding what methods would be used to communicate the results of the report to residents; future projections based on the population today and what affect that might have completing risk assessments; why the category of waterfowl was given priority over the other categories of birds; concerns with respect to electrical generation and electrical transmission if gas powered vehicles are eliminated; and whether there will be another SENES study released for Durham Region in the near future.

B) Assessing Lands for Conservation Status through the Municipal Protected Areas Project, Anne Bell, Director of Conservation and Education, Ontario Nature

Anne Bell, Director of Conservation and Education, participating electronically, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding assessing lands for conservation status through the municipal protected areas project.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Ontario Nature
- Nature-Based Solutions
- Conference of Parties (COP) 15 – Target #3

- Municipal Protected Areas Project
- Current Status
- Nearby Nature Matters
- Municipal Leadership Needed
- Why Should Municipalities Contribute?
- The Montreal Pledge – Cities United in Action for Biodiversity
- 30 x 30: What Counts?
- Protected Areas and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMS)
- Protected Areas Examples
- OECM Examples
- Our Background
- The Process
- Positive Publicity
- Key Challenges
- Ontario Nature’s Ongoing Efforts

A. Bell responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether the information collected by Ontario Nature could be classified by what lands could be protected; what lands could be dedicated to the municipal protected areas project; and the details of the Montreal pledge.

7. Items for Discussion

A) Reconnect Durham – Environmental Defense Initiative (Ian McVey)

In I. McVey’s absence, P. Cohen, Durham’s representative on Environmental Defense, provided a PowerPoint Presentation with respect to Reconnect Durham – Environmental Defense Initiative.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Overview
- Calendar Map
- February Highlights
- Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC)

P. Cohen advised that he would forward his presentation to the Committee after the meeting.

B) Update on DECAC Motion, re: Pollinators on Regional Facilities and Rights-of-Way (Aneesah Luqman)

A. Luqman advised that the DECAC motion regarding planting pollinators on Regional facilities and rights-of-way was endorsed by the Planning & Economic Development Committee and Regional Council. She advised that she met with staff from the sustainability team in the CAO’s Office, and road maintenance,

operations, and facilities teams from the Works department to initiate the discussion and advised that these discussions happened to align with new funding being offered from the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF). She further advised that a funding application to CWF was put together and if approved would allow staff to implement pollinator gardens at some regional facilities where appropriate.

A. Luqman advised that the Region should hear back by the end of this month if the funding was approved, and if so the project could be implemented by the Spring. The Committee suggested involving local nature clubs and Environmental Advisory Committee's (EAC) if the funding is approved and the project goes ahead.

C) Delegation to Planning and Economic Development Committee on the 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan (Report #2024-P-2)

A. Luqman thanked J. Cuthbertson for his delegation on behalf of DECAC to the Planning & Economic Development Committee on January 9, 2024 with respect to the 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan.

8. For Information

A) Commissioner's Report #2024-P-5: Durham Region's Active Transportation Progress Report 2022-2023

A copy of Report #2024-P-5 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

B) Commissioner's Report #2024-P-4: Smart Mobility Durham 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan

A copy of Report #2024-P-4 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

C) Commissioner's Report #2023-WR-9: Organics Management Plan – Multi-Residential Enhanced Green Bin Program

A copy of Report #2023-WR-9 of the Acting Commissioner of Works was received.

D) Commissioner's Report #2023-WR-8: Pilot Curbside Giveaway Event Summary and Recommendation

A copy of Report #2023-WR-8 of the Acting Commissioner of Works was received.

E) Information Report #2023-INFO-105: 2023 Durham Environment & Climate Forum and Durham Environmental Achievement Awards

A copy of Report #2023-INFO-105 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

F) Information Report #2023-INFO-96: Waste Management Curbside and Multi-Residential Waste and Green Bin Audit

A copy of Report #2023-INFO-96 of the Acting Commissioner of Works was received.

G) Information Report #2023-INFO-95: 2022 Waste Management Annual Report

A copy of Report #2023-INFO-95 of the Acting Commissioner of Works was received.

H) Information Report #2023-INFO-93: Region's Submission to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) regarding Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) application for a licence to construct a reactor facility for its Darlington New Nuclear Project (DNNP) and Attachment of Submission

A copy of Report #2023-INFO-95 of the Chief Administrative Officer was received.

I) Information Report #2023-INFO-90: York Region Sewage Works Project

A copy of Report #2023-INFO-90 of the Acting Commissioner of Works was received.

J) TOA recognized for outstanding leadership related to climate action (Article and 2023 CDP Town of Ajax Feedback Report)

A copy of the TOA recognized for outstanding leadership related to climate action (Article and 2023 CDP Town of Ajax Feedback Report) was received.

K) Minutes of the November 28th, 2023 Energy from Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee Meeting

A copy of the November 28, 2023 Energy from Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee meeting minutes was received.

L) Minutes of the November 14th, 2023 and December 12th, 2023 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Meeting

A copy of the November 14, 2023 and December 12, 2023 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Meeting was received.

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by G. Carpentier,
That Information Items 8. A) to 8. L) inclusive, be received for information.

CARRIED

9. Other Business

A) Parking Lot Solar Panels in Los Angeles

G. Carpentier shared that in order to decrease the impact of heat islands, some parking lots in Los Angeles (LA) have covered large areas of parking lots with solar panels which would also generate electricity at the same time. He stated that he has been an advocate for planting trees in parking lots to help reduce the impact of heat islands, and that the Committee should encourage the Planning Department to start putting some of these ideas in place to help achieve the climate goals.

B) Port Perry Lions Club Recycling Event

S. Logan advised that Mayor Wotten, Township of Scugog, reached out to Regional staff about this event that will focus on education around what goes into the recycling bin and other waste diversion opportunities that are available to residents. She advised that the event will be led by the Port Perry Lions Club on Saturday, February 24, 2024, at the Scouts Halls facility. G. Carpentier and K. Lui expressed interest in volunteering for the event.

C) Tamarack Institute – 2024 Community Climate Transitions Cohort

S. Logan advised that Region of Durham staff have brought together an information coalition to participate in Tamarack's 2024 Community Climate Transitions Cohort. She advised that this cohort is a program that brings together diverse individuals within a community to connect with others across Canada and learn about collective climate action.

S. Logan advised that if the Committee was interested, she could bring back further information on this matter at a future meeting..

D) Global Covenant of Mayors Cohort

S. Logan advised that the Region of Durham has joined the Global Covenant of Mayors cohort which is a collaboration and training program to further advance Canadian local climate action and that it will be financed by the European Union (EU). She advised that ICLEI Canada will support the Region of Durham team and that she will provide an update to the Committee at a future meeting.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, February 15, 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 P. Cohen,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM

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

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk