



Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority

Regular Board Meeting

MINUTES

Meeting Date: October 6, 2020

Time: Regular Session – 4:00 PM

Location and Meeting Instructions: Meeting to take place via teleconference (no video)
Board Members and Staff will receive e-mail notification which will include telephone dialing instructions

Anyone from the public or media wishing to be able to listen to the meeting is required to send an e-mail request to the Authority's General Manager Eli Maodus at emaodus@ewswa.org by noon of the meeting date. Telephone dialing instructions will be provided. The public and media will be able to listen to the meeting but will not be allowed to participate in the discussions.

Attendance

Board Members:	Fabio Costante	City of Windsor
	Gary Kaschak - Chair	City of Windsor
	Kieran McKenzie	City of Windsor
	Jim Morrison	City of Windsor
	Ed Sleiman	City of Windsor
	Marc Bondy	County of Essex
	Aldo DiCarlo – Vice Chair	County of Essex
	Hilda MacDonald	County of Essex
	Gary McNamara	County of Essex (Ex-Officio)
EWSWA Staff:	Eli Maodus	General Manager
	Michelle Bishop	Manager of Finance & Administration
	Tom Marentette	Manager of Waste Disposal
	Cathy Copot-Nepszy	Manager of Waste Diversion
	Teresa Policella	Executive Secretary
City of Windsor Staff:	Anne Marie Albidone	Manager of Environmental Services
	Tony Ardivini	Deputy Treasurer Financial Planning
	Natasha Couvillion	Manager of Performance Measurement & Financial Administration
	Dwayne Dawson	Executive Director of Operations
County of Essex Staff:	Mary Birch	Director of Council & Community Services/Clerk
	Sandra Zwiers	Director of Financial Services/Treasurer
Others:	Stacey McGuire	Project Administrator – City of Windsor
	Kristylee Varley	AM800
Absent:	Drew Dilkens	City of Windsor (Ex-Officio)
	Cindy Becker	Financial Planning Administrator

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

2. Roll Call of Board Members Present

Marc Bondy - Yes

Fabio Costante - Yes

Aldo DiCarlo - Yes

Gary Kaschak - Yes

Hilda MacDonald - Yes

Kieran McKenzie - Yes

Gary McNamara – Yes (4:08 PM)

Jim Morrison - Yes

Ed Sleiman – Yes

The Chair asked if there were others on the call. Kristylee Varley from AM800 stated she was on the call.

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

The Chair called for any declarations of pecuniary interest and none were noted. He further expressed that should a conflict of a pecuniary nature or other arise at any time during the course of the meeting that it would be noted at that time.

4. Approval of the Minutes**A. September 15, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Moved by Marc Bondy

Seconded by Hilda MacDonald

THAT the minutes from the Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority Regular Meeting, dated September 15, 2020 be approved and adopted.

**62-2020
Carried Unanimously**

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

No items were raised for discussion.

6. Correspondence – No items

There were no correspondence items for consideration.

7. Delegations – No items

There were no delegations present.

8. Finance and Administration – No items

There were no items for discussion

9. Waste Disposal – No items

There were no items for discussion.

10. Waste Diversion**A. Essex-Windsor Blue Box Cost**

The General Manager referred to pages 10 and 11 of the agenda package. The report shows a comparison of Essex-Windsor to other municipalities. The General Manager noted that Essex-Windsor is one of the least expensive. The 2018 figures are the most recent figures from the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA) website. The General Manager stated that he chose municipalities that had the same amount of tonnage for a good comparison. The General Manager noted that Essex-Windsor rates second on the list. The General Manager noted that the average net cost of all 249 Blue Box programs among all Ontario municipalities is \$374 per tonne. The General Manager stated that in respect to the costs of the recent Processing RFP approved at the last meeting, yes, costs are higher but costs are higher across the province. The General Manager noted on page 11 the breakdown of the net cost of Essex-Windsor's Blue Box program.

Mr. Morrison stated that it was good news that Essex-Windsor is very efficient when looking at costs and revenue numbers. Mr. Morrison asked what is EWSWA doing very well and which areas are we lagging behind compared to other municipalities.

The General Manager stated since EWSWA ranked second it is probably on both the processing and the collection costs and better revenue from sale of recyclables.

Ms. MacDonald stated that she was surprised Chatham-Kent did not have higher tonnage. The General Manager stated that he thinks that it is a function of the population with Chatham-Kent at approximately 100,000 with Essex-Windsor at approximately 400,000. Mrs. MacDonald noted that she found the report very interesting.

Mr. Sleiman asked if there is any province where costs and revenue equal. The General Manager stated that he is not aware of any municipality where revenue exceeds the cost of the program.

Mr. Sleiman asked if the overall net cost of almost \$5 million is split 50-50 between the City and the County.

The General Manager stated that this will be presented at the November Board meeting during the 2021 budget deliberation. He stated that total costs of all programs are in the mid to high \$20 million range.

Mr. Kaschak stated that it is great to see where Essex-Windsor stands out compared to London.

Moved by Ed Sleiman

Seconded by Gary McNamara

THAT the Board receive the Essex-Windsor Blue Box Cost report as information.

63-2020
Carried Unanimously

B. Food and Organic Policy Statement

The General Manager referred to page 12 of the agenda package. He stated that the report is quite detailed but will provide a brief overview and pause for any questions, comments and discussion.

The General Manager stated that the purpose of the report is in response to the Board resolution at the September 15, 2020 Board meeting. He stated that the topic is very complex in regards to how the Board wishes to proceed under the Province's Policy Statement to achieve certain food and organic waste targets by 2025. He also stated that three municipalities are not compelled to have a food waste program. Those municipalities are Essex, Kingsville and Lakeshore.

The General Manager provided some background regarding the policy statement. The policy statement compels Windsor to implement curbside collection of food waste, also known as a green bin program and to achieve a diversion by 2025 of 70%. Leamington, Tecumseh, Amherstburg and LaSalle would not be compelled to have curbside collection and their diversion target is lower at 50% is lower. Although Lakeshore, Essex and Kingsville are not compelled they could choose to do so by 2025. Most of the large Ontario municipalities have food waste programs and have had them for quite some time. Some of the municipalities that do not have food waste programs are London, Chatham-Kent, Sarnia, Brantford and Norfolk County.

The General Manager stated that nothing has taken place in the last year or so after the Ministry consulted with the municipalities. The lack of processing availability and end markets continues to be a concern to municipalities. He noted that the Ministry has

acknowledged that it's been over a year without communication with municipalities and on September 30th they issued a communication advising that "guidance" will be released "in the coming months". The General Manager stated that this is the general background without getting into much detail. He stated that there isn't uniformity like the Blue Box collection where everyone receives the same level of service.

Mr. Costante thanked Administration for the report for someone like him who just started on the Board and this matter will be here soon. Mr. Costante referred to the chart on page 18 that outlines the numbers comparing Windsor and the other municipalities that require the same service. Mr. Costante would like an explanation on how the numbers are derived.

The General Manager stated that only in "urban settlement areas" would there have to be some type of collection or a depot. The Ministry states that targets have to be achieved only in the urban settlement areas. The General Manager stated that all of Windsor would be considered urban settlement. For example, the General Manager stated that pre-amalgamation Amherstburg would be considered an urban settlement area and not Anderdon or Malden. The General Manager stated that there is a definition in the report that explains what is an urban settlement area. The General Manager stated that an urban settlement area is defined as an "urban area within municipalities that are built up areas where development is concentrated and which have a mix of land uses". The General Manager stated that Amherstburg and perhaps Tecumseh, LaSalle and Leamington would not have to derive their target diversion number from their entire population.

The General Manager went on to explain how he prepared the table on page 18 of the agenda.

Mr. Costante suggested one would need to explore what the actual urban settlement areas would be in each municipality to see what the actual numbers would be and not use the numbers in the report.

The General Manager suggested that each municipality's planning department would be best able to define its urban settlement area(s).

Mr. Costante stated that he has a motion at the appropriate time.

Mr. McNamara stated that an emergency has been declared regarding climate change. He thinks the report and the timing is good and looking at the requirements in terms of our greenhouse gas reduction and looking at trying to satisfy zero carbon down the road. These are the foundational pieces if we are ever going to meet any of these requirements moving forward on climate change. This will have to be part of the solution.

Mr. McKenzie stated that he was delighted to hear the comments from the Warden and highlighting the importance to proceed with this kind of program to meet our climate

change objectives. Mr. McKenzie also added to the Warden's point that this is a fundamental building block for the region.

Mr. McKenzie stated that there are environmental benefits and understands that there will be significant costs to bring this kind of program forward. He stated that the General Manager stated that approximately 33% of household waste is food waste and understands that it does not occupy much space in the landfill. Mr. McKenzie asked the General Manager if it still stands to reason that if we were to move forward with a food waste program that will extend the life of our existing landfill. Mr. McKenzie asked the General Manager if this is correct.

The General Manager replied that this is correct.

Mr. McKenzie stated that there will be cost savings to be had but not enough to offset the cost of establishing this program but advantages of the environmental benefits.

Mr. McKenzie asked if he was also correct to say that part of the Waste Management Master Plan is that organics is a fundamental aspect or a program that we are committed to in implementing at some point.

The General Manager replied yes.

Mr. McKenzie asked if that predates the provincial mandate.

The General Manager replied yes but it was qualified as to when it is "economically feasible" and so that's why it has not been implemented to date because it has not been economically feasible. The General Manager stated that since the issuance of the Policy Statement in 2018, by the Ministry and the Province, that this has now been rendered moot in any event.

Mr. McKenzie asked would it be fair to say when looking at a tipping fees comparison that the County and the City are nearly the same? Would it be fair to suggest the amount of organic waste generated by the County as well as the City is roughly the same?

The General Manager referred to a chart of municipal refuse to landfill and stated yes that it is about the same.

Mr. McKenzie asked if it would stand to reason that organic waste would follow the same ratio.

The General Manager stated that he did not know and he would not be able to answer this with certainty.

Mrs. MacDonald stated that AMO has a task force to look at waste management and waste diversion. She has been asked to be the Chair of that task force. She noted that she hopes it will be an advantage for all - AMO and the Authority.

Mrs. MacDonald stated as most of the Board members know, there is an operation with a biodigester in Leamington. Mrs. MacDonald stated that she met with them earlier in the term to discuss as to whether they would be of value to any County municipalities when the green bin pick up starts. They are thinking towards that and they think that they will be part of that discussion.

Mrs. MacDonald stated that when we talk about the County and smaller urban density, keep in mind that many people that live in the rural areas already compost and it has always been part of their lives. She stated those numbers might not be as visible.

Mr. Kaschak asked if there is no one else that wishes to speak at this time, he will ask Mr. Costante to present the motion at this time.

Mr. Costante stated that he appreciates the report and the recommendations in the report. He stated that his motion is a bit different from the recommendations in the General Manager's report.

Mr. Costante read his motion as follows:

1. THAT the Board RECEIVE the report for the information contained within, and
2. THAT the Board APPROVE the development and implementation of a Regional Food and Organics Waste Management Plan and that the funding for such form part of the EWSWA Budget consistent with the Landfill funding model, and
3. THAT the Board APPROVE a Food and Organic Waste Working Group comprised of municipal representatives from the City of Windsor and the County of Essex as well as an Environmental Consultant for the development of the Regional Food and Organics Waste Management Plan, and
4. THAT the Corporation of the City of Windsor be responsible for all technical aspects of the Regional Food and Organics Waste Management Plan development.

Mr. Costante asked if he could get a seconder he will speak to it briefly. Mayor DiCarlo seconded the motion.

Mr. Costante stated that the fourth point of the motion is intended to be here due to the staff resources that the City has to manage the technical aspects of the plan development. He also stated that for him, fundamentally this is a climate change issue and it is a global challenge. He also stated that whatever we can do as a region is an opportunity to lead, share costs and efficiencies. When we look at the benchmark to the urban density a lot of that is open or subject to interpretation and he thinks Councillor McKenzie asked questions about the consumption and how we break this down. He also noted the comment from the Warden that 80,000 people living in Lakeshore, Kingsville and Essex don't meet the threshold seems to be somewhat paradoxical and there are thresholds for a reason but believes there are obvious gaps in them. Mr. Costante stated that when we are looking at this challenge, he doesn't think there is a better way to do this than do this as a region. Mr. Costante stated that the spirit of this motion is for it to be led through EWSWA and work with all the municipalities so that we can do this together.

Mr. McNamara stated that there is some opportunity. The federal government is forward on the climate change item and there really are some strong arguments that could be made to channel some dollars. He believes there is opportunity to secure dollars for municipalities that try to achieve government targets. He noted Windsor and Essex working collectively together to receive the dollars.

Mr. McKenzie expressed how excited and delighted regarding all the comments from the Board members for recognizing the need for climate change. He stated that we can make a significant difference through this progress. We have an obligation to tackle the various pieces and mitigate the impact of climate change.

Mr. Costante asked for a recorded vote.

Mr. Bondy stated he was trying to take notes of the motion as it was being read. Mr. Bondy stated that he would actually like to read the motion. He asked if it could be sent and read by email. Mr. Bondy stated that he does not want to commit LaSalle to something without actually reading the motion.

Mr. DiCarlo asked if the motion could be repeated so he can see what the difference was in the motion compared to the recommendations from the General Manager.

Mr. Costante asked if he should reread the motion. Mr. DiCarlo, Mrs. MacDonald and Mr. McNamara asked for the motion to be emailed to them.

Mr. Bondy stated he does not have a problem with “developing” but has a problem if we are going to start “implementing” which is item number 2. Mr. Bondy stated that he does not want to commit LaSalle to anything yet until he knows the cost. Mr. Bondy stated that if it is just to put together a working group than he has no problem but if it is to implement a program, he would like to know costs before committing to anything.

Mr. Costante replied to Mr. Bondy that the intent would be for this to be led by EWSWA through the EWSWA budget and would be consistent with the landfill funding model and would be a regional approach and include all municipalities.

Mr. Bondy replied so all the municipalities will participate through EWSWA basically through our fees regardless whether they would want to participate or not. Mr. Bondy asked the General Manager if he had any potential cost estimates for this. Mr. Bondy stated that he believes he did not see this in the report. The General Manager stated that he did not. Mr. Bondy stated that he needs some numbers before he can vote on this. He also stated that he does not want to implement anything until he gets a cost on this. Mr. Bondy stated that if it is the intent to put a group together to get a cost estimate that was fine but he cannot commit any dollars beyond that.

Mr. Morrison stated that he will be supporting this and the timing and to Mayor Bondy’s point, we could easily be looking at some kind of debt structure and we are not going to be able to tax residents to pay for all this upfront. We have to do this for many reasons

and we will have to work out the finances to make it for all municipalities to handle over a long period of time for the capital costs in putting this in place.

Mr. DiCarlo stated that from the report we are still going to create a working group and they still are going to come back with a plan with the help of a consultant. The costs are all going to come back for approval at a later date.

Mrs. MacDonald stated as she understands the motion, that this is going to be part of the EWSWA budget which is not in the recommendation in the report, isn't that correct? Mr. Kaschak replied yes it would be part of the EWSWA budget similar to recycling. Mrs. MacDonald stated she has comfort with this and using an environmental consultant for some direction. Ultimately, she stated that we could take this back to the County but does not see any harm with what is being stated here. We will still have an outside consultant; a working group and we will put into the EWSWA budget which I think is fair. She stated that she doesn't have a problem as how Mr. Costante's motion stands.

Mr. Sleiman wanted to repeat a comment and an issue that we dealt with at one time, the idea of not receiving garbage from Toronto. The Board stood together and we did not accept garbage from outside of Essex-Windsor.

Mr. Kaschak asked Mr. Costante if it would be possible for the General Manager to ask a question?

The General Manager stated in regards to the Working Group referenced in Item #3 of the motion, "THAT the Board approve a Food and Organic Waste Working Group comprised of municipal representatives from the City of Windsor and the County of Essex as well as an Environmental Consultant or the development of the Regional Food and Organics Waste Management Plan." The General Manager stated the first question relates to the Working Group as it says it is comprised of municipal representatives from Windsor and the County of Essex. The General Manager wanted clarification of what the County of Essex means. He asked if that means County of Essex Staff or staff from the municipalities that comprise the 7 County municipalities.

The General Manager stated the reason he asked the question is because the Manager of Waste Diversion, Manager of Waste Disposal, Manager of Finance and the General Manager are not County of Essex staff, they are Authority staff. There is a differentiation. The General Manager stated that there are different groups of administration - City of Windsor, County of Essex and EWSWA as well as municipal staff from the 7 county municipalities. The General Manager's recommendation was to have representatives from all those municipal staff while Item #3 says only County of Essex.

Mr. Costante offered a suggestion that the Working Group Item #3 could be subject to a recommendation from the General Manager for discussion at the next Board meeting. Mr. Costante is open to an amendment to his motion in regards to the composition of the Working Group referred to in Item #3.

Moved by Fabio Costante
Seconded by Aldo DiCarlo

1. THAT the Board RECEIVE the report for the information contained within, and
2. THAT the Board APPROVE the development and implementation of a Regional Food and Organics Waste Management Plan and that the funding for such form part of the EWSWA Budget consistent with the Landfill funding model, and
3. THAT the Board APPROVE a Food and Organic Waste Working Group comprised of municipal representatives from the City of Windsor and the County of Essex as well as an Environmental Consultant for the development of the Regional Food and Organics Waste Management Plan, and
4. THAT the Corporation of the City of Windsor be responsible for all technical aspects of the Regional Food and Organics Waste Management Plan development.

In regards to #3 above, a friendly amendment was suggested and was accepted by the mover and the seconder:

THAT the General Manager prepare a report for the consideration of the Board at its November 3, 2020 meeting and that the purpose of the report is to make a recommendation as to which municipal representatives will comprise the working group.

Recorded vote on the motion:

Gary McNamara – Support

Hilda MacDonald – Support

Marc Bondy – Do not support

Aldo DiCarlo - Support

Ed Sleiman – Support

Jim Morrison – Support

Fabio Costante – Support

Kieran McKenzie – Support

Gary Kaschak – Support

**64-2020
Carried**

11. Other Items

No other items were raised for discussion.

12. By-Laws**A. By-Law 15-2020**

Moved by Ed Sleiman

Seconded by Kieran McKenzie

THAT By-Law 15-2020, Being a By-Law to Confirm the Proceedings of the Meeting of the Board of the Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority.

**65-2020
Carried Unanimously**

13. Future Meeting Dates

Tuesday, November 3, 2020 – 2021 Budget Deliberation Meeting

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

14. Adjournment

Moved by Jim Morrison

Seconded by Gary McNamara

THAT the Board stand adjourned at 5:41 PM.

**66-2020
Carried Unanimously**

All of which is respectfully submitted.



**Gary Kaschak
Chair**



**Ilija Maodus
General Manager**