



**West Hants**

something inspiring awaits

**WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
Climate Action Committee (CAC) Meeting Minutes  
September 11, 2024, 11:03am – 11:37am  
Sanford Council Chambers / Facebook Live via Zoom**

**PRESENT:** Rupert Jannasch, Councillor (Chair)  
Scott McLean, Councillor  
Debbie Francis, Councillor  
Julie Dauphinee, Community Services Designate  
Alex Dunphy, Planning and Development Designate  
Carmen Dewar-Miller, Financial Services Designate  
Rob Butler, Public Works Designate  
Jeremy Higgins, Resident Member

**STAFF:** John Ogilvie, Climate Action Coordinator  
Vanessa Lake, Planning Assistant

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

**REGRETS:** Mark Phillips, CAO  
Shelleena Thornton, Protective Services

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

Chair Jannasch called the meeting to order at 11:03am. Committee members identified themselves and their designations. John informed the Committee that Mark Williamson had resigned from the Committee and thanked him for his time. Chair Jannasch expressed his appreciation for Mark's insightful comments.

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

Moved by Debbie Francis and seconded by Scott McLean that the agenda be approved as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes (April 10, 2024)**

Moved by Debbie Francis and seconded by Scott McLean that the minutes be approved as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business / Updates (John Ogilvie)**

#### **Switch West Hants**

John provided a "year in review" for the Switch West Hants program. Every two weeks, he has a check-in meeting with the energy assistants at SwitchPACE. He provided a dashboard to highlight key points, such as total participants, total agreements, projects completed, financing details and greenhouse gas emissions saved. He noted that the total participants include those who have showed a willingness to move forward but have not yet signed an agreement.

A homeowner session was held at the Brooklyn Civic Centre in August, which was well-attended. The participation graph on the dashboard shows a large spike in the month of August which John attributes to this session. SwitchPACE hopes to have another engagement session before Christmas, or early in the new year. John hopes word of mouth will continue to grow the program.

Debbie asked if there had been any feedback from the participants who did not sign an agreement. John replied that he did not have any direct feedback, but some people were not eligible, were directed to other programs, or were hesitant to commit in the high-cost environment. Debbie suggested that the cost associated with loans maybe reevaluated in the future.

Carmen asked if the "Program Portfolio Financed" amount was signed or completed agreements. John replied it was all the signed agreements, not necessarily completed.

Alex asked for clarification on the “Program Portfolio Collected” amount. John explained that this is the amount paid back already. He added that one participant has already fully repaid their loan, due to taking advantage of bridge financing until they received funding from the Canada Greener Homes Loan.

Chair Jannasch found this encouraging. He hopes that with interest rates dropping, the costs associated with taking part in the program could also drop, so more people could participate.

### **EV Chargers**

Every week or so, John checks the dashboard for the two-port chargers installed at the Sports Complex and the Community Centre. So far, they have helped avoid a total of 13.6 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions in the 2 years they have been installed, or the equivalent of 350 trees left to grow for 10 years. The dashboard also shows frequent use.

Debbie asked if there was a need for additional chargers. John stated he is not fully qualified or informed to determine if there is a specific need, but more are in the workplan for this year. In cooperation with Nova Scotia Power and with a grant from the Federal government, four Level 3 EV chargers are being installed in Windsor. This will also help evaluate if there is a broader need. Jeremy asked if there would be any placement in rural communities. John said the Level 3 chargers are intended to be close to the 100 series highways, but other chargers can be investigated depending on the will of Council to fund such projects.

### **Solar Feasibility Study**

The final report should be available by the end of this week or next, which will be submitted to the Department of Resources and Renewables (DNRR) with the final report for the grant. John will provide a more detailed update at the November meeting.

Chair Jannasch asked about the recent community meeting which was held in the Ardoise Hall. Scott said it was for a solar project in the Ashdale region. John did not attend the meeting, but he was aware that it would be part of the Community Solar Program, which may be looking for shareholders. Chair Jannasch asked if it would be something the Municipality would see through the Planning Department. John confirmed it would go through Planning, and that Planning staff are working on amendments to the planning documents regarding solar. Alex has attended a few meetings on this subject but is not aware of any formal applications.

### **Transit Feasibility Study**

The Municipality had applied to the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund for a study in November 2023 but was denied funding in May 2024. John is investigating funding alternatives with the DNRR. He added that the Challenge Fund is over-subscribed and competitive with a comparatively small pot to draw from for all the applications it receives. He will have a more detailed update for the next meeting.

### **Home Flood Protection Pilot Program**

John showed a screenshot of the webpage dedicated to the Home Flood Protection Program and an example of the application form. Applications opened on September 3, 2024, and will close on October 11, 2024, at 4:00pm. Applications and/or questions can be directed to John by email, mail, or dropped off at the municipal office. They will be reviewed and scored via the criteria in the policy, and then brought to Council for final approval. John added that there have been several applications already, from several different areas of the Municipality.

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

There was no business arising from the minutes.

### **Roundtable Discussion**

Everyone thanked John for the information provided. Debbie looks forward to more detailed information from the Home Flood Protection Program after the application deadline. Scott heard on the radio that the Province is planning to offer leases for 5 gigawatt offshore wind power by 2030. Bids will open in 2025. He could not recall the location. Chair Jannasch expressed his appreciation for having John as a dedicated, permanent employee focused on climate change. John is a great asset to WHRM, and the CAC is in a strong position with his leadership.

### **Public Questions or Comments**

Facebook comments are not followed in real time. The public is encouraged to attend the meeting or contact staff directly with any questions or comments. There were no members of the public present at this time.

### **Next Meeting Date / Adjournment**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2024, at 11:00am. This will be after the October election and with a newly formed Committee. John thanked the current Committee members and designates for their time and input during their term. He felt the Committee was very progressive. Applications for all WHRM committees will be posted within a week or two and all interested parties are encouraged to re-offer or join. John added that, based on the discussion of Committee of the Whole on September 10, 2024, the next meeting will be Livestreamed on YouTube instead of Facebook.

Moved by Debbie Francis and seconded by Scott McLean that the meeting be adjourned at 11:37am. Motion carried unanimously.