



**West Hants**

something inspiring awaits

**WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
Municipal Climate Change Action Plan (MCCAP) Committee  
February 9, 2021 – 11:00am  
Sanford Council Chambers / Zoom**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Debbie Francis, Chair  
Councillor Rupert Jannasch  
Councillor Jeff Hartt  
VanEssa Roberts, Community Development Designate  
Shelleena Thornton, Protective Services Designate  
Sara Poirier, Planning and Development Designate  
Todd Richard, Director of Public Works  
Carmen Dewar-Miller, Financial Services Designate  
Mark Williamson, Resident Member  
Mike Campbell, Resident Member  
Mark Phillips, CAO

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

**GUESTS:** Aaron Long, Alternative Resource Energy Authority (AREA)

**REGRETS:** There were no regrets.

**PUBLIC:** There were no members of the public present.

### **Call to Order and Identification of Designates.**

The meeting was called to order at 11:00am. Committee members identified their MCCAP designation. Aaron Long from AREA was present.

### **Approval of Agenda and Additions**

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

### **Approval of Minutes**

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

### **New Business**

#### **Presentation from Aaron Long, AREA**

Aaron Long from Alternative Resource Energy Authority was present to give a presentation on his organization, its goals and accomplishments, and to provide information about solar gardens. Aaron described the space, cost and resources necessary to build and operate a solar garden. He also discussed the Provincial Shared Solar program that is expected to open later this year. The committee had several questions, which Aaron answered.

Aaron finished his presentation and left the meeting at 12:03pm.

#### **Discussion: PACE Program (Sara Poirier)**

Sara brought an update about PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) which was presented in a report from the CAO to Committee of the Whole (COTW) on February 8. Action 5.6 of the WHRM Greenhouse Gas Emissions Local Action Plan was to explore options on PACE programing. Kody Blois, MP for King-Hants facilitated a meeting on January 14, 2022, with mayors and staff from neighbouring municipalities and PACE Atlantic to discuss the potential of a joint application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The program started with an

allocation of \$300 million to support programs. Confirmation from participating municipalities is requested by the end of February so the application can be drafted. Should the application be submitted as soon as possible, a WHRM Pace Program could launch as soon as Spring 2023. Staff communicated with Colchester county to learn about their experiences with PACE, which they described as beneficial, and if started now, WHRM could meet targeted community GHG reduction levels by 2030. COTW recommended that Council approve the motion to pursue this program.

#### **Discussion: Electric Vehicle Chargers (Sara Poirier)**

Action 6.2 of the WHRM Greenhouse Gas Emissions Local Action Plan and a workplan item for the MCCAP committee is to explore funding and implement EV charging stations. On January 5, the Clean Foundation announced the Electric Vehicle (EV) Boost Program. The Federal Government has allocated over \$1.2 Million to support the deployment and installation of up to 250 Level 2 EV charging stations in Nova Scotia. The EV Boost program will provide up to 50% of project costs. Sara explained the funding in detail and outlined the costs the Municipality would have to pay upfront, as well as the timeline for the project. Staff recommended a budget request of \$24,000 and COTW recommended a budget request of \$48,000.

Sara also provided a list of potential locations for the EV chargers which the committee discussed at length. There were requests from the Windsor Township and the Baptist church to be considered. The committee agreed on a few locations that should be considered further by staff; the West Hants Sports Complex, Windsor Community Centre, Pisaquid Canoe Club, Brooklyn Civic Centre and Hantsport Memorial Community Centre. Offering a few locations initially as a pilot project was suggested, to test the waters. Sara informed the Committee that for the funding application, they would need a quote from at least 3 different companies.

#### **Discussion: Electric Vehicle Test Drives (Sara Poirier)**

Sara reminded the committee that there will be Electric Vehicle test drives on Wednesday February 16. Those interested may sign up via links provided by Sara.

If there are any other hands-on experiences the committee is interested in, please let Sara know.

### **Business Arising from the Minutes**

#### **Terms of Reference for Approval (Sara Poirier)**

The Terms of Reference was circulated to the committee with the agenda package. Shelleena Thornton had a recommendation to amend a section of the ToR:

In the case of an unexpected vacancy, previous applications on file may be considered by the Chair and staff, or the option to re-advertise may be applicable. A recommendation will be

made to Council for appointment. That new person's appointment will serve the remainder of the term of the person replaced or as deemed appropriate.

Moved by Debbie Francis and seconded by Jeff Hartt to approve the Terms of Reference as amended. Motion carried.

#### **Update: 2022 Workplan (Sara Poirier)**

Council has begun budget deliberations. The 2022 MCCAP work plan has been submitted to the Planning and Development Director, who is requesting budget be allocated to allow MCCAP the capacity to work on projects in 2022-2023.

#### **Update: GHG Emissions Reductions Employee (Alex Dunphy)**

Alex has updates regarding the applications he made for funding for a GHG Emissions Reductions Employee. Two have been made so far. The application to the Clean Foundation for a 15-week student internship has been approved and tentatively accepted by staff, pending confirmed funding. The second application was to Eco Canada for the "Science Horizons Youth Internship" which is a twelve-month contract position. This application has not yet been approved, but staff expects to hear back by late next week.

#### **Roundtable Discussion**

Regarding Aaron's presentation, Mark Williamson suggested exploring the potential partnership with AREA on a larger scale solar project. Mark Phillips replied that staff will discuss finance and investment options and report back in April. Sara noted that the MCCAP workplan is to develop a small-to-medium scale solar project and suggested visiting the Windsor Elms in March to view their set-up. Shelleena Thornton agreed that a field trip to see such an operation in person would be a good idea. Mark Williamson offered to let the committee view his at-home solar installation as well.

#### **Next Meeting Date**

The next MCCAP meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2022, at 11am. If there are any changes, the committee will be notified as soon as possible.

#### **Adjournment**

Moved by Todd Richard and seconded by Shelleena Thornton that the meeting adjourn at 1:03pm. Motion carried.