

**Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Limestone District School Board**

March 8, 2016

A meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee was held in the Barry C. O'Connor Board Room at the Limestone Education Centre, 220 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston, Ontario on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Present

Members: K. Moulton, Hydro One
Z. MacEachren, Faculty of Education, Queen's University
K. Pender, County of Frontenac
I. Munroe, Sustainable Kingston
T. Champagne, SWITCH
R. Healy, KCAT
R. Hutcheon, Parent Involvement Committee
M. Shaw, Loving Spoonful

Officials: A. Ross, Co-Chair
P. Murray, Trustee (Alternate)
D. Hendry, Sustainable Initiatives Coordinator
J. Hendry, Energy/Environmental Technologist
S. Lehman, Supervising Principal
D. Fowler, Manager of Facility Services
M. Sewell, Program Leader, Skills Training & Technology
D. Jackson, Trustee

Regrets: S. Luxford Oddie, Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
E. McAuley, Student Trustee
T. McKenzie, County of Lennox & Addington
B. Sills, St. Lawrence College
L. Malcolm, KFL&A Public Health

Guests:

Recorder: L. Strange, Records Management Coordinator

1. Welcome

Trustee Ross welcomed those in attendance to the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: Z. MacEachren that the agenda, as distributed, be approved. Carried.

2. Business Arising From the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Community Organizations Updates

Parent Involvement Committee

For Earth Day R. Hutcheon's home school will be going tech free.

Queens University, Faculty of Education

The Faculty of Education is in the final stages for the June 15 Ecoblast session, where teacher candidates will be available to assist with environmentally-focused activities at schools.

Queen's University is moving forward with a model naturalized grounds on campus. The space will include an outdoor classroom, gardening space, naturalized fitness area, and a community circle with fire pit.

Hydro One

K. Moulton shared information with the ESAC members about green team activities used by Hydro One groups.

Truck infomatics will be available to share at the next meeting. The new system is to connect to trucks (wifi) to optimize work schedules.

Hydro One has joined a Cable Locates group, which combines its line location work with other services to save on truck runs, which in turn helps eliminate greenhouse gas emissions.

County of Frontenac

The Sustainability Breakfast has been moved to April 7. It will take place in Verona and registration begins at 7 am.

The County's Official Plan has been approved, after five years in development. It covers strategic directions for areas such as transportation, economic development and sustainability, etc.

The County has a seat on the Rural Liaison Committee with the City of Kingston, with a focus on common issues with transportation, connection to K&P trail, etc.

The County will be participating in 'Big Data for Small Places' training, which is focused on enhancing rural municipalities and community organizations capacity through staff mentoring, training and networking to better manage the process of accessing, analysing and disseminating data in support of evidence-based planning and decision making, priority setting, tracking and accountability relevant to rural community

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development. It will also help participants develop realistic action plans and accountability measures for building upon their economic, social, cultural, and environmental community assets.

There is likely space for other agencies/municipalities to also take the training for a minimal fee. The training will likely run in September.

K. Pender will circulate more information to the ESAC members.

KFL&A Public Health

Representative not present at the meeting.

KCAT

KCAT has been focused on active transportation, through the work of the City of Kingston's Transportation Master Plan. This Plan recommended the development of a City Active Transportation master plan, to include facilities and policies. KCAT will assist in the development of an RFP for this new plan.

Safe routes to schools will be included in this plan, and the LBSD will most likely receive a notice about participation on the committee.

The new plan will include more aspirational numbers, mode share targets, and contain means to achieve set targets.

The Ministry of Transportation is reviewing the Wolfe Island ferry system for possible improvements to service. The possibly a second Ferry or building a bigger Ferry are both being considered. There are some issues with docking at Marysville, so that a larger Ferry may have limitations. The changes will also look to provide more room for pedestrians and cyclists.

SWITCH

SWITCH staff have been focused on organizing the 6th Annual GreenProfit Conference. This year the organization has partnered with the City of Kingston to deliver a program featuring multiple panel sessions with leaders from the sustainable energy sector.

The event is taking place March 21 7:30-4:30 at the Four Points by Sheraton in Kingston.

The County of Lennox & Addington

Representative not present at meeting.

Sustainable Kingston

On Thursday, March 10 Sustainable Kingston will be hosting the launch of 'Green Economy Kingston'. Information has been shared with ESAC members by email.

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On February 17th the organization sent a delegation to the City of Kingston's Council meeting. Afterwards the organization was awarded \$10,000.

Sustainable Kingston is looking for new members for its Board of Directors. Information about the positions will be posted by the end of the week.

Co-lab has received 1 million from the Ontario Government, a portion of which will come to Sustainable Kingston.

The organization will be facilitating a Capacity Building workshop on April 10. And in May will an 'Arts with Impact' event.

The theme for the Kingston Unplugged event on March 19 is "Shine the Light on Climate Change."

April 23 is the annual 'Pitch-In Kingston'.

Members were in agreement that their information could be added to Sustainable Kingston's mailing list to receive their newsletters.

Catarauqui Region Conservation Authority

Representative not present at meeting.

Loving Spoonful

The Grow Project now has community gardens in 7 LDSB schools. In moving forward with new gardens the focus will be on training schools to maintain their own gardens, not Loving Spoonful staff.

Staff continue to provide teaching on food security, gardening and nutrition in schools. It was suggested that this training could be combined with the "Slow Cookers for Kids" program.

St. Lawrence College

Specific Projects/Initiatives Coming Up:

- SLC will be issuing a tri-campus Commuter Survey next week. This will support our Sustainability Tracking Assessment Rating System (STARS) but most importantly it will allow us to more fully understand the modal split and how we can implement initiatives to increase sustainable transportation. As in other years SLC will encourage its faculty and staff to participate in the Commuter Challenge.
- As in the past 7 years, SLC will participate in Pitch In Day. This is a tri-campus event. We have not selected the date for this year – but we try to make it as close to Pitch In Day Kingston as possible.

- SLC is in the process of developing its 2015 energy consumption, expenditure and GHG summary.
- Earth Day Unplugged (powered by the St. Lawrence College ESET trailer) on March 19th from 6 to 9pm.

LDSB

There are many projects and initiatives within Limestone D.S.B. which aim to improve building comfort and reduce energy consumption. Including:

- Roofing Projects (increased insulation)
- Window Replacement Projects (improved efficiency)
- Lighting Retrofits – LED lighting projects – Lower wattage T8s are standard
- Install CO2 sensors to better control ventilation requirements at schools
- Upgrading to more efficient heating systems
- Upgrading heating and cooling control system

Currently there are seven Limestone Schools participating in the Ontario EcoSchools Program; the final application is due April 29.

17 schools which participate in the battery collection program have collected 2,300 pounds (1,043 kg) since January 2013.

Earth Hour will be celebrated by Limestone Schools on Monday March 21.

Installation of power monitoring equipment in schools to measure energy savings accurately and identify opportunities.

Green Teacher Canada Slow Cookers for Kids Webinar, Late April.

The Great Lake Water Festival, June 2.

5. Active Transportation/Walking School Bus Information

In follow-up to the well-received presentation by Jeremy Decosta on Active Transportation, D. Hendry suggested having him back for a session on Active Transportation Planning. The information presented could then then be taken back to school councils.

Members were in agreement to proceed with the session. It was suggested that the KFLA Health unit, and KCAT may wish to be involved.

The target date for the session is late April.

6. Great lake Water Festival

This year's event is tentatively booked for June 2. It will host approximately 200-300 students in Grade 4.

D. Hendry recently met with the Aboriginal Grandmothers group, CRCA, Queen's University, KFLA Health Unit, to begin planning for this year.

The event is open to other community partners to be involved.

7. LDSB Upcoming Opportunities

D. Hendry shared information about the 'Planet Protector Academy: Keep Cool' program, which offers online technology and interactive resource for grades 3-6, through six weekly one hour sessions that contain arts, science and language activities.

There is an opportunity for 20 LDSB classrooms to participate, and the program will start post March Break.

8. New School Energy Efficiency Request

A. Ross shared that the LDSB has received \$36 million to build its new high school. This funding envelop must cover all areas of the build. The Architects have incorporated energy efficiencies in the design as the funding envelope will permit, aiming for a LEED Silver building.

The present system for funding for new school builds does not allow school boards to make a business case for more expensive upfront investments that will result in significant cost savings over the life of the building, i.e. geothermal flooring, solar panels, etc. At present each new build received that exact same funding, approximately \$200 per sq foot.

A suggestion was made to apply for funding from an Energy Service Company, which makes the initial investment, and are paid back out of energy savings. This type of arrangement is not currently permitted by the Ministry of Education.

It was suggested that a letter could be written to the Ministry of Energy suggesting a partnership for additional funding to cover energy efficient or environmentally-friendly products, including an argument for reducing greenhouse gases, energy efficiencies, carbon reduction, etc.

Members were in agreement that funding decisions should be based on the total cost of ownership, not solely on the lowest bid to build.

Trustee Ross asked that the following be included by way of background on the issue:

"The Government of Ontario has demonstrated through its words and actions that it cares about climate change and conserving energy in the built environment, and Ontario's Minister of Energy has stated publicly that every dollar invested in energy conservation saves at least two dollars in the long term and can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by thousands of tonnes. The Limestone District School Board (LDSB) is committed to modelling and instilling a sense of environmental responsibility and leadership in Limestone students of all ages, and is similarly committed to conducting its operations in a financially responsible and sustainable manner, including by lowering utility costs by reducing energy

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consumption in schools. Meanwhile, it is the City of Kingston's vision to be the most sustainable city in Canada, and the LDSB wishes to play a meaningful role in achieving that vision."

MOTION: That the committee support the Chair of ESAC to write a letter requesting the Ministry of Education and/or Energy consider Life-Cycle Business Cases as part of new school construction.

MOVED BY: I. Munroe. Carried Unanimously.

A Ross will draft a letter and share with the ESAC members for feedback.

9. Other Business

There was no other business as this time.

10. Next Meeting Date

May 4, 2016 at 6 p.m.

11. Adjournment

MOVED BY: K. Moulton, that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.