

Environment Advisory Committee Meeting

June 17, 2014

Present: Shelley Innes, Carol Williams, Councillor Don Halpenny, Tom Beach, Anne de Gobeo.

No pecuniary interests declared

Addition to agenda – Update on street lights in Smith’s Falls M/S Tom Beach/Shelley Innes, to pass the agenda, Carried

Minutes of May meeting were approved by email.

Old Business

1. Website

Website has been updated. Committee will review it quarterly to ensure it is up to date. Thanks to CAO Jill Eagle for doing the update.

2. Pipeline

Members discussed the article in NG times “Are you in the danger zone” which identified the areas impacted by a derailment. Council members can refer to the attachment.

3. Pitch In Canada

It was brought to the EAC attention that people participating in the Pitch In Campaign should sign a waiver.

ACTION: Carol Williams will confirm if it is all participants need to sign the waiver.

ACTION: All EAC members will approach groups in January to promote the campaign and get groups to commit to participating in it.

4. Risk Adaptation

M/S Carol Williams/Tom Beach, carried

D
R
A
F
T

That the Village of Merrickville Wolford Council review the online Guidebook “Adapting to Climate Change – a Risk-based Guide for Local Governments”. This is a tool to help municipal governments make sensible and practical decisions to adapt to the changing and more variable climate.

For more information, go to:

https://www.fcm.ca/Documents/tools/PCP/Adapting_to_Climate_Change_a_Risk_Based_Guide_for_Local_Governments_EN.pdf

The guidebook was funded by Natural Resources Canada (Climate Change Impacts and Adaptations Division) and the Insurance Industry’s Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction in collaboration with representatives from the Ontario, Alberta and BC governments.

The EAC would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue with Council members. Please advise us if you are interested.

New Business

1. Meeting with RVCA on Watershed Reports– bring forward to next meeting.

2. New street lights in Smiths Falls

Anne de Gobeo reported that the new street lights in Smiths Falls have produced a large savings on electricity costs.

In 2010 the electrical bill was \$131,700 and in 2011 the actual costs were \$71,000.

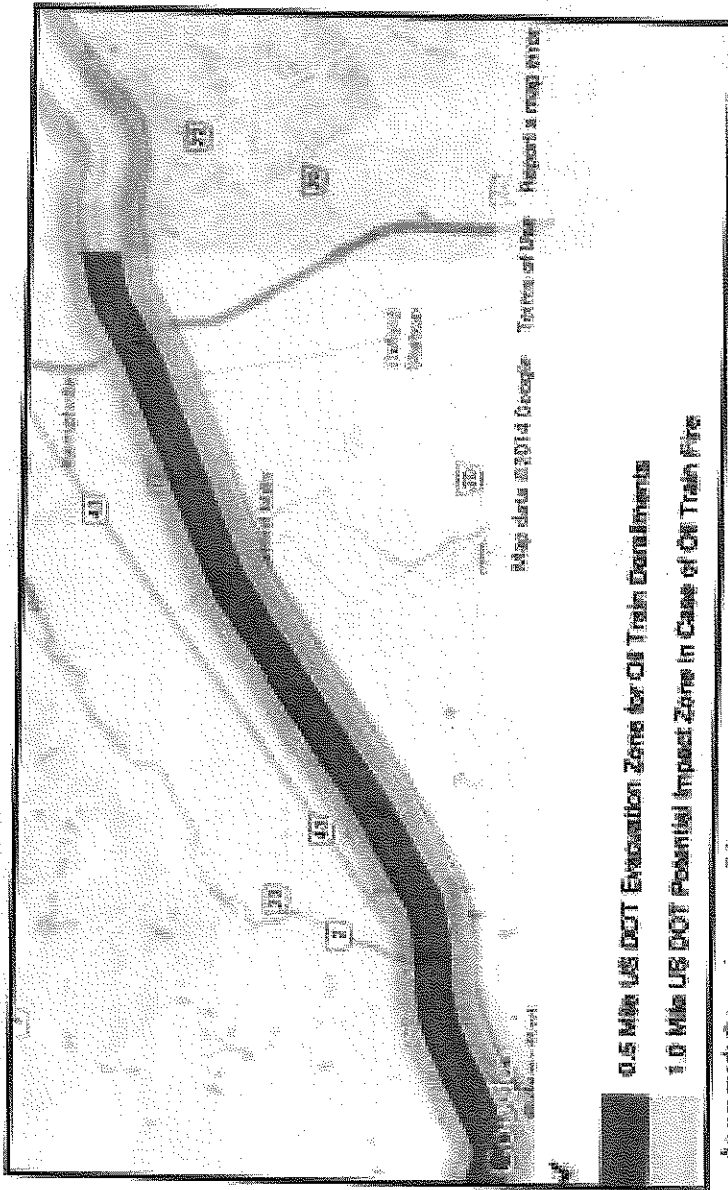
Anne will report with further at the next EAC meeting with information on the savings and incentive programs.

3. Don Halpenny informed the EAC that the Township has been receive approval from the Provincial Government for composting at the landfill site.

6:30 pm M/S by Carol Williams/Shelley Innes to adjourn.

Next meeting: TUESDAY August 19, 2014 at 5:30.

Are you in the danger zone?



As we mark the anniversary of the tragedy at Lac Mégantic, it is worth looking at what might happen if North Carolina should find any of the numerous oil-carrying trains traveling through our area meet with problems. As these long trains of oil tanker cars move through the eight railroad crossings in North Carolina, what would happen if there was a derailment, and if that derailment resulted in a burning oil tanker?

ForestEthics is the website of a non-profit environmental group based in the U. S., which has prepared a map showing the area adjacent to all railway lines in North America along which oil tank cars are carried. The section showing North Carolina shows the corridors identified by the U. S. Department of Transportation.

The map zone shown on the map is 1,000 metres on each side of the tracks. The inner colour (red) is the distance that emergency responders advise evacuating in case of a derailment of oil tanker cars, the outer colour (yellow) the distance to be evacuated if any of the derailed cars are on fire. A derailment and explosion of multiple cars carrying Bakken crude has the potential for a much wider area of damage than shown on this map, especially in a unit train carrying multiple but oil tanker cars. This map is an important addition to the ongoing debate on the transportation of oil by rail or by pipeline.