

ZWA Team Meeting Minutes
MGM Electric
September 17 2008 2-3:30pm

In Attendance:

Patrick Fenlon, Pack Pros Plus, Chair; Randy Mehagan, TBRHSC, Vice-Chair; Lynn Duffield, Abitibi Bowater, Past Chair; Lynne LeGros, Apple Credit Union, Treasurer; Cathy Sawicki, TBRHSC, Membership; Janice Horgos, Honourary Member, Administration / Community Relations; Lenore Buzzi, Honourary Member, ExOfficio; Bill Deadman, Arclin, ExOfficio; Councillor Rebecca Johnson; Councillor Joe Virdiramo; Tom Chadwick, MGM Electric; Dan Munshaw, City of Thunder Bay; Karen Copeland, EcoSuperior; Sarah Kerton, EarthWise TB Co-ordinator; Charles Campbell, Superior Credit Union; Glenn Berst, St. Joseph's Care Group; Jim Bailey, EcoSuperior; Jane Oldale and Frank Ilczyszyn, Frank's Alternate Energy; Karen Mehagan, Boreal Solutions; Lynne Lessard, Recool; Kirsti Tasala, PARO Centre; Martha Picard, Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce; Gaetan Ayotte, Ecole de LaVerendrye; Brenda Andrew, Apple Credit Union; Lindsay Fenton, Bombardier; Joe Drcar and Claude Bourget, TB Catholic District School Board; Dennis Jarva and Nelson Lemieux, TB Public Library; John Henderson, Keen on Green; Brendan Hughes and Ken Wasky, Thunder Bay Superior Green Party; Tina Gibson, LCBO; Lucie Laframboise, Citizen Member; Melody Allaire, Alan Forbes, OLG Casino Thunder Bay; Doug Cochrane and Dan Bissonnette, Coca Cola; Greg Smith and Jason McKee, DTP

1. Welcome and Introductions – Patrick Fenlon

Patrick thanked Tom Chadwick and MGM Electric for hosting the meeting.

Educational Presentations

MGM's Fluorescent Lamp and Battery Recycling Programs: Tom Chadwick

MGM Electric was established over 20 years ago and is the only NW Ontario company to offer complete lamp, ballast and battery recycling program. In 2007, MGM recycled over 51,500 lamps reclaiming 14,500 kg glass, 177 kg metal, 200 kg phosphor and 3 kg of mercury. It only takes a 17th of a teaspoon of mercury to contaminate a 25 acre lake. MGM provides customers with an annual report of their recycled totals to confirm and support their environmental programs. MGM has also implemented several energy efficiency initiatives including air curtains to keep out the cold and motion sensors in aisles. All lighting has been changed out to 54 watt T5's and each desk has a blue box.

Sustainable Environmental Ethical Purchasing Policy: Dan Munshaw, General Manager of the City of Thunder Bay's Materials Management Department

Dan will be presenting a report to Council in early 2009 asking for its support for a purchasing policy that factors in environmental and social costs. (Cradle-to-cradle or life cycle costs) If approved, the policy would be introduced one step at a time and include items such as food products and custodial supplies. If Thunder Bay adopts SEEPP it will be on the leading edge-Calgary is the only other Canadian city to have done so. Dan will hold small information sessions for suppliers to get their feedback beginning on Sept 30th.

Zero Waste: Mission Possible: Patrick Fenlon and Janice Horgos, ZWATeam

Ontarians produce nearly one tonne of waste per person per year. We need to ask why waste is produced and what it could become. When waste is treated as a resource it becomes a valuable material. By adopting a goal of Zero Waste and adhering to Zero Waste Principles, we can identify and eliminate the waste of materials, energy and human resources, save money and achieve a more sustainable world. Zero Waste is easily understood, provides a clear endpoint goal and can be achieved through small steps. It promotes product stewardship in order to close the loop. It includes design for the environment, legislation and economic incentives, a focus on reuse and repair and increased recycling capacity. Education to make the importance and opportunities known is crucial. Zero Waste reminds us of the need for a sustainable future, promotes more rapid innovation and optimizes the entire system.

The Zero Waste Action Team has been a leader in Zero Waste in our community since 1992. There are currently close to 40 ZWATeam members; bi-monthly meetings are held from Sept. until May and include workplace tours, educational presentations and peer information sharing. By combining our human and financial resources and creating a critical mass of materials, the ZWATeam has been able to establish infrastructure for the diversion of resources from landfill that supports and creates local jobs. Examples are MGM Electric's fluorescent lamp recycling program and the Pack Pros Plus Electronic Waste Collection Depot. As a result, Thunder Bay is well positioned to participate in the Province's upcoming Stewardship Programs. Many businesses such as Brewer's of Ontario, Toyota, Interface, Inc. and Hewlett-Packard have saved millions of dollars a year in operating costs through the adoption of Zero Waste strategies. Cities around the world have adopted a goal of Zero Waste including Halifax, Toronto, Guelph, Metro Vancouver and Nanaimo. Information about how "Local Zero Heroes" are making Zero Waste work for them and how to set up waste reduction/diversion programs in your workplace or school is available at Website www.zwat.org.

2. May 21 Meeting Minutes

Rebecca Johnson moved a motion to approve the May 21 meeting minutes.
Seconded by Bill Deadman. Carried

3. Reports

Financial Report

Lynne LeGros reported an account balance of \$1634.28.

Jane Oldale moved a motion to accept the Financial Report. Seconded by Lynne Lessard.
Carried

Membership

Cathy Sawicki advised 25 membership fees have been received for 2008/09. Annual membership fees are \$60.00; cheques are to be mailed to Cathy at P.O. Box 29163, 1186 Memorial Avenue, Thunder Bay P7B 5K0

Correspondence/Community Relations

a) Janice Horgos advised the ZWATeam was asked to comment by the City on the Plastic Association's proposed 3Rs Plastic Bag Program for Thunder Bay. The ZWATeam recommended the City build on current plastic bag reduction community initiatives to

implement a 3Rs program with a focus on the use of reusable bags in order to meet the Province's goal of reducing Ontarians use of plastic bags by 50% by 2012.

b) The Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce and the ZWATeam now enjoy reciprocal membership. The ZWATeam will work with Chamber members to eliminate waste, manage resources and support local jobs and economic self-sufficiency. The Chamber will support and promote ZWATeam initiatives and feature ZWATeam Tips in its monthly newsletters. The ZWATeam shared an information display with Aqua Care Thunder Bay at the Chamber's May 21 After Business Event at Confederation College.

c) The ZWATeam participated in the planning of Lake Superior Day held at Marina Park on July 21, donated \$100.00 for a banner and provided an information display.

d) Janice attended a Self-Sustainable Thunder Bay meeting at MNDM on Sept. 11 on behalf of the ZWATeam to discuss actions to ensure our community and region's long term energy and food security. The group will meet to discuss next steps following the EarthWise CEAP presentation to Council.

d) Lake Superior Place is in the process of hiring a prime consultant to develop a Business Case and Implementation Strategy with a Triple Bottom Line approach.

4. Community Updates

EarthWise Thunder Bay Steering Committee: Lynn Duffield

The EarthWise Community Environmental Action Plan will go to Council for approval on Monday, October 6 at 6:30 pm at the Community Auditorium. Members are encouraged to attend the meeting to demonstrate community support for the Plan.

Action Item: Janice will send members a copy of the final draft of the CEAP

EarthWise CEAP Waste Section: Patrick Fenlon

The EarthWise Waste Working Group is recommending that the City of Thunder Bay adopt a goal of Zero Waste and develop and implement a comprehensive, integrated waste management plan adhering to Zero Waste Principles.

Plastic Bag Reduction Committee: Janice Horgos

The Committee's community challenge to only use reusable bags" during Environment Week was well supported by the community and local retailers. Intercity Shopping Centre hosted the media launch of the event. The Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board and several sponsors are providing all Grades 7 and 8 students with a reusable bag to reduce the use of plastic bags. The Committee is planning activities for Waste Reduction Week and is securing sponsorship for reusable bags, blue bags and waste and recycling information for this year's 2500+ Christmas Cheer Hampers.

Municipal Green Award Committee: Lenore Buzzi

6 applications have been received. Committee members will conduct audits to determine if the goals were met and select the winners. Awards provided by the City will be presented by City Council to the recipients early in 2009.

Superior Renewable Energy Cooperative Energy Wise Tour: Charles Campbell
The tour will be held on Saturday, October 4 from 10 am until 4 pm and will include homes, businesses and institutions around Thunder Bay that have taken action to reduce energy use, limit greenhouse gas emissions and save money, too. There will be a car show featuring the latest in fuel efficiency and a public BBQ at Ecole de LaVerendrye. The ZWATeam and several other community groups will have information displays in the school during the event Drinks will be available at the Nolalu EcoCentre. \$10.00 passports include the tour and a daily city transit pass; \$25.00 passports include lunch at Taiga catered by Ruby Moon and a city transit pass; \$20.00 passports provide a guided bus tour starting at the Community Auditorium and a city transit pass. (lunch not included) Passports are on sale at EcoSuperior and Maier Hardware.

5. New Business

Waste Reduction Week: Karen Copeland

Waste Reduction Week will be celebrated across Canada October 19-25. EcoSuperior, the City of Thunder Bay and the ZWATeam have several events and promotions planned throughout the week. Members are encouraged to set up special promotions/displays throughout WRW and let Karen know what you are doing so she can post your promotions and initiatives on the EcoSuperior Website. Please contact Karen at 624-2148 or karen@ecosuperior.org to take part or for more information. (letter attached) As part of its WRW celebration, the ZWATeam is working with its partners and members to hold a Waste Reduction Week Fair in the Intercity Shopping Centre's Food Court on Saturday, October 18 from 9:30 until 6pm. It will feature information on waste reduction and recycling in Thunder Bay. At the Sept. 17 meeting, ZWATeam members were provided with a "Take An Old Bag Shopping" reusable bag, a copy of the Zero Waste Business Principles and a Mr. Green Guide as part of the ZWATeam's WRW celebration.

6. Information Sharing/Good News

- Lynne Lessard advised that the Thunder Bay OLG Casino has formed a Green Team and instituted a "Bid on Green" Program
- Randy Mehagan and Cathy Sawicki advised the TBRHSC is recycling plastic wrap and other plastics; Styrofoam may be taken to UPS
- Rebecca Johnson challenged her fellow Women's Institute to reduce their use of plastic bags-they must pay 25 cents for each plastic bag used
- Sarah announced the TBPL has launched a Keen on Green @ Your Library initiative. "Footprint" cards are available at the TBPL and EcoSuperior; when you borrow books or participate in any of the "green" activities listed, you receive a stamp on your card. Full cards become a ballot for monthly prizes and a grand prize of an Energy Star laptop computer to be drawn on Dec. 18.
- Jason Mckee and Greg Smith have formed DTP "Destroy the Pollution" and will be launching a local plan to provide a fleet of waste collection bins and sell advertising on the sides of the bins in April 2009.
- Green Drinks will be held after the ZWATeam meeting at East Side Mario's

7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 19 from 2-3:30 at Confederation College.