

## The Regional Municipality of Durham

### MINUTES

#### DURHAM ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 16, 2025

A regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, January 16, 2025, 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. Basztyk, Brock  
G. Carpentier, Scugog, Second Vice-Chair  
O. Chaudhry, Pickering  
B. Foxton, Uxbridge  
K. Lui, Member at Large, First Vice-Chair  
B. Widner, Whitby  
**\*all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: P. Cohen, Post-Secondary Student  
K. Murray, Clarington  
M. Nasir, Ajax  
Councillor Shahid  
D. Stathopoulos, Oshawa

#### Staff

Present: A. Bathe, Senior Planner, Integrated Growth Management & Policy,  
Community Growth & Economic Development Department  
S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
A. Luqman, Manager, Transit Oriented Development, Community Growth &  
Economic Development Department  
**\*all staff members participated electronically**

J. Cuthbertson, on behalf of the Committee thanked A. Luqman for being the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) staff liaison and wished A. Luqman well in all future endeavours.

#### 2. Election of Officers for 2025

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

Moved by O. Chaudhry, Seconded by B. Widner,  
That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

S. Ciani asked if J. Cuthbertson wished to stand. J. Cuthbertson indicated 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 O. Chaudhry,  
That K. Lui be nominated for the position of First Vice-Chair of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee.

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

Moved by O. Chaudhry, Seconded by B. Widner,  
That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

S. Ciani asked if K. Lui and G. Carpentier wished to stand. K. Lui and G. Carpentier indicated that they would stand.

K. Lui and G. Carpentier were acclaimed to the positions of First and Second Vice-Chairs respectively.

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

### **3. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by O. Chaudhry, Seconded by G. Carpentier,  
That the agenda for the January 16, 2025, Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) meeting, be approved.

CARRIED

**4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

**5. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by O. Chaudhry, Seconded by K. Lui,  
That the minutes of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory  
Committee meeting held on Thursday, November 21, 2024, be adopted.  
CARRIED

**6. Presentations**

A) Claire Malcolmson, Ontario Road Salt Coalition

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Claire Malcolmson, Ontario Road Salt Coalition, provided a PowerPoint presentation with respect to the Salt Fact: Municipal Campaign.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Our Ask
- Ontario Leads Canada in Salt Pollution
- Opportunity to Regulate Snow and Ice Management Sector in Ontario
- Industry Association Landscape Ontario is Asking for Limited Liability
- Government of Canada – Environment and Natural Resources 2001 Assessment Report of Road Salts
- Canadian Water Quality Guideline
  - Daphnia Species
- Hidden Costs of Salt
- Our Ask

C. Malcolmson responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether the discharge into surrounding bodies of water could be measured monthly as opposed to just yearly; whether certain plants could be used to absorb the salt; and the new problem of inexperience with respect to ice management.

Moved by G. Carpentier, Seconded by J. Cuthbertson,  
That we recommend to the Community Growth & Economic  
Development Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation  
to Regional Council:

That the following motion from the Ontario Road Salt Coalition be endorsed:

Whereas road salt is a known toxic substance designated under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act because of tangible threats of serious or irreversible environmental and health damage from road salt; and

Whereas salt levels in Ontario's groundwater aquifers, creeks, rivers, and lakes have increasingly worsened since the 1970s, seriously affecting municipal drinking water sources and aquatic life; and

Whereas the Ontario and Canadian governments have taken many actions over the past 25 years including setting water quality guidelines, developing voluntary codes of practice, signing the Canada-Ontario Great Lakes Agreement, and holding workshops, yet still the salt problem continues to grow; and

Whereas numerous situation analyses have recommended salt solutions involving liability protection, contractor certification, government-approved Best Management Practices (BMPs) and salt management plans; and

Whereas increased numbers of slips and falls claims, and other injury/collision claims related to snow and ice, are resulting in salt applicators overusing salt beyond levels considered best practices; and

Whereas unlimited contractor liability is making it difficult or expensive for snow and ice management contractors to obtain insurance coverage, resulting in contractors leaving the business, thereby making it difficult for municipalities and private owners to find contractors; and

Whereas the Snow and Ice Management Sector (SMS) of Landscape Ontario is working with the Ontario government to institute a limited liability regime for snow and ice management, including enforceable contractor training/certification and government approved BMPs for salt application; and

Whereas many Ontario municipalities have Salt Management Plans, but these often require updating in light of improved science and better salt management practices now available.

Therefore be it resolved that:

1. That Durham Region urges the province of Ontario to work urgently with key stakeholders to develop limited liability legislation, including enforceable contractor training and a single set of provincially endorsed standard BMPs for snow and ice management; and
2. That Durham Region urges the province of Ontario to create and fund an expert stakeholder advisory committee to advise the province and municipalities on the best courses of action to protect freshwater ecosystems and drinking water from the impacts of salt pollution; and
3. That Durham Region commits to the reduction of the use of road salt as much as possible while maintaining safety on roads and sidewalks; and

4. That this resolution be sent to all municipalities in Durham Region, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), local MPPs, Conservation Ontario, Minister Andrea Khanjin (MECP), Interim Minister Todd McCarthy (MECP), Attorney General Doug Downey, and Premier Doug Ford.

CARRIED

## 7. Items for Discussion

### A) Introduction of Interim DECAC Staff Liaison (A. Luqman & A. Bathe)

A. Luqman introduced A. Bathe as the interim DECAC staff liaison until the position can be filled. A. Bathe provided a brief introduction on their planning/environmental background.

### B) Appointment of New DECAC Representative on Friends of Second Marsh Board

This item was deferred until the February 20, 2025, DECAC meeting.

### C) 2025 Environmental Achievement Awards Subcommittee

A. Bathe advised that the process of drafting the public service announcements and social media messaging for the 2025 Environmental Achievement Awards has begun, and that the first round of messaging should be posted in February. A. Bathe also advised that they are working on getting an expanded budget for the awards and will also be working with I. McVey and the sustainability team to discuss further details and arrangements for the event.

Moved by B. Basztyk, Seconded by G. Carpentier,  
That K. Lui be appointed as the Chair of the 2025 Environmental  
Achievement Awards Subcommittee.

CARRIED

### D) Spring Pollinator Seed Giveaway

A. Bathe advised that they have started to source the seeds for this year, including the option of pre-packaged seeds, but have found that pre-packed seeds are too expensive. A. Bathe added that volunteers will be needed to pack the seeds, and attend the compost giveaway events, and the dates of the compost giveaway events will be shared as soon as they are received.

B. Basztyk advised that there are three active horticulturist groups in Brock Township that would likely be willing to assist with the distribution of the seeds at the compost giveaway events. A. Bathe advised that they will reach out to the groups directly.

**8. For Information**

A) LSRCA Climate Resilient Planting Guide for Lake Simcoe Watershed

A copy of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) Climate Resilient Planting Guide for Lake Simcoe Watershed was received.

B) Commissioner's Report #2025-CG-2: Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Workplan

A copy of Report #2025-CG-2 of the Commissioner of Community Growth & Economic Development was received.

C) Ontario Home Renovation Savings Program

A copy of the Ontario Home Renovation Savings Program was received.

D) Minutes of the November 26th, 2024, Energy from Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee Meeting

A copy of the minutes of the November 26, 2024, Energy from Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee (EFW-WMAC) meeting was received.

E) Minutes of the November 12th, 2024, and December 10th, 2024, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Meeting

A copy of the minutes of the November 12, 2024, and December 10, 2024, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) meetings, were received.

Moved by B. Widner, Seconded by G. Carpentier,  
That Information Items 8. A) to 8. E) inclusive, be received for  
information.

CARRIED

**9. Other Business**

A) Recruitment of a New Youth Member

A. Luqman advised that the official public service announcement to recruit a new youth member on the committee has been posted and that the deadline to apply is February 14, 2025.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the recruitment of a youth member could be done proactively in order to reduce the amount of time that there is no youth member on DECAC.

B) Climate Change Roundtable

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DECAC members were invited to participate in a Climate Change Roundtable hosted by Member of Parliament (MP) Ryan Turnbull at the Whitby Central Library on January 20, 2025.

J. Cuthbertson and K. Lui advised that they had responded to Communication Assistant, P. D'Souza's', email, but have not heard anything back. A. Bathe will follow-up with P. D'Souza to confirm their attendance.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee will be held on February 20, 2025, starting at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

**11. Adjournment**

Moved by O. Chaudhry, Seconded by G. Carpentier,  
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM

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

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S. Ciani, Committee Clerk