



West Hants

something inspiring awaits

**WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
Municipal Climate Change Action Plan (MCCAP) Committee
November 10, 2021 – 11:00am
Sanford Council Chambers**

PRESENT: Councillor Debbie Francis, Chair
Councillor Rupert Jannasch
VanEssa Roberts, Community Development Designate
Shelleena Thornton, Protective Services Designate
Sara Poirier, Planning and Development Designate
Deanna Snair, CAO's Office Designate
Rob Buter, Public Works Designate
Mark Williamson, Resident Member
Mike Campbell, Resident Member

STAFF: Alex Dunphy, Planner
Vanessa Lake, Planning Meeting Secretary

GEUESTS: Michael Peters, CEO of Glooscap Ventures

REGRETS: Councillor Jeff Hartt

PUBLIC: There were no members of the public present.

Call to Order and Identification of Designates.

The meeting was called to order at 11:05am. Committee members identified their MCCAP designation. The committee welcomed two new resident members, Mark Williamson and Mike Campbell. Michael Peters, CEO of Glooscap Ventures, was a guest presenter for this meeting.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

As per the terms of reference, the committee is to hold an election for a new Chair and Vice-Chair annually.

The floor was open to nominations. Shelleena Thornton nominated Debbie Francis to be Chair. There were no further nominations, and Debbie Francis accepted the position.

Chair Francis opened the floor to nominations for Vice-Chair. She nominated Rupert Jannasch. There were no further nominations, and Rupert Jannasch accepted the position.

Approval of Agenda and Additions

Moved by VanEssa Roberts and seconded by Shelleena Thornton that the agenda be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Sara Poirier and seconded by Shelleena Thornton that the minutes be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

New Business

Presentation from Michael Peters

Michael Peters is the Chief Executive Officer for Glooscap Ventures based near Hantsport. He discussed some of the energy related projects that Glooscap has completed to date and what they have learned from these projects. Glooscap Ventures was established in 2017 to research and implement renewable energy in the community. Prior to this, Glooscap Landing had constructed the first EV Charging Station in the area in 2016. They have invested in several wind farm and solar projects, which provide power for 220 homes, extra revenue and employment

opportunities. When asked about the challenges of such projects, CEO Peters responded that grid capacity, hiring consultants, public interest and funding for these projects are the largest hurdles.

Draft Workplan for 2022 (Sara Poirier)

Sara Poirier gave a presentation to outline the 2022 workplan. Three main tasks were highlighted: implement action items, Windsor Flood Risk Assessment, and community outreach. Sara also gave some updates on things the Municipality is already tending to. Planning staff will be working on options to restrict zoning in flood prone areas, an anti-idling program is working well, LED lights and heat pumps are being installed, and a bulk purchase of five large oil drums has been made to reduce plastic waste. The purchase of these five large drums reduces the number of smaller containers used through the year. Sara presented a motion to the committee. It was moved by Rupert Jannasch and VanEssa Roberts, and the floor was open to discussion.

The committee discussed the workplan at length. Shelleena Thornton requested that REMO be edited to EMO and informed the committee that Council is moving forward with a storm surge inventory and public education. Debbie Francis was concerned the storm drainage was too focused on Windsor; there are other districts, and COTW had already approved Task 2 for Windsor. Rupert Jannasch suggested investigating a small-to-medium-sized solar project. The committee agreed this would be a good thing to add to the workplan. Sara will add a 2023 timeline for solar. There were some concerns that there was no tangible action in this plan, and that concrete action and a timeline needs to be established. Mark Williamson suggested bringing in companies to give presentations to help gather more information on solar projects. Electric vehicles (EV) are likely to become the norm, and an EV charging station is therefore needed. Sara will explore potential partnerships. Sara added that the Municipality had written a letter of support for Clean Foundation's application to the Low Carbon Community fund for a fleet conversion study, and this can be added to the workplan as well. Taking the committee's input into account, Sara will revise the plan.

Moved by Rupert Jannasch and seconded by VanEssa Roberts that the MCCAP 2022 Work Plan be submitted to the Committee of the Whole to be placed on file in a manner substantively the same as revised by the MCCAP Committee at the meeting on November 10, 2021.

GHG Emissions Reductions Employee Report (Alex Dunphy)

Alex Dunphy investigated action item 4.3, which was to hire a dedicated GHG Emissions reductions employee as the main point of contact for any MCCAP workplan and action plan items. He consulted with other departments, and most departments viewed this action as feasible if funding was obtained. There is \$7,278 remaining in the current MCCAP budget. There are two possible Eco Canada internships with funding programs available for this position. With either internship, the committee would pay 20% of the position, estimated at approximately \$6,000 of the \$30,000 total, subject to input from the Financial Department. It would be a one-

year position, spanning two fiscal years. The committee agreed that having someone dedicated to MCCAP projects would ease the strain on the Planning and Development Department and would benefit MCCAP greatly.

Moved by Rupert Jannasch and seconded by VanEssa Roberts that MCCAP Committee recommends that staff submit an application for funding to Eco Canada to hire a greenhouse gas emissions reduction coordinator utilizing the remaining MCCAP budget for 2021-22.

Review of Terms of Reference

As per the MCCAP workplan, the Committee is to review the MCCAP Terms of Reference annually. The Terms of Reference were distributed with the agenda.

The committee was asked if there were any changes they would like to make.

Sara Poirier suggested an amendment to Section 2, Members/Composition, to add the Director of Finance or designate to the list of members. As this committee is looking at projects that require funding, it would be beneficial to have someone on hand. Sara spoke to the Director of Finance, and she is okay with participating or naming someone to participate from her Department. Rupert Jannasch suggested changing the MCCAP term to 2 years, so it is the same as the other committees.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Update: GHG Action Plan (Sara Poirier)

The Action Plan was approved by Council on September 23 and has been submitted to FCM for review.

Update: Discussion with NSPI (Sara Poirier)

Sara spoke with Nova Scotia Power Incorporated (NSPI) about EVs. A level 3 charging station, which provides a full charge in 30-45 minutes, costs about \$50k. Sara will reach out to NSPI for a map of 3-phase power in the Region to determine the best possible locations for such charging stations. There are currently 3 charging stations within West Hants.

Roundtable Discussion

The committee went around the table to make comments and suggestions. Sara Poirier had a discussion with Clean Foundation about their Low Carbon Communities grant application. The submission period ends in December, and the results will be given in the New Year. Alex Dunphy mentioned that some staff and councillors had the opportunity to tour the Ellershouse Wind Farm and learn more about the practice. There is a lot of interest in Wind Energy in the

area, and the region is well-suited for such projects. Mark Williamson asked how reduction is monitored and how we let the community know about projects we are working on. Sara replied that it is recorded by project and that the Planning and Development Department include a section about MCCAP in the newsletter to residents. Rupert Jannasch wanted further discussion on adaptation, as mentioned by Michael Peters in his presentation. Deanna Snair suggested that EV charging and a green fleet program should start with Public Works since they have the majority of the Municipal fleet. Many thanks and appreciation were expressed to Sara and Alex for all the work they do. The committee felt this meeting held a very fruitful discussion.

Next Meeting Date

The next MCCAP meeting is scheduled for February 9th, 2022, at 11am. The committee will be notified of any changes.

Adjournment

Moved by Rupert Jannasch and seconded by Shelleena Thornton that the meeting adjourn at 12:51pm. Motion carried.