



Environment & Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC)

Minutes of the September 11, 2023 Meeting
7:00PM
Town Hall – Conference Room/Zoom

Present: John Brennan, Abel Page, Martin Rudd, Christina Green, Julie René de Cotret, Jen Edwards and Sarbpreet Bopairai

Absent: Matthew Cameron, Chris Tynan and Gavin Dandy

Guest: John Monczka

Member(s) of the public: Leah-Anne Goyeau

1. Call to Order

Chair called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Julie René de Cotret
Seconded by Sarbpreet Bopairai

Carried

Amendment: Item 5. Should read “Guest Presentation: John Monczka, West Credit River Coalition”

Motion to approve the agenda as amended.

All in favour

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Abel Page

Seconded by Julie René de Cotret

Carried

Amendment: The attendance from the previous meeting should have John Brennan listed as present (as opposed to online).

5. Guest Presentation: John Monczka, West Credit River Coalition

- Part of a National organization, each chapter concentrating on a specific watershed
- The local chapter focuses on the Upper Credit
- They collaborate with a number of organizations, including Ontario Rivers alliance
- They are involved with protecting and enhancing local fish habitat, particularly the local Brook Trout population
- Brook Trout are a very highly sensitive species requiring cold and pristine waters (19 - 20 degrees)
- One of their current goals is to ensure the sustainability of the Brook trout habitat, located downstream of the sewage discharge from the upcoming Erin water treatment plant
- Another concern is that road salt contamination of roadways since Brook trout are particularly sensitive to high chloride concentrations
- Populations of Brook trout have decreased significantly in the past 50 years
- A consultant completed an environmental survey concerning the Brook trout population and estimated that the sewage discharge will not significantly raise temperatures (not greater than 19 degrees)
- The coalition collected water discharge temperatures from four other local water treatment plants (including Georgetown and Shelburne) and recorded temperatures higher than what the Erin consultant predicted
- The downstream must maintain the sensitive temperature regime in order to protect the nursery habitat and spawning population
- The Environmental Study Report that was prepared for the Town of Erin is flawed (ie. lack of key mitigating criteria proposed by the MNRF and attempts to consult with stakeholders)

- CWCR continues to make efforts to appeal and continue the dialogue
- The environmental compliance approval (license) now requires a cooling system if temperatures reach above 19 degrees
- The Coalition continues to follow-up ensuring an effective cooling system, adaptive management and a monitoring plan

6. Business Items

6.1 Turtle sign order

- Christina proposed for the county and/or Town of Erin to put up permanent Turtle crossing signs on established populations
- Martin shared that years ago, ESAC had previously done this, which was successful
- 90\$ was submitted for the sales of Turtle signs at Country Crops
- The new price of 10\$ was proven to be successful
- Few signs are still available at Timber Mart and Country Crops
- It was proposed to purchase 50 additional signs
 - If the cost per sign stays the same regardless of the total number ordered, 50 additional signs should be ordered
 - If the cost per sign decreases if 100 are ordered, discussions should continue next meeting

Moved by Abel Page

Seconded by Julie René de Cotret

Carried

Motion to approve the purchase as per the discussion.

6.2 Climate change Policy, Greenhouse Gas Emissions inventory (PCP protocol)

John Brennan to follow up.

6.3 Potential grants writing and application

- Julie contacted an officer regarding the Green municipal fund, who has offered to meet with council and staff
- The Green building standard may fit the eligibility

- Jack Krubnik will meet with the officer, and may follow-up with a presentation for council
- More information regarding grants will be made available in October

6.4 Tree planting event with CVC on October 21st, 2023

- Jen is in discussion with the local high school
- Event will be shared on our social media

6.5 Clean up kit project

- A round of changes were made to the second draft and were shared with ESAC
- John suggested that the presentation must make it clear that the staff must be in charge of lending and storing equipment (pick-up must be in business hours). The equipment cost should also be formatted as a “start-up” cost instead of “per kit”.
- Inclusion of ESAC logo
- Once changes are made, John will bring it forward to council as a motion to notice

7. Other Business

- Jen inquired on Earth Day and has shared the event with the schools
- Sarbpreet will reach out to the Chamber of Commerce to inquire on the Home Show date and whether they are willing to collaborate with our Earth Day event.

8. Adjournment

That the meeting be adjourned at the hour of 8:45 PM.

Moved by Christina Green
Seconded By Martin Rudd

Carried