

Environment Advisory Committee Meeting

April 17, 2014

Present: Shelley Innes, Sylvia Blanchard, Carol Williams, Councillor Don Halpenny, Tom Beach, Anne deGobeo, guest Fred McFarland.

No pecuniary interests declared

M/S Anne deGobeo/Shelley Innes, to pass the agenda, Carried

Minutes of March were approved by email,

Old Business

1. Website

Anne deGobeo identified updates for information on the website and sent them to the CAO, Jill Eagle.

2. Pipeline

Mayor Doug Struthers and several councillors attended the pipeline meeting in Stitsville and expressed concern about the danger it posed to the Oxford aquifer and the Rideau River System.

*M/S Shelley Innes/ Anne deGobeo that the EAC express its gratitude to the Mayor and council for voicing concerns to the Energy East Canada pipeline.
Carried*

3. Pitch In Canada

Pitch In bags have arrived, the pitch in email address is still active and advertising is going out.

Some teams have already confirmed their participation this year and picked up bags.

ACTION: All EAC members to promote the campaign and encourage participation.

New Business

Fred McFarland reported on the presentation by Nobel prize winning climate scientist, Jim Bruce which was organized by Perth and District Federation of University Women.

Dr Bruce described the impact globally, regionally and locally.

Globally, there are now warmer winters on average and seasonal changes in precipitation and more extreme precipitation events.

Eastern Ontario now has more precipitation in the winter and spring and less in the summer and fall. Extremes are more prevalent with drought conditions in the summer, and ice storms in the winter. There has been a 50% increase in extreme rain events in past 50 years. By 2050 the frequency of rain and the amount of rain will increase by 66%.

The impact locally is in changes in precipitation and temperature with an increase in more extreme conditions highlighting the need for mechanisms to adapt, such as drought resistant crops. There are tools, such as a risk adaptation workbook, that communities can use to assess the potential impact of climate change and prepare for it.

ACTION: EAC members to view the risk adaptation workbook for communities and be prepared to discuss at the next EAC meeting how the workbook might be pertinent or of use to the Village of Merrickville WOLFORD.

6:30 pm M/S by Sylvia Blanchard/Shelley Innes to adjourn.

Next meeting: May 15, 2014 at 5:30.