

ZWA Team Meeting Minutes
Confederation College
November 19, 2008 2-3:30pm

In Attendance:

Patrick Fenlon, Pack Pros Plus, Chair; Randy Mehagan, TBRHSC, Vice-Chair; Cathy Sawicki, TBRHSC, Membership; Janice Horgos, Administration / Community Relations; Lenore Buzzi, Honourary Member, Municipal Green Award Committee Chair; Bill Deadman, Arclin, ExOfficio; Councillor Rebecca Johnson; CTB Manager Tim Commisso; Michael Dorval, Brian Campbell and Rick Sitarski, Confederation College; Michael Pringle, Honeywell; Frank Oostveen, Thunder Bay Hydro; Sarah Kerton, EarthWise TB Co-ordinator; Vanessa DeGiacomo, Energy Analyst, CTB Facilities; Charles Campbell, Superior Credit Union; Tanya Shute, St. Joseph's Care Group; Jane Oldale, EcoSuperior; Frank Ilczyszyn, Frank's Alternate Energy; Hugh Briggs, Lakehead University; Karen Mehagan, Boreal Solutions; Martha Picard, Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce; Gina LaForce, TB Public Library; Tina Gibson, Gary Butler, LCBO; Roger Welyki, Beyond Borders; Lucie Laframboise, Citizen Member; Alan Forbes, OLG Casino Thunder Bay; Doug Cochrane, Coca Cola; Cory Lees, Raymond Nadeau, Victoria Inn; Cindy Hill, Mallon's; Greg Smith and Jason McKee, DTP, Andrew Perrons, Perrons EcoSolutions; Duncan Hutchinson, Citizen.

1. Welcome and Introductions – Chairperson, Patrick Fenlon

Patrick thanked Confederation College for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments and parking passes for the participants. He introduced Tim Commisso, the new City Manager who began his career in Thunder Bay and since 1988 has held a number of senior positions with the City of Burlington. He was responsible for a number of major projects including waterfront development before returning to Thunder Bay in September, 2008. Mr. Commisso expressed his appreciation for ZWA Team's efforts to make Thunder Bay a healthier, more sustainable community.

Presentations

“Go Green” Program Update

Presented by Brian Campbell, Resource Development Director and Rick Sitarski, Facilities Services, Confederation College; Michael Pringle, Business Development Manager, Honeywell

Confederation College has ramped up its “Go Green” program with a goal of becoming a carbon neutral campus. This includes building sustainability into all programs including health care, trades and technology. The College has partnered with Honeywell to implement green energy/energy efficiency initiatives in three stages. Students will participate in measuring reductions in the College's environmental footprint. Strategies to date have resulted in \$1 million dollars a year in savings in operating costs. Stage 3 will see a 40% energy reduction through the addition of a biomass plant for the campus which will provide carbon-neutral energy by burning gasified waste wood. The ash will be used for agricultural purposes. The biomass plant will feature a solar thermal wall to help heat water for the boiler and photovoltaic cells to generate solar power, windows for natural light and a ‘green roof.’ The plant is intended to be a living lab where students can work.

The \$5million biomass plant and related green initiatives will be completed by 2012 and are expected to pay for themselves through funding, grants and reduced operating costs.

Energy Efficiency Programs Offered by OPG and Thunder Bay Hydro

Presented by Frank Oostveen, Energy Services Advisor, Thunder Bay Hydro

With the aim of helping small businesses to become more energy efficient, Thunder Bay Hydro has partnered with Ontario Power Generation to provide qualifying small businesses with free electricity-saving products up to \$1,000. (including installation) through their Power Saving Blitz Program. Thunder Bay Hydro will connect a business interested in participating in the program with an authorized electrical contractor who will provide assistance in completing the Program's 4 Steps. This includes an evaluation of lighting and other potential electrical saving possibilities; identifying electricity-saving opportunities; reviewing recommendations for action, installing and upgrading. For example, replacing old light fixtures such as T12 Fluorescent tube lighting with electronic ballasts and T8 tube lighting will reduce electricity consumption by one third. To learn how they can benefit from this program, small business owners may contact Frank Oostveen at 343-1022 or foostveen@tbhydro.on.ca.

New Business Launched to Reduce Litter

Presented by Jason Mckee and Greg Smith, Destroy the Pollution

DTP was formed in 2008 with a goal of providing a fleet of litter bins on all sidewalk boulevards along busy streets of Thunder Bay. The program will be launched in the spring and will include a comprehensive education program; the faces of the bins will include posters with a litter prevention message. Ad spaces will be rented on the faces of each bin to cover the expenses resulting in advertisers sponsoring the program. DTP will collect the waste from the bins and recycle as much as possible. When the bins are emptied, any litter in the surrounding area will be collected to encourage people not to litter. Interested parties can contact Jason and Greg at 472-6827 or destroythepollution@gmail.com.

2. Sept. 17 Meeting Minutes

Randy Mehagan moved a motion to approve the Sept. 17 meeting minutes.

Seconded by Charles Campbell. Carried

3. Reports

Financial Report

There is an account balance of \$1831.53.

Randy Mehagan moved a motion to accept the Financial Report. Seconded by Bill Deadman. Carried

4. Membership

Cathy Sawicki advised 33 membership fees have been received for 2008/09.

(Membership list is on the ZWATeam Website www.zwat.org)

5. Correspondence/Community Relations

a) Ontario Power Generation sent a letter of thanks to the ZWATeam on Oct.3 for participating in their recent 45th Anniversary Open House.

- b) In response to a request for information, Rick Latta, Supervisor, CTB Landfill and Recycling advised that the City has put its plans for landfill expansion on hold as increased waste diversion has extended the life of the current site to 20-25 years. The current work going on at the John Street Landfill site includes relocation of the entrance, a transfer station to control waste and increase recycling and a methane gas capture collection facility.
- c) The ZWATeam was featured in a November 10, 2008 article in Solid Waste Magazine. Reid Bodley of EarthDay Canada sent a letter of congratulations to the ZWATeam for receiving a 2008 SOLEC Award and encouraged the ZWATeam to apply for a 2009 Hometown Heroes Award.
- d) ZWATeam articles were submitted for the October and November Chamber of Commerce newsletters. (Waste Reduction Week and SOLEC Award)
- e) ZWATeam participated in the Oct. 17 launch of Waste Reduction Week at Pope John Paul 11 Sr. Elementary School and held a Waste Reduction/Diversion Information Fair to celebrate WRW at Intercity Shopping Centre on Oct. 18. Patrick and Janice gave an overview of Zero Waste following the Oct. 23 EarthWise showing of the "Story of Stuff."
- f) There were 1,027 hits on the ZWATeam Website in October.
- g) Janice attended a Nov. 7 Lake Superior Binational Forum workshop on behalf of the ZWATeam held to find solutions to outstanding issues in the Areas of Concern side of Lake Superior.
- h) The ZWATeam provided an information booth at La Verendrye High School on Oct. 4 as part of the Superior Renewable Energy Wise Tour
- i) ZWATeam provided a letter of reference for the TBRHSC which has applied for an OHA Environmental Award.

4. Updates

Municipal Green Awards: MGA Committee Chair Lenore Buzzi

The Committee has forwarded the names of six successful applicants for a 2008 MGA Award to the City. The Awards will be given out at a Council meeting early in the New Year. 2009 MGA Applications will be posted on the ZWATeam Website in January, 2009 and must be submitted by May 1, 2009.

Plastic Bag Reduction Initiative: Committee Chair Janice Horgos

The Committee is securing sponsorship for 2500 Green Packages for this year's Christmas Cheer Hampers. OPG has donated 2500 reusable bags to replace plastic bags for packing turkeys; Boreal Solutions is providing 12,500 blue bags at cost and will split the cost with the ZWATeam, Recool and Pack Pros Plus. Transportation and Works will provide 2500 copies of the Mr. Green Guide. EcoSuperior is accepting donations of reusable bags for the project, and the Committee continues to approach businesses, schools, organizations and citizens for donations in order to provide each hamper with a second reusable bag. Churchill High School has offered to host an event to put together the Green Packages and a Media Event will be held with Linda Gambee, Christmas Cheer Chair on December 12 at OPG.

Shrink Wrap Diversion: ZWATeam Chair, Patrick Fenlon

Patrick requested that members interested in meeting to explore strategies to divert shrink wrap from landfill contact him at 344-8799.

EcoSuperior: Jane Oldale,

EcoSuperior will be holding a driver rally as part of their Eco Driver Program on Nov, 29. 500 Block Heater Timers will be distributed at a cost of \$5.00 each. EcoSuperior was a sponsor of the Nov. 7 Lake Superior Binational Conference Workshop and will be providing the community with ideas for eco-friendly Christmas gifts.

5. New Business

SOLEC Award: Waste Reduction Week: ZWATeam Chair Patrick Fenlon

Environment Canada and the United States EPA recognized the ZWATeam with a 2008 SOLEC Award for “exceptional performance and dedication to improving the Great Lakes” achieved through the E-Waste Diversion Pilot Project. The E-Waste Diversion Pilot Project Committee was formed in 2003 to deal with stored historical e-waste and to develop infrastructure for a long-term e-waste diversion solution for Thunder Bay and region. The Committee worked with Pack Pros Plus, the City and MOE to develop a process to inventory, collect and ship more than 80,000 pounds of e-waste to Mississauga for recycling on March 22 2004. This resulted in the establishment of the Pack Pros Plus E-Waste Collection Depot in 2005 and more than 400,000 pounds of potentially hazardous waste have been diverted from landfill in Thunder Bay and region by the Depot to date. A Media Event attended by Mayor Peterson and the participants and sponsors of the Pilot Project was held on October 28 at Pack Pros Plus. Patrick advised that Pack Pros was moving to a new location on Rosslyn Road and would be establishing e-waste drop off sites in the City with local electronic retailers.

Ontario Zero Waste Coalition: Janice is representing the ZWATeam on the OZWC formed in May, 2008 to lobby governments to adopt Zero Waste. In August, 2008 the Ontario Government announced it will be developing a new Waste Diversion Act with a focus on Zero Waste. The ZWATeam sent a letter outlining its support to Minister John Gerritson on Nov. 10. Comments on the proposed WDA may be submitted through the Environmental Registry at <http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca>.

Self Sustainable Thunder Bay: Randy McCallister at the Ministry of Northern Mines and Development took the lead in bringing interested parties together to look at strategies to ensure that Thunder Bay and region become more self-sustainable, mainly through local food and energy initiatives. Some of the participants include EarthWise, EcoSuperior, ZWATeam, Confederation College and the Economic Development Commission. The group is looking at applying for an intern through MNM to do an economic analysis of the EarthWise CEAP and identify realistic job opportunities. For more information contact Sarah at skerton@thunderbay.ca

6. Information Sharing/Good News

- Perrons EcoSolutions is providing biodegradable cutlery and containers for the TBCDSB. For more information about biodegradable products and collapsible portable boxes, contact Andrew and Shannon at Perrons EcoSolutions at sales@perronsecosolutions.com
- Rebecca advised that a Members' bill to ban plastic water bottles was defeated at Queen's Park.
- Jane Oldale advised Frank's Alternate Energy built a solar powered motion detector that is self-contained and not connected to the grid as part of a neighbourhood pilot project. The detector is working well.
- Cathy Sawicki advised the TBRHSC is promoting the use of reusable bags and is phasing out the use of individual plastic water bottles.

7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 21 2009 from 2-3:30 pm at La Verendrye High School.