

The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes

Agenda

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting

CKLEAC2025-007

Thursday, October 16, 2025

2:30 A.M.

Electronic Participation Meeting

Members:

Councillor Pat Warren
Virginia Colling
Kathleen Cooper
Josh Feltham
Danielle Marcoux-Hunter
Jamie Morris
Deborah Pearson
David Rylie
Barry Snider
Christine Szabados

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1.	Call to Order	
2.	Administrative Business	
2.1	Adoption of Agenda	
2.2	Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest	
2.3	Adoption of Minutes	3 - 12
	That the minutes from the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of September 2, 2025 be adopted.	
3.	Deputations/Presentations	
3.1	Tree Canopy Mapping (James Hood, Supervisory, Mapping & GIS)	
4.	Correspondence	
5.	Action Item Updates	
5.1	Action Items from Healthy Environment Plan	
5.2	Strategic Plan Progress Reporting	
5.3	Turtle Crossing Signage	
5.4	Roadside Tree and Vegetation Removal	
5.5	Enhancing the Urban Tree Canopy	
6.	New or Other Business	
6.1	Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project	
7.	Next Meeting	
8.	Adjournment	

The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes

Minutes

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting

CKLEAC2025-006
Tuesday, September 2, 2025
2:30 P.M.
Electronic Participation Meeting

Members:
Councillor Pat Warren
Virginia Colling
Kathleen Cooper
Josh Feltham
Danielle Marcoux-Hunter
Jamie Morris
Deborah Pearson
David Ryrie
Barry Snider
Christine Szabados

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1. Call to Order

In attendance: V. Colling, K. Cooper, J. Morris, D. Pearson, D. Ryrie, C. Szabados, Councillor P. Warren

Absent: J. Feltham (Fleming College), D. Marcoux-Hunter (Kawartha Region Conservation Authority), B. Snider

Staff: Kelly Maloney (Economic Development Officer – Agriculture), Sarah O’Connell (Deputy Clerk), Nancy Ord (Administrative Assistant), Susan Rosales (Manager of Planning), Tessa Smith (Supervisor, Forestry and Horticulture), Jenna Stephens (Planning Officer – Environmental Policy)

Other: Courtney Baker, Couchiching Conservancy

Chair Pearson called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

2. Administrative Business

2.1 Adoption of Agenda

EAC2025.027

Moved By V. Colling

Seconded By C. Szabados

That the agenda for the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of September 2, 2025 be adopted as circulated with the following amendment:

Addition

Item 5.5 "New Strategic Plan for Parks and Recreation."

Carried

2.2 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest disclosed.

2.3 Adoption of Minutes

J. Stephens introduced Susan Rosales, Manager of Planning. Manager Rosales provided an overview of her background in the public, private and government sectors and her role in the Planning Division.

EAC2025.028**Moved By** J. Morris**Seconded By** C. Szabados

That the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of May 8, 2025 be adopted.

Carried**3. Deputations/Presentations****3.1 Replacement Process for resigned members (Sarah O'Connell, Deputy Clerk)**

The Deputy Clerk S. O'Connell provided an overview of the process to fill two recently vacated positions on CKLEAC and outlined the procedures for advertising, timing, interviewing and receiving Council approval for new members. She indicated advertisements typically occur once per year in the fall and will commence next week for this year. The Clerk's Division will advise CKLEAC further on timing.

Responses to questions raised by CKLEAC members included:

- The advertising for new members can occur more than once per year where unexpected circumstances occur (e.g. a vacancy occurring in January).
- Previous applicants are encouraged to apply for membership but the Clerks Division does not follow up on past applications.

4. Correspondence

No correspondence was presented.

5. Action Item Updates**5.1 Update to Enhancing the Urban Tree Canopy (Motion EAC2025.025 carried May 8, 2025)**

In response to question on the status of CKLEAC's motion, staff consultation and review is underway to draft a report for a future Council meeting.

Supervisor of Forestry and Horticulture T. Smith provided an overview of work underway:

- The Division has a small tree-planting budget that enables 60 to 100 trees to be planted. A one-for-one tree replacement program along municipal

streets and parks and, where budget is available, an additional tree being planted to support a tree canopy.

- The current practice is to replace removed and damaged trees in the City owned road allowance.
- The trails budget is for miscellaneous maintenance.
- Ongoing monitoring for grants and other funding sources occurs.
- Annual partnership is made with the Conservation Authority to plant trees and shrubs and these plantings have historically involved waterfront areas. This year the focus is around storm water management areas.

Questions raised by CKLEAC members included:

- A more systematic process is suggested to monitor trees removed by Hydro, by residents or in areas where significant number of trees were lost and not replaced.
- To be investigated is the ability for development charge payments to the City to be set aside for tree planting.
- Motion 2025.025 approved by CKLEAC at its May 8, 2025 meeting was read and which recommended Staff to prepare a plan to promote and increase native tree planting on private property using funds from the Tree Canopy Reserve. Further review by Staff would be provided and would involve the Manager of Parks and Recreation and the City Solicitor.
- Discussion was had regarding the existing tree planting budget, ongoing tree inventory work, unlikelihood of use of city land as a nursery, the Greenbelt Foundation's "Natural Asset Management" guidance document, and the future growth of the forestry and horticulture department.

5.2 Roadside Tree and Vegetation Removal Discussion

Q & A with Kelly Maloney, Staff Liaison with ADAC (Agricultural Development Advisory Committee)

J. Stephens indicated a representative of the GIS Division would be attending CKLEAC's October 16, 2025 meeting to report on its GIS Tree Cover mapping. The Committee was reminded of the tree removal by-law for City owned property.

- Roadside vegetative brushing by the Roads Division does not occur during nesting periods.
- Programs exist through the Conservation Authority ALUS program to help farmers achieve ecological and land management goals.

Kelly Maloney, EDO – Agriculture and staff liaison for Council's Agricultural Development Advisory Committee (ADAC), attended the meeting and provided comments on agricultural activities on municipal roadsides:

- The ADAC also participated with Solicitor Carlson in the development of the Tree Preservation By-laws, and was supportive of the Tree Preservation By-law for City owned trees, with suggestions surrounding additional tree planting programs and increasing requirements as development standards.
- Agricultural discussion was had including how farmers have concerns with invasive species and noxious weeds along roadsides adjacent to their crops. (Public Works deals with requests for roadside spraying on a complaint basis).
- MLEO working with Landowners cropping within the road allowance and the subsequent education program which has been initiated.
- There are a small number of roads in CKL without fencing or ditches at the same grade as fields, and the recent project to plant trees as windbreaks along road allowances.

Questions from CKLEAC member raised the following and referred to the list of issues raised at the May 8, 2025 meeting by member B. Snider:

- The Environmental Farm Plan program focuses on private property and does not extend to municipal lands.
- Engineering Drainage staff are responsible for the tile drainage system and can be invited to attend a CKLEAC meeting for further information. Generally, where a farmer wishes to install a new tile drain, application is required if the outlet is to municipal lands, e.g. a roadside ditch operating as a municipal drain. Petitions can be submitted to clean out a drain or roadside ditch that is blocked with vegetation. The clean up can result in significant vegetation removal, installation of tile drainage, a sign of land improvements for agriculture. The drain cleanout work is undertaken through the Engineering Division and pre-approved by the Drainage Board, a committee of City Council.

As discussion was cut short due to time constraints, CKLEAC members were encouraged to submit any further questions to staff and that the Item be added to CKLEAC's next Agenda.

The sequence of business was altered at this point to move Item 6.1 of the Agenda forward.

5.3 Action Items from Healthy Environment Plan

EAC2025.030

Moved By J. Morris

Seconded By V. Colling

That Items 5.3 and 5.4 of the Agenda be deferred to the next meeting of CKLEAC scheduled for October 16, 2025.

Carried

5.4 Strategic Plan Progress Reporting

An update on the Strategic Plan is being presented at the August 26, 2025 Council meeting with presentation by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and Director of Corporate Services.

5.5 Strategic Plan for Parks and Recreation

CKLEAC members were encouraged to view the Strategic Plan for Parks and Recreation on the City's Jump In site and T. Smith be invited to return to CKLEAC's next meeting.

6. New or Other Business

6.1 Renewal Energy Proposals and AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario) LT2 (Long-Term 2) process.

J. Stephens provided an overview of the IESO (Independent Electricity System Operator) approval process in seeking provincial and municipal support for a green energy project to move forward:

- Step One "Pre-engagement confirmation" involves notice to the City, community engagements, open houses and public website information be provided to receive local expectations.
- Step Two a "Municipal Support Confirmation" which is a "moment in time" Council resolution is approved to support an IESO application. Planning

Staff report PLAN2025-017 approved by Council on March 18, 2025 recommended reviewing such proposals on a case-by-case basis and provided a tool kit for municipalities to follow and would be circulated to CKLEAC members.

- Step Three “Contract Review” in which the developer submits their application to the IESO and IESO determines whether or not they will issue a contract to the project.
- Step Four “Downstream Approvals” which include all planning approvals such as land use planning approvals (Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment, etc.), Site Plan Approval, or other Provincial approvals such as the Renewable Energy Approval.
- The LT2 process is a competitive electricity and storage procurement process with contracts awarded between 2026 to 2029. With IESO approval, a project will proceed through local development approvals that may include Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendments and Site Plan approvals.

The following motion was presented for approval and supported by Courtney Baker, Couchiching Conservancy representative who was in attendance. The importance of the Carden Alvar to the Nature Conservancy of Canada, designation as an ANSI (Area of Natural and Scientific Interest) and an “Important Bird and Biodiversity Area” were referenced.

CKLEAC indicated being strongly in favour of renewable energy projects, just not on the Carden Alvar (for the reasons provided).

T. Smith left the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

EAC2025.029

Moved By V. Colling

Seconded By C. Szabados

That a goal set out in the City of Kawartha Lakes 2024-2027 Strategic Plan is “Protect and preserve natural areas including greenspaces, waterways, parks, trails and farmland” and one of the actions committed to is “Protect and enhance . . . biodiversity.”

That the Carden Alvar north of Kirkfield is a fragile, globally rare (occurring only in the south of Sweden and scattered around the Great Lakes Basin) and

imperiled ecosystem with a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) designation due to significant habitat of many species at risk.

That the Carden Alvar is home to a range of rare, specialized plants and invertebrates and has been designated by BirdLife International as an Important Bird Area (IBA), to recognize its global significance.

That City of Kawartha Lakes, with Council's support, has applied for and received certification from Nature Canada as a Bird-Friendly City, and a responsibility for Bird-Friendly Cities is to maintain key habitat.

That the Innergex project would occupy a minimum of 800 acres of Carden Alvar land and have a potential total footprint of up to 1500 acres.

That this project would severely harm the globally rare Carden Alvar habitat (Impacts would include: Severe **habitat loss/fragmentation** for Species at Risk: Eastern Loggerhead Shrike (Endangered), Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Golden-winged Warbler, Blanding's Turtle, Monarch, and many rare plants.

Elimination of critical breeding areas for grassland and shrub land species.

Soil/hydrology disruption that would alter Alvar flood–drought cycles, irreversibly degrading vegetation. **Construction disturbance, roads, fencing** causing nest failure, wildlife mortality, and wildlife movement barriers.

Vegetation management and introduction of invasive species through disturbance will further reduce habitat quality. **Cumulative impact** would be loss of Ontario's Alvar species stronghold and biodiversity hotspot.); and

THAT the Kawartha Lakes Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that Council NOT support the Innergex proposal (or any other proposal) to site a large-scale solar project on the Carden Alvar.

Carried

7. Closed Session

7.1 Adoption of Closed Session Agenda

EAC2025.031

Moved By C. Szabados

Seconded By V. Colling

That the Closed Session Agenda be approved.

Carried

7.2 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest in Closed Session Items

There were declarations of pecuniary interest disclosed.

7.3 Move Into Closed Session

C. Baker left the meeting at 4:49 p.m.

EAC2025.032

Moved By Councillor Warren

Seconded By J. Morris

That the Environmental Advisory Committee convene into Closed Session at 4:49 p.m. pursuant to Section 239 (2) of the Municipal Act, S. O. 2001 s25, in order to consider matters identified in Section 7.3 of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of September 2, 2025, namely items 7.3.1 to and including 7.3.2.

Carried

7.3.1 Nominations for the Bee a Hero Awards Program

Municipal Act, 2001 s.239(2)(b) Personal Matters About Identifiable Individual(s).

7.3.2 Environmental Hero Awards Program

Municipal Act, 2001 s.239(2)(b) Personal Matters About Identifiable Individual(s).

8. Matters from Closed Session

CKLEAC Committee provided direction to Staff on the awards programs.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, October 16, 2025 and the following requests were made:

- CKLEAC members were encouraged to clarify any information or specific municipal staff that are of interest to it and who can be invited to attend future CKLEAC meetings. On October 16, 2025 representative of the GIS Division will attend to describe the Tree Canopy mapping.
- The topic “Soil Health” be added to the next meeting Agenda.

10. Adjournment

EAC2025.033

Moved By C. Szabados

Seconded By K. Cooper

That the meeting be adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Carried