



# Committee Minutes

## Climate Change Task Force April 1, 2021 – 10:00 AM

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

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

Regrets: Councillor Gamble

### Staff

Present: Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer; Randy Scherzer, Director of Planning; Scott Taylor, Senior Planner; Pat Hoy, Director of Transportation; Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Housing; Heather Morrison, Clerk, Bryan Plumstead, Tourism Manager and Katrina Peredun, Communications Officer

## Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

## Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations.

## Reports

### PDR-CCTF-01-21 Climate Change Coordinator

Scott Taylor presented the above report. He noted that Grey County, with the assistance from ICLEI Canada, is finalizing a draft Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) for Grey County. The CCAP outlines a series of strategies and actions for Grey County to implement to reduce greenhouse gas output both at a community and corporate level.

The proposed position of Climate Change Coordinator would lead the CCAP initiative and implementation as well as provide leadership to Grey County local municipalities in

this area to work on a coordinated approach to climate change. The position would work with community groups, businesses and public stakeholders in gathering further input on the draft CCAP. The Coordinator would have the ability to provide oversight for CCAP to be implemented as soon as possible once the final plan is approved by County Council.

Mr. Taylor noted that staff reached out to various other municipalities, as outlined in the report, who have hired a lead for climate change plan implementation and the information provided was used in the development of a job description. Staff are recommending the hiring of a Climate Change Coordinator on a two year contract to be re-evaluated before the contract is complete.

Questions and comments then followed from members.

CCTF-01-21 Moved by: Councillor Hutchinson Seconded by: Councillor Desai

**That Report PDR-CCTF-01-21 be received; and**

**That staff be directed to hire a Climate Change Coordinator for a two-year contract, to fulfill the responsibilities as outlined in the job description; and**

**That the Climate Change Coordinator position be funded from the Energy Audit Reserve for the duration of 2021 and included for consideration in the 2022 Budget; and**

**That the Climate Change Coordinator position be re-evaluated before the two-year contract is complete, to determine if the contract should be extended, ended, or converted into a full-time staff position.**

Carried

## PDR-CCTF-02-21 Regional Electric Vehicle Charging Network Initiative

Randy Scherzer presented the above report. He outlined that staff have heard from a variety of stakeholders that electric charging stations should be established as a priority of the Climate Change Action Plan. He noted both Planning and Tourism have been working with Wellington County and neighbouring municipalities to investigate and study the support of an electric vehicle charging station network that can assist in bridging the infrastructure gap between Highway 401 and this region. This would provide key opportunities for tourism, economic development, and acceleration of electric vehicle adoption. This will be a collaborative effort from a broad range of partners.

Mr. Scherzer highlighted the opportunity to apply for grant funding through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) which could cover up to 50% of the

eligible costs of the network feasibility study. The study will provide several variables related to enhancing the electric vehicle charging station network. The collaborative would require an additional \$5,000 in funding from each partner to cover the remaining costs as well as staff time. Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the roles and responsibilities of the network will be outlined to assist in the submission to FCM. It is anticipated the project will begin in August 2021 and be completed in March 2022. Wellington County will be the lead organization for the application and project.

Questions and comments from members then followed.

CCTF-02-21 Moved by: Councillor Woodbury Seconded by: Councillor McQueen

**That Report PDR-CCTF-02-21 be received for information; and**

**That staff be directed to support the Regional Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Network initiative and the feasibility study; and**

**That the County makes a grant of \$5,000, along with in-kind staff resources, to the County of Wellington for the project, contingent on the other project partners matching grant contributions; and**

**That Grey County's contribution to the Regional EV Charging Network Initiative be funded from the Energy Audit Reserve.**

Carried

## Update on Next Steps for the Climate Change Action Plan (Verbal)

Scott Taylor provided an overview of the next steps of the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP). A draft plan has been received from the consultant which staff are reviewing and will provide feedback to the consultant. A draft CCAP will be sent to municipal Grey County CAOs for feedback through a local and County level lens. After the municipal feedback, the draft CCAP will come back to the Climate Change Task Force for input, before going out for public consultation and feedback. Once all steps completed, the consultant will prepare a final draft for endorsement by the Climate Change Task Force and subsequently County Council. Timing of final report is anticipated in Quarter 4, 2021.

## Other Business

Kim Wingrove noted she has been recently contacted by Dr. John Anderson from the Climate Change Action Team Grey Bruce. Along with other community stakeholders, Dr. Anderson has been organizing monthly gatherings which provide a forum for

discussions and incentives related to climate change. On April 15, Dr. Anderson will host a meeting which will include presentations and discussions on climate action from a regional and political perspective. Ms. Wingrove has been invited to be a speaker at this event to provide an update on the County's climate change work. Ms. Wingrove will provide a link for the meeting to the members.

Councillor Desai questioned the possibility of a larger climate change committee meeting noting several local municipalities have also formed a Climate Change Committee. Ms. Wingrove noted that this will be a responsibility of the coordinator once hired. It was noted that the Grey County CAOs often discuss climate change from a county-wide perspective.

## Next Meeting Dates

To be determined

On motion by Councillors Woodbury and Councillor McQueen, the meeting adjourned at 10:38 am.

Sue Carleton, Chair