

The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes
Minutes
Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting

CKLEAC2025-002
Thursday, February 20, 2025
2:30 P.M.
Electronic Participation Meeting

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

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1. Call to Order

In attendance: Virginia Colling, Kathy Cooper, Jamie Morris, Santosh Patel, Doug Paterson, Deborah Pearson, David Ryrie, Christine Szabados, Barry Snider, Pat Warren, Councillor, Danielle Marcoux-Hunter (Kawartha Conservation)

Absent: Logan MacInnis, Josh Feltham (Fleming College)

Staff: Jenna Stephens (Planning Officer – Environmental Policy), Nancy Ord (Administrative Assistant), Ashtyn Nauffts (Municipal Climate Intern)

Guest Presenter: Dan Urquhart, Weedman Canada

Chair Warren called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

EAC2025.009

Moved By D. Pearson

Seconded By S. Patel

That Councillor Warren be appointed Temporary Chair for the February 20, 2025 meeting of the City of Kawartha Lakes Environmental Advisory Committee.

Carried

1.1 New CKLEAC member

The Chair welcomed CKLEAC's new member Kathy Cooper and Ashtyn Nauffts, the Municipal Climate Intern to the meeting. K. Cooper provided an overview of her background, experience and interests in CKLEAC, which was followed by introductions by each CKLEAC member.

2. Administrative Business

2.1 Adoption of Agenda

EAC2025.010

Moved By C. Szabados

Seconded By J. Morris

That the Agenda for the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of February 20, 2025 be adopted as amended to correctly spell the guest presenter's name as Dan Urquhart.

Carried

2.2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest disclosed.

2.3 Adoption of Minutes

EAC2025.011

Moved By D. Pearson

Seconded By C. Szabados

That the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of January 16, 2025 be adopted as presented.

Carried

3. Deputations/Presentations

3.1 Q and A with Dan Urquhart the Weedman

After welcome by the Chair, D. Urquhart presented the attached slide presentation and highlighted the following:

- Personal and business background, community involvement and support of “A Place Called Home”.
- History of the Weed Man in Canada and Kawartha Lakes.
- Pesticide regulation in Canada through Health Canada’s Pest Management Regulatory Agency and Pest Control Products Act that address: product registration and risk assessment, approved active ingredients and application restrictions, public transparency, re-evaluation and incident reporting.
- Key Ontario regulatory aspects including the 2009 Cosmetic Pesticide Ban of historical and potentially harmful pesticides, licensing and certification, public health exceptions and compliance/enforcement.
- Definition of “integrated pest management”.
- Environmental benefits of lawns and Weed Man Lawn Care services with comments on safety and toxicity of herbicides.

- “Mosquito Hero Services” for mosquitos and ticks, safety of applications and reasons for control to reduce viruses, canine heart worm and nuisance factor.
- Prioritizing reducing impacts on the environment and ensuring the health of pollinators.

Questions and comments of CKLEAC members raised the following:

- When undertaking mosquito control measures, are other types of insects affected?

Response: Measures used have low toxicity to humans, mammals, amphibians, rodents and birds but can affect other insects. Caution is exercised and measures undertaken to ensure pesticides are targeted and only applied to pollinator plants when they are not in flower, spiders are affected but not caterpillars and butterflies at our application rates. Effort is made to target areas specifically where mosquitos are found avoiding where other insects would be.

- As the health of soils is a concern, are the microscopic “bugs” under the ground affected by spraying?

Response: Mosquitos controls are not applied to lawns but onto trees/decks where mosquitos are found and no studies show negative affects on the soil. In response, CKLEAC member commented that some chemicals are highly toxic to butterflies and pollinators.

- How are chemicals applied and what kind of sprayer?

Response: A Makita blower is used and the blower specifications can be provided. Toxicity is based on the amount and concentration of exposure and referring to the LD50 scale, toxicity is extremely low and studies show pollinators are not affected at the rate applied.

- Using the LD 50 measure of toxicity does not address “chronic” toxicity and effects of bioaccumulation.

Response: Scientific direction and testing details are derived from the Ministry of the Environment and blanket spraying for weeds has no long life in the soil. There is no scientific evidence I have seen that indicates any negative effects of Fiesta liquid iron treated lawns on insects or micro-organisms in the soil. Local anecdotal testing under a microscope seems to support this view.

- Are there demands by clients for turf grass, hardscaping, biodiverse naturalized lawns, clover or other plant types that do not require as much maintenance?

Response: Not a lot seen in the community but clover is sometimes used on weeping beds. Vegetation is preferable to “hardscaping” for the environment.

- When consulting with a client, is any education undertaken to differentiate between a weed and a native plant that supports pollinators? Kawartha Lakes now has a “Tall Grass By-law”.

Response: Effort is made to partner with the client, to provide information and to meet needs with minimal use of pesticides. The approach is to advise on options noting that turf grass and a naturalized lawn can live side by side and each has its environmental benefits.

- How many times a year/season is a particular property sprayed for mosquitos?

Response: Typically, a program is five applications in a season between May and September.

The Chair thanked Dan Urquhart for the presentation.

EAC2025.012

Moved By C. Szabados

Seconded By K. Cooper

That Dan Urquhart's presentation be received and the topic raised for discussion at a future CKLEAC meeting.

Carried

4. Correspondence

No correspondence was presented.

5. Action Item Updates

- 5.1 CKLEAC Work Plan Updates by Project Team Leaders (Pollinator Action, Bird Friendly, Healthy Environment, Transportation Subcommittees)

Pollinator Action Subcommittee

C. Szabados reported the following:

- The 2025 Pollinator Action Committee work plan has been submitted to City Council for approval.
- Meetings will occur in early March on:
 - the Landfill Naturalization Project,
 - completing plant species signage for the Broad Street Pollinator Garden and organizing a public “Meet and Greet” showcase for community members.
- Anticipated communication with School Boards on a Kids Colouring contest.
- A Bee City Canada initiative has been modelled after Kawartha Lakes’ Pollinator Pathway to engage less active Bee City municipalities with four tiers of sponsorship to choose from. Preliminary discussions have been held to determine feasibility of merging data from both the City of Kawartha Lakes and Bee Friendly Gardening programs.
- Kawartha Lakes has accomplished a number of action items but could consider adopting one or more of a nine additional actions moving forward (e.g. natural asset inventory, pollinator photo contests, etc.)

After the Chair questioned whether a “Bee a Hero” contest would occur in 2025 CKLEAC members stressed the importance of the award, the need to continue in light of past positive community feedback and to celebrate individual efforts. A request is underway to have presentations made as part of Earth Day.

Healthy Environment Subcommittee

J. Stephens reported that the Request for Proposals (RFP) report is in the final stages of preparation, is being reviewed by the Director, Development Services before circulation to the City’s Procurement Staff who will handle the public posting to receive bids.

No grant monies have been received to date but full funding for the project has been budgeted and any approval of funding will reduce local taxpayer dollars required.

Question was raised on continuation of the current Healthy Environment Plan (HEP) until a new strategy is in place. The Chair referred to the need to update the HEP due its age and that reporting may be absorbed into the Climate Change Strategy. J. Stephens commented that work is underway with other municipal divisions to ensure all bases are covered and that frequent meetings

with Engineering Division are occurring to ensure the recommendations of the Active Transportation Master Plan are integrated.

J. Stephens indicated the RFP has requested extensive mapping be undertaken for the Climate Change Strategy which will carry out goals of the HEP. CKLEAC will have an overall general role in the Climate Change Strategy with specific goals to come next year.

On the HEP goals, the Chair requested knowledge of the actions being undertaken relating to Climate Change Strategy such as an emissions inventory, effort to shift to a green fleet and adding charging stations. Comment was made that the HEP is five years old with very little progress to show. J. Stephens offered to follow up with the Senior Management Committee on the question and provide further details.

Transportation Subcommittee

No report was presented and comment made that the Transportation subcommittee not be required at this time.

Bird Friendly Subcommittee

J. Morris reported on the following:

- Planning is underway for the May 10, 2025 World Migratory Bird Day focusing on ways to help birds in our settlement areas. A number of events are planned including:
 - Hosting of events in fourteen library branches on the theme of “shared spaces” with Dawn Chorus, bird walk at Ken Reid Conservation Area, Victoria Rail Trail and Carden Plane.
 - Recognizing May 10th as “Day of Significance” by the municipality with press releases in May, listing on the City calendar and turning off City Hall lights from Friday to Monday.
- A request to offer controlled access to the Lindsay Sewage Lagoons as a birding hotspot has not been successful with the Manager of Waste Management based on risk. Discussion followed on J. Morris approaching staff again to pose alternatives such as a raised viewing platform at the gate, which could ensure access to the lagoon area is controlled.
- Brochures encouraging cat owners to keep their cats indoors are being distributed. A plan to have cat owners take a voluntary pledge with a draw for several “catios” as an incentive requires a lottery licence and is proceeding through that approval process.

- Mark Robbins, a new member of Bird Friendly Kawartha Lakes team has submitted an email request through the City's "Report Issues or Concerns" portal to encourage City Staff turn off work-space lights at night to reduce migratory bird mortalities.

K. Cooper and J. Morris agreed to exchange emails on the Migratory Bird Day on whether the outings can include private property owners.

EAC2025.013

Moved By D. Pearson

Seconded By B. Snider

That \$1,500 be allocated from the CKLEAC Budget for materials and presenters' fees for the planned World Bird Day Events.

Carried

EAC2025.014

Moved By V. Colling

Seconded By C. Szabados

That the subcommittee reports be received.

Carried

5.2 Tree Protection By-law (Draft)

The Chair indicated the City Solicitor is available to attend CKLEAC's March 2025 meeting to discuss the draft bylaw and that the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee (ADAC) is also reviewing the by-law.

K. Cooper questioned the scope of the by-law and the need to address existing neighbourhoods and mature trees across the municipality. Councillor Warren referred to negative public reaction to the Shoreline by-law for private lands which encompassed shorelines. Motion had been made that CKLEAC consider a separate Shoreline By-law for the City.

All CKLEAC members were invited to review the draft by-law and submit comments to Councillor Warren. After suggestion that a group of members meet to review comments, CKLEAC was reminded that not more than five members can meet to ensure compliance with its Terms of Reference that a quorum of

members is not meeting and that the task force is not a formally established Council approved subcommittee. The following five members then volunteered to review comments on the Draft Tree Protection by-law: Councillor Warren, J. Morris, K. Cooper, C. Szabados and D. Pearson.

5.3 Coboconk Park Naturalization Project

D. Paterson reported that Parks Division support of a project has not been successful to date. CKLEAC members encouraged additional contact be made with alternative Parks Division staff. D. Marcoux-Hunter indicated Kawartha Conservation involvement in a naturalization project requires the City to request its involvement.

5.4 Shoreline Task Force

The Chair indicated this Item has been addressed as part of Item 5.2 above.

5.5 HEP (Healthy Environment Plan) Reporting

J. Morris questioned whether recommendations on reporting and scorecards have been undertaken and referred to the coming Climate Change Strategy and recently prepared Strategic Plan. Do scorecards exist, how can they be accessed and if not, when will they be developed for actions such as measuring the municipal carbon footprint? J. Morris referred to City of Whitby as an example.

J. Stephens agreed to follow-up with B. Stonehouse, Manager of Strategy and Innovation involved in the preparation of the updated Strategic Plan for response.

5.6 Turtle Road Crossing Signage

C. Szabados presented a report on Turtle Signage and highlighted the following:

- Southern Ontario is Canada's turtle capital and Kawartha Lakes hosts the greatest variety of turtles in Canada.
- All turtle species in Canada are "at risk" with many threatened or endangered at the Provincial and Federal level. The female Eastern Snapping turtle will nest and lay eggs for over 65 years before one of her offspring is able to successfully mate and nest herself.
- The primary threat to turtles is habitat loss through draining or filling of marshes, swamps, bogs and fens with roadside mortality the second greatest threat.
- CKLEAC support of conservation actions and turtle signage is an exciting kick-start to further initiatives by the City of Kawartha Lakes.

Two options for signage were presented with the locations guided by historical data from the Ontario Turtle Tally and Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre and with Option 1 the recommended preferred option:

- Option 1: Select four to six locations at high traffic gateways/boundaries to Kawartha Lakes with high historical roadside mortality.
- Option 2: Select two to three traffic areas with two-way signs posted 250 metres in advance of selected sites with high historical roadside turtle mortality.

Discussion by CKLEAC members raised the following:

- Can partnering with Kawartha Conservation and public donations be an innovative way to increase funding? Any current signs have been placed by private citizens.
- Estimated cost for 2 foot X 2 foot sign including installation ranges from \$150 to \$180.
- Once the preferred option and sign locations are approved by CKLEAC, contact with the City's Public Works Division will follow.

EAC2025.015

Moved By C. Szabados

Seconded By K. Cooper

That CKLEAC supports Option 1 for signage in four to six gateway locations leading into Kawartha lakes to notify of upcoming turtle crossing areas, nesting areas, that Kawartha Lakes is the Turtle Capital of Ontario and that CKLEAC investigate additional funding opportunities for signage across the municipality to a maximum of \$3,500.

Carried

6. New or Other Business

No new or other business was presented.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 20, 2025. CKLEAC were notified that no meeting would be held in April 2025 due to the absence of staff to prepare for and attend the meeting. The subsequent meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2025.

D. Marcoux-Hunter alerted CKLEAC to the Kawartha Conservation Water Fund, which provides funding to community organizations that positively impact water quality and ecosystem health. Inquiries on eligibility can be made to www.kawarthaconservation.com/water-fund until April 30, 2025.

8. Adjournment

EAC2025.016

Moved By D. Pearson

Seconded By J. Morris

That the meeting be adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Carried