



Committee Minutes

Climate Change Task Force June 28, 2022 – 1:30 PM

The Climate Change Task Force met on the above date through electronic means with the following members participating:

Present: Councillors Carleton, Hutchinson, McQueen, and Warden Hicks

Regrets: Councillors Gamble and Woodbury

Staff

Present: Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer; Randy Scherzer, Deputy CAO; Linda Swanston, Manager, Climate Change Initiatives; Scott Taylor, Director of Planning; Mary Lou Spicer, Director of Finance; Pat Hoy, Director of Transportation; Savanna Myers, Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Culture; Katrina Peredun, Media and Communications Coordinator and Tara Warder, Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Carleton called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations.

Delegations

Clean Air Partnership – Kevin Behan, Deputy Director

Kevin Behan addressed the Task Force.

He noted that the Clean Air Council is a charity under the Clean Air Partnership. He provided information on its creation as a convener for municipalities to work on environmental issues. The issues have expanded into those surrounding climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.

He then spoke to the membership benefits, including annual workshops, webinars, reports, direct assistance, connection to peers, collective procurement and bi-weekly newsletters.

The Clean Air Council establishes priorities aligned with municipal council terms. Current Clean Air Council Priorities were noted, including corporate climate action, financial mechanisms for low carbon actions, reducing building emissions, transportation emissions reduction, and integrating climate considerations into municipal decision – making.

The Clean Air Council advocacy work employs a collective approach on issues including energy decisions, national building code and fuel efficiency standards.

Questions and comments regarding air quality statistics, emissions from coal fired plants and electrification of vehicles were addressed.

Reports

PDR-CCTF-24-22 Clean Air Council Membership

CCTF06-22 Moved by: Warden Hicks Seconded by: Councillor McQueen

That Report PDR-CCTF-24-22 regarding Clean Air Council Membership be received and that Grey County become a member of the Clean Air Council, with membership fees for 2022 being paid through the existing budget.

Carried

Delegations (continued)

Neighbourwoods North

Linda Swanston introduced NeighbourWoods North. The volunteer group provided a history of the organization and spoke to the work that has been done in the community, including at the hospital in Owen Sound. Gord Edwards spoke to the origins of Neighbourwoods North, previous planting projects including the Owen Sound hospital, and the group's status as a working group of the registered charity the Owen Sound Field Naturalists.

Shawna Macivor provided an image of the landscape in front of the Grey County Administration Building. She noted that there are no trees or flowers to provide shelter or slow down runoff from heavy rains.

Vicky Thompson then provided an overview of some options for naturalizing the space. There was a suggestion to plant a pollinating flower bed at the north public entrance of the Administration building. She also spoke to the options at the south side of the building outside the staff room area. A rain garden on the property was suggested in order to capture and divert rainwater. A study on the water flow would be necessary to conduct this properly.

Lloyd Lewis noted that this will require labour and they have a team ready to begin planting, however cannot complete the ongoing maintenance. There is a grant proposal ready to go to assist with the costs.

Reports (continued)

PDR-CCTF-25-22 Community Nature Based Climate Solutions Pilot

Linda Swanston addressed the Task Force. She noted that staff met with Neighbourhoods North to do a site walk with the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority as well as property maintenance staff.

Staff noted that the planting project advances two actions in the Climate Change Plan, afforestation and community climate action engagement.

Ms. Swanston provided an image of the proposed planting plan noting the benefits of tree planting on microclimates and the provision of shade for pedestrians.

Staff suggest the 2022 planting costs be funded from the existing 2022 climate action implementation budget, and that planting in future years be included in the annual budget process.

Questions and comments were addressed regarding the benefit of trees, the possibility of walking trails around the property and sharing stories around the type of trees or learnings around indigenous history and culture. The opportunities and benefits of the project were noted.

CCTF07-22 Moved by: Councillor McQueen Seconded by: Councillor Hutchinson

That Report PDR-CCTF-25-22 be received, regarding the implementation of a community nature-based climate solution pilot program; and

That staff be directed to implement a multi-year planting plan for the Grey County Administration Building site to support *Going Green in Grey*, the County's Climate Change Action Plan with funds being

utilized from the existing approved budget for 2022 and for future expenses to be considered as part of the annual budget process; and

That staff be directed to host a Fall 2022 community planting event to initiate engagement of volunteers in nature-based climate solutions to be funded from the existing approved budget or from grant funding received as part of the Agents of Change program.

Carried

Other Business

Chair Carleton noted that it appears there is a need for the Taskforce to continue its work during the implementation phase of the Action Plan. Staff noted that information will be coming forward regarding Committees and Task Forces for the new Council term.

Next Meeting Dates

To be determined

On motion by Warden Hicks and Councillor Hutchinson the meeting adjourned at 2:39 PM

Sue Carleton, Chair