

**West Hants Municipal Climate Change Action Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 29, 2015**

Present: Councillor Victor Swinamer, Chair
Councillor Randy Matheson
Councillor Jennifer Daniels
Martin Laycock, Director of Finance
Rick Sherrard, Director of Public Works
Paul Maynard, REMO Coordinator
Jeanne Bourque, Planner

Staff: Karen Dempsey, Director of Planning

Guests: Anne Warburton, Elemental Sustainability Consulting Ltd

Regrets: Kathy Kehoe, Director of Recreation

Chair Swinamer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & ADDITIONS

The following items were added to the agenda under Miscellaneous:

- Atlantic Flood Management Conference
- Insurance Bureau of Canada pamphlet
- Gas Tax Funding

Moved by Councillor Matheson and Councillor Daniels that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Daniels and Councillor Matheson to approve the Minutes of the Municipal Climate Change Action Plan Committee of December 2, 2014.

Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Progress Report – MCCAP Work Plan

The Committee discussed what MCCAP action items would generate a need for use of the gas tax. Action items that were suggested: a Three Mile Plains Stormwater Management plan similar to the one approved for Falmouth, and for which an RFP was just issued; GIS software, and resources for REMO.

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The Committee discussed performing cost analysis, prioritizing, and budgeting for the MCCAP action items. Ms. Warburton suggested having a draft work plan for review at the February 2015 meeting, at which time Gas Tax will be discussed in more detail.

Moved by Ms. Bourque and Councillor Daniels to recommend to Council that the remaining funds of the 2014-2015 MCCAP Budget be carried over to the 2015-2016 MCCAP Budget.

Motion carried.

Mid Term Report

Ms. Bourque asked the Committee if the Mid Term Report would be for public information purposes. The Committee agreed that a draft of this report be reviewed first before sharing it with the public.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was heard.

MISCELLANEOUS

Atlantic Flood Management Conference

Ms. Bourque circulated the poster for the upcoming Atlantic Flood Management Conference to be held in Truro on February 3. Anyone who is interested in attending should let Ms. Bourque know as soon as possible.

Insurance Brochure

Ms. Bourque circulated to the Committee a brochure produced by the Insurance Bureau of Canada on Homeowners Flood Insurance. She suggested that it could be sent with outgoing water or tax invoices to West Hants residents. The Committee discussed whether the distribution of the brochure to the residents is a feasible idea. After some discussion it was generally agreed that municipal mailouts should focus on a “municipal” message, rather than sending out information available from other sources. There was some talk of a municipal newsletter, and how this might be of benefit to the municipality beyond the MCCAP message. Avenues for public education will be discussed in more detail at future meetings.

Update - Karst Topography

Ms. Warburton spoke about research she has been doing on karst topography, it’s prevalence in West Hants in the form of gypsum deposits, and how the formation of sinkholes is increasing due to extreme rain events washing out the gypsum. She also worked with Mr. Sherrard and

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Ms. Bourque to create a map showing where sinkholes have occurred on public streets, and the approximate cost of repairs, which has been well over \$1 million over the last few years. An important issue for the Committee to consider is how addressing these concerns can be formalized into our future permitting processes. For example, if we are able to add an information layer showing karst areas on our GIS, we could then advise builders that they should be aware of the potential risk of sinkholes. They would then be able to undertake appropriate geotechnical studies. More discussion will take place on the issue of municipal liability when identifying natural hazards, and risk levels. There are a number of exciting possibilities for partnerships with Department of Natural Resources and Dalhousie University, and Anne will continue the conversations with various resource people.

Gas Tax

There will be more discussion on these monies and their role in implementing work items in the Municipal Climate Change Action Plan at future meetings as the Work Plan is developed.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved that the meeting adjourn.

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Chair