

West Hants Municipal Climate Change Action Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 26, 2015

Present: Councillor Victor Swinamer, Chair
Councillor Randy Matheson
Martin Laycock, Director of Finance
Rick Sherrard, Director of Public Works
Paul Maynard, REMO Coordinator (10:58 a.m.)
Jeanne Bourque, Planner
Karen Dempsey, Director of Planning

Guests: Anne Warburton, Elemental Sustainability Consulting Ltd
Alexander Wilson CBCL
Victoria Fernandez, CBCL

Regrets: Councillor Jennifer Daniels, work commitment
Kathy Kehoe, illness

Chair Swinamer called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. He advised that Councillor Daniels had sent her regrets, and Mrs. Kehoe would be not attending this meeting due to illness. Mr. Maynard had advised that he would be late due a provincial EMO meeting at 10 a.m. this morning regarding the rain and possible flooding tonight and tomorrow. Mr. Laycock was attending on behalf of the CAO.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & ADDITIONS

Ms. Bourque asked that the agenda item (3(b) under New Business be brought forward to the beginning of the meeting as CBCL representatives were giving a presentation.

Moved by Ms. Bourque and Mr. Laycock that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Sherrard and Ms. Bourque that the Minutes of the Municipal Climate Change Action Plan Committee of January 29, 2015 be approved noting errors or omissions.

Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Falmouth Stormwater Management Plan – Presentation from CBCL Limited

Ms. Bourque advised that Council accepted the proposal from CBCL Limited to do the Falmouth Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP). It stated in the Request for Proposals that the MCCAP Committee would be working with CBCL; primarily it would be the Director of Public Works, Mr. Sherrard, in conjunction with staff in the Planning department. As the MCCAP Committee is increasingly involved in developing policies and looking at how the Municipality is impacted by

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climate change, working on issues such as flooding and storm water management is one of the Committee's main tasks.

Mr. Sherrard noted that CBCL has put together a logical and realistic plan of action for the study, and now seeks input from the Committee and municipal staff to see if there is anything that has not been addressed in their draft plan. After this meeting CBCL will be able to "tweak" the SWMP study plan to reflect the Committee's input.

Mr. Wilson advised that CBCL has put together a study plan based on the SWMP proposal which described what the Committee was looking for, and the main issues that the Municipality was facing, and goals. Mr. Wilson advised that he will briefly explain what their approach is going to be and what they are looking for.

Mr. Wilson explained their computer modelling capabilities and their analysis of data.

Data will be collected from different sources to create the computer models.

- Obtaining all the stormwater system information available, whether electronically or in GIS format;
- Surveying any critical areas that do not have the necessary information;
- Obtaining and reviewing the LiDAR data to make sure its quality permits the analysis proposed;
- Watershed Mapping;
- Any available aerial photography that will be useful for delineating land use and deriving hydrologic characteristics;
- Climate data from 3 or 4 local Climate Stations, both including both Environment Canada and private rainfall gauges, which will be used to calibrate the model to historical flood extents;
- Conducting a Radar-rainfall analysis to obtain precise rainfall patterns for the main flood events in recent history;
- Intensity-Duration-Frequency Curve calculated by Environment Canada for the Kentville CDA Climate Station, which will be used to develop design storms for the hydrologic model;
- Any available flooding extents information used to delineate the extents of historic flood events for hydraulic model calibration;
- Information on all man-made changes to the natural river banks and floodplain that may be reducing flooding;
- Soil mapping and bedrock geology, which will be used to identify soil infiltration characteristics to estimate runoff characteristics;
- The most up-to-date climate change and sea level rise information available from Environment Canada, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and recent studies from other sources; and
- Any previous reports or studies on the hydrology and/or historical flooding in the area.

Mr. Wilson advised that he will also be installing tidal gauges to collect information on the tides.

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The Committee discussed collecting information from different sources such as the Department of Agriculture, NS Environment, photos, etc. in order to assist Mr. Wilson in his development of the computer model. The Committee agreed to gather information to submit to Mr. Wilson as soon as possible, and that Chair Swinamer will be presenting some information at the next meeting that may assist in using the computer model to simulate future events. The Committee and CBCL representatives discussed a timeline for the project, and depending on the time it takes to gather information, develop the model, the SWMP could be completed by mid-July. However, it is understood that there may be instances when information cannot be collected on the proposed schedule, so the time line may be altered to accommodate this.

The meeting recessed at 11:38 a.m.

CBCL representatives left the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 11:45 a.m.

Draft MCCAP Work Plan and Progress Report

The Committee discussed the draft MCCAP work plan. Ms. Bourque advised that the MCCAP Work Plan was a draft for discussion. She asked the Committee to think what they would like to see in the final version that will go to Council, what they would see as the purpose of the MCCAP Work Plan, and how this document can guide future municipal work on the MCCAP.

Mr. Sherrard advised that he would like to see how the Falmouth Stormwater Management Plan works out before thinking about one for Three Mile Plains. Ms. Dempsey advised that she and Ms. Bourque had looked at the draft Work Plan and felt that it should prioritize and rank items, and include some costing as well. The Committee agreed that the column for staff time was useful, and that Council should be made aware of what time may be required when making requests of staff, and recognize that there could be time restraints.

The Committee reviewed a draft of the Progress Report. They agreed that tweaking is needed to the draft before making any recommendations to release the information to the public.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was heard.

MISCELLANEOUS

No miscellaneous business to be heard.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be determined at a later date pending on CBCL getting draft computer model of the Falmouth watersheds constructed.

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ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Matheson and Mr. Laycock that the meeting adjourn.

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Chair