

March 26, 2008 ZWATeam Meeting Minutes
2-3:30 pm Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre

In Attendance:

Lynn Duffield, Chair; Randy Mehagan Vice-Chair; Janice Horgos, Admin/Community Relations; Cathy Sawicki, Membership; Jim Bailey, Website; Lenore Buzzi, Ex Officio; Bill Deadman, ExOfficio; Councillor Joe Virdiramo; Vanessa DeGiacomo, Advisor, Landfill and Recycling; Bernie Edwards, Advisor, Facilities; Sarah Kerton, EarthWise Co-ordinator; Mary Nucci, Advisor, Materials Management; Wim Smits, Advisor, Ministry of the Environment; Patrick Fenlon, Pack Pros Plus; Jane Oldale, EcoSuperior; Frank Ilczyszyn, Frank's Alternate Energy; Jane Todd, Ontario Power Generation; Michael Dorval, Confederation College; Brian Perigord and Karen Mehagan, Boreal Solutions; Melody Allaire, Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship; Gaetan Ayotte and students Stephanie Potter & Jessica Gauvin, ESC de La Verendrye; Brad Doff, Thunder Bay Tree Stewardship Program; Roger Welyki, Beyond Borders; Tanya Shutte, St. Joseph's Care Group; Lynne Lessard, Recool; Doug Fraser, Sysco Food; Rebecca and John Crawford Bell, AquaCare Thunder Bay

1. Welcome and Introductions

Lynn thanked hosts Cathy Sawicki and Randy Mehagan, followed by round table introductions. John Stephenson sent his regrets as he was unable to give the LEED Waste Indicator Presentation due to unexpected travel plans; he will give the Water Indicator Presentation at the May 21 meeting and the Waste Indicator Presentation in the Fall.

Presentations

Cathy Sawicki, Cafeteria & Catering Supervisor, TB Regional Health Sciences Centre: "Food Services' Waste, Energy and Water Reduction Initiatives"

All systems in the department are assessed on an ongoing basis to reduce waste and energy and water consumption. There has been a significant reduction in operating costs; switching from plastic containers to saran wrap for sandwiches saved \$2,000.00 annually. Every effort is being made to encourage the use of refillable cups. The Hospital Foundation sponsored 16 oz. coffee mugs for staff which the Cafeteria fills for the same price as an 8oz. disposable cup. 245,000 milk cartons including 47,000 from the Cafeteria were recycled last year. More than 1000 compact fluorescent lamps have been given out through the Porch Light Program and 1000 pounds of cardboard are baled each day. Cathy conducted a survey of 400 staff to determine their recycling habits at work and at home. Staff recycle and turn off lights at home more often than at work. As a result of the survey, recycling containers have been installed beside waste containers throughout the facility and more than 50 people have signed up to form a Green Team. (Survey results are attached to the minutes)

Wim Smits, Senior Environmental Officer, Ontario Ministry of the Environment Thunder Bay Area Office

In 2006, the MOE conducted 260 province-wide inspections of the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Sectors to determine and assist with greater compliance with Regulations 102 and 103 of Ontario's 1994 3Rs Waste Regulations. Regulation 102 requires waste audits and waste reduction workplans; 103 adds requirements for source separation. Inspections included construction/demolition projects, hotels, motels, restaurants, "big box" stores and shopping malls and office buildings. The overall non-compliance rate was 92.7 percent, although most were recycling to some extent. The MOE has hired ten more inspectors who are taking a progressive compliance approach, starting with voluntary compliance. Prescriptive fines will be issued if necessary. Some recent large local demolition projects were found not to be in compliance with the 3Rs Regulations. Abitibi Bowater will take wood from demolition/construction projects and a variety of materials can be diverted through Habitat for Humanity. The ZWATeam and Habitat for Humanity developed a Guide for Handling Construction/Demolition Waste a few years ago outlining the 3Rs Regs as they apply to large construction/demolition projects and materials accepted at the Restore. The City's Building Dept. agreed to attach a copy of the Guide to construction/demolition permits. Janice will update the Guide and provide more copies for the City Building Dept. Wim provided copies of the 2007 IC&I Sectors Inspection Sweep Report. (posted on Website www.zwat.org)

Brian Perigord, Boreal Solutions "Totally Degradable Plastic Bags and Chemical Free Floor Cleaning"

Brian provided samples of a totally degradable plastic bag containing the additive D2W which allows the bag to totally degrade within a determined time period. Stabilizers work to ensure that a sufficiently long useful life is provided for each specific application. D2W does not need a biologically active environment to start the degrading process which will happen even if the plastic is left in the open air. Brian also provided information about a Noble Tennant Floor Scrubber which uses 70% less water and does not require chemicals for cleaning.

Lynn thanked the presenters for their excellent presentations.

2. Minutes

The March 26 meeting minutes were approved as read.

3. Reports

Treasurer: *The ZWATeam's account balance is \$1,253.65.*

Membership: *Cathy advised she will e-mail out the 2008/09 Membership Renewal Invoice in May. The 2007/08 Membership List is attached.*

Correspondence:

The Shelter House Corporate Relay invited the ZWA Team to participate in this year's 12 hour Relay for Shelter on Saturday, May 31. Any members interested in putting together a ZWA's Up Relay Team are asked to contact Janice. Janice will send out a notice encouraging members to support the event.

The Canadian Cancer Society invited the ZWA Team to participate in the Friday, June 20 Relay for Life at Fort William Historical Park at 7pm. Janice will send out a notice inviting members to participating in the event.

A letter was received from Brad Deff, Co-ordinator of the Tree Stewardship Program thanking the ZWA Team for sponsoring a boulevard tree. (Official tax receipt for \$125.00 was enclosed)

A letter was received from Karen Copeland, Co-ordinator of this year's "Spring Up to Clean Up" event, inviting the ZWA Team's participation. As it does each year, the ZWA Team will celebrate Earth Day by cleaning up the Neebing Floodway as part of "Spring Up To Clean Up." This year's event will be held on Wednesday, May 15 from 11am until noon, followed by lunch at East Side Mario's. Janice will notify Karen and register the event on the Earth Day Website. She will send out a notice to members with an RSVP.

Community / Media Relations Report:

- a) The ZWA Team sent a letter to MPP Ken Boshcoff expressing support for his Private Members Motion M-183, Canadian content Levels for Public Transportation Projects. The letter was printed in the Chronicle Journal and the ZWA Team received letters of appreciation from the Chamber of Commerce and MPP Bill Mauro.
- b) The ZWA Team, Eco Superior and Litter Free Thunder Bay provided "Take an Old-Bag Shopping" reusable bags for the "Spring Up to Clean Up" team kits.
- c) The organizers of the Dragon Boat Festival have requested the ZWA Team's assistance in holding a Litter Free Green Event
- d) Janice and Cathy developed a Food Services Waste Handling Guide which is posted on the ZWA Team Website www.zwat.org.
- e) M.G.M Electric booked an information table at the Feb. 20 Chamber of Commerce "After Five" Event at the Victoria Inn. They invited the ZWA Team and Pack Pros Plus to share the table and the \$75.00 cost was split three ways. The Chamber is very supportive of the ZWA Team participating in these monthly events; it is a great way to get the Zero Waste message out to the business community. ZWA Team members who are also Chamber Members and would like to book a table and share the booth with ZWA Team are asked to contact Janice. The ZWA Team will provide the display board.

Municipal Green Awards: Dawson Properties, the Mascara Collision Centre and the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre were presented with 2007 Municipal Green Awards at the Feb. 4 Council Meeting. Members are encouraged to apply for the 2008 Municipal Green Awards. Applications are available at www.zwat.org and must be submitted by May 2, 2008.

4. Business Arising

The ZWA Team, Transportation and Works, EarthWise and Eco Superior met to develop a reporting system and look at ways to improve communications and build on our successful shared initiatives. All parties agreed it would be beneficial to hold similar meetings three or four times a year.

Patrick and Janice gave a breakout session on Zero Waste and the ZWA Team at the March 18/19 Green North Eco-Conference held at Confederation College.

5. Committee Updates

EarthWise Thunder Bay: *Members of the EarthWise Steering Committee were invited to attend a Climate Adaptation Workshop presented by the Ontario Centre for Climate Impacts and Adaptation Resources. Janice attended on behalf of the ZWA Team. Topics included Communities and Municipal Infrastructure, First Nations, Forests/Forestry and Great Lakes Water Issues. The Environment Canada 2007 Occasional Paper 12 entitled "Planning for Atmospheric Hazards and Disaster Management under Changing Climate Conditions" outlines the HIRA Process and identifies region specific hazards information for a changing climate. For more information contact Don MacIver at don.maciver@ec.gc.ca.*

Multi-Residential Recycling Update: *Vanessa and Jane Oldale are meeting with owners and superintendents of apartment buildings to provide education and assistance in setting up waste reduction/diversion programs. The City subsidized the cost of recycling baskets for participants. Members are asked to contact Vanessa or Jane if they know of any superintendents who might be interested in participating in the program.*

Litter Free Thunder Bay and Clean, Green and Beautiful Committee: *The Committee is focusing its efforts on gateways to the City. City Hall will be undergoing upgrades which will include new landscaping.*

New Business:

Local Zero Hero Certificate Presentation to Bombardier was deferred until next meeting.

Next Meeting: *Carl Goodwin will host the Wednesday, May 21 from 2-4pm at the Bare Point Water Treatment Plant on Lakeshore Drive. There will be a tour and several presentations about water conservation and safety.*