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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 20, 2025

A regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, February 20, 2025, in Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:26 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: B. Baszyk, Brock
G. Carpentier, Scugog, Second Vice-Chair
K. Lui, Member at Large, First Vice-Chair
K. Murray, Clarington, attended the meeting at 7:26 PM
M. Nasir, Ajax
Councillor Shahid, attended the meeting at 7:21 PM
B. Widner, Whitby
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: O. Chaudhry, Pickering
P. Cohen, Post-Secondary Student
J. Cuthbertson, Member at Large, Chair
B. Foxton, Uxbridge
D. Stathopoulos, Oshawa

Staff

Present: A. Bathe, Senior Planner, Integrated Growth Management & Policy,
Community Growth & Economic Development Department
S. Dessureault, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
N. Halim, Policy Advisor, Climate Change, Community Growth & Economic
Development Department
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
***all staff members participated electronically**

In the absence of J. Cuthbertson, Chair, G. Carpentier, Second Vice-Chair, chaired the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by M. Nasir,
That the agenda for the February 20, 2025, Durham Environment and
Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) meeting, be approved.
CARRIED

3. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

4. **Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by B. Baszyk, Seconded by K. Lui,
That the minutes of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory
Committee meeting held on Thursday, January 16, 2025, be adopted.

CARRIED

5. **Delegations**

A) Oswald Sharpe, Reducing Carbon Pollution

Oswald Sharpe was not in attendance when called upon for their delegation.

B) Jeanette Miller, Cost of Climate Mitigation

Jeanette Miller appeared before the Committee with respect to the cost of climate mitigation.

J. Miller stated that climate science should be less political, while climate policies should be more scientific. She stated that scientists should openly address uncertainties and exaggerations in their predictions of global warming, while politicians should dispassionately count the real costs as well as the imagined benefits of their policy measures.

J. Miller referenced information shared on the Climate Intelligence (CLINTEL) and Canadians for Sensible Climate Policy websites in their delegation.

6. **Presentations**

A) Erin Kerr, Terrestrial Biologist, Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority Presenting on the Durham Region Phragmites Management Area Working Group

Erin Kerr, Terrestrial Biologist, Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA), provided a PowerPoint presentation with respect to Durham Region's Phragmites Management Area Working Group (PMAWG).

Highlights from the presentation included:

- About Phragmites
- Economic Impact of Phragmites
- Invasive Phragmites Control Fund
- Ontario Phragmites Action (OPA) Program
- Purpose of OPA
- Phragmites Management Areas (PMA)

- Durham Region PMAWG
- First Durham Region PMAWG Meeting
- Where to Next?

E. Kerr responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether any post-secondary institutions represent PMAWG; if PMAWG would consider collaborating with secondary schools and clubs to assist in controlling phragmites; whether they have considered collaborating with the Township of Scugog; and if timing of phragmite control is considered to avoid disturbing the habitats of other wildlife in the area.

7. Items for Discussion

A) District Energy Update

N. Halim, Policy Advisor, Climate Change, provided a PowerPoint presentation with respect to District Energy Update.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Courtice District Energy System (DES) – Updates
- Ajax Downtown Area De-Feasibility Study
- Pickering City Centre De-Feasibility Study
- Durham District Energy and Heat Master Plan

B) Youth Member Recruitment Update

A. Bathe provided the Committee with an update on the recruitment of a youth member for the DECAC.

A. Bathe advised the Committee that once the successful candidate has been endorsed by the Community Growth and Economic Development Committee and Regional Council, they will be invited to join DECAC.

C) Appoint New DECAC Representative on Friends of Second Marsh Board

Discussion ensued regarding the background of the Friends of Second Marsh organization.

A. Bathe advised the Committee that if they are interested in serving as a representative on the Friends of the Second Marsh Board, to reach out to receive more information about the role's responsibilities.

D) Establish 2025 Environmental Achievement Awards Subcommittee

A. Bathe advised that the Environmental Achievement Awards Subcommittee is looking for representatives from DECAC.

It was the consensus of the Committee that K. Lui, K. Murray, and B. Widner join the 2025 Environmental Achievement Awards Subcommittee.

E) DECAC 2025 Webinar Series

In the absence of J. Cuthbertson, it was the consensus of the Committee to defer Item 7. E) DECAC 2025 Webinar Series to the March 20, 2025, DECAC meeting.

F) Call for DECAC Volunteers for Spring Seed Giveaway Events

A. Bathe updated the Committee on the progress of the seed packages and the scheduled dates for the Spring Seed Giveaway Events.

Discussion ensued with regards to the Committee providing their availability for assisting with events.

8. For Information

A) Report #2025-INFO-01: Regional Staff Comments in Response to Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting 019-9209, Uxbridge Urban Provincial Park Preliminary Management Plan

A copy of Report #2025-INFO-01 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development was received.

B) Durham Region Wins FCM 2024 Sustainable Communities Award

A copy of the announcement regarding Durham Region winning the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) 2024 Sustainable Communities Award was received.

C) Climate Change and Health in Durham Region: Assessing the Impact of Solar Ultraviolet Radiation

A copy of the Climate Change and Health in Durham Region: Assessing the Impact of Solar Ultraviolet Radiation document was received.

D) Durham Active Transportation Committee Seeking Township of Scugog Representative – Public Service Announcement

A link to the Durham Active Transportation Committee Seeking Township of Scugog Representative public service announcement was received.

E) Minutes of the January 14, 2025, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Meeting

A copy of the January 14, 2025, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) meeting minutes was received.

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by K. Murray,
That Information Items 8. A) to 8. E) inclusive, be received for
information.

CARRIED

9. Other Business

A) Update on Climate Change Round Table

G. Carpentier requested that J. Cuthbertson present a brief overview of the Climate Change round table he attended on February 20, 2025, at the March 20, 2025 DECAC meeting.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee will be held on March 20, 2025, 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 M. Nasir,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM

G. Carpentier, Second Vice-Chair, Durham
Environment and Climate Advisory Committee

S. Dessureault, Committee Clerk