**GREN Meeting Minutes: Thursday Feb. 6, 2017**

Chair: Kevin T

Minutes: Susan K

Attending: Theo N, Bob B, Deb S, Yvonne F, Don R, Eleanor G

Regrets: John J

**Council of Canadians** - Eleanor G

* KW Chapter started October 2016
* water is a priority, here to help support Elora water taking
* had table at market re Nestle boycott
* March 22 is World Water Day and they will have table on March 18 at market (St Jacob’s or Kitchener)

**Updates:**

**GREN Visibility - SEEDS event** – Susan K

* filled the original Princess
* had 4 great panelists, lots of questions asked and answered

**LRT extension to Cambridge** – Kevin T

* Phase II open houses in Kitchener – Feb 23? Two in Cambridge following week Preferred route announced to Cambridge
* Route seems most logical
* Stations seem far apart
* Eleanor will try and attend Cambridge; Kevin will try and go to Kitchener meeting
* if LRT is successful, should a second line be put in (phase 4?)
* ION train is on its way from Thunder Bay
* The art has been picked out for the different stations

**Greenbelt Status** - Kevin, Deb, Seaun

* Crombie report that greenbelt is working, need to grab land that was leapfrogged
* Amendments being worked on final draft probably end of March 2017 – focus on how to strength current
* Separate natural heritage systems mapping for potential expansion through MNR from a southern Ontario MPP
* Hope to expand to Waterloo Region
* Bluebelt groups have banded together to advocate for expansion into areas in map in Growing the Green, Protecting the Blue document
* Kevin and eight others met with Premier Wynn on her own, some deputy mayors and Environmental Defense
* Still lots of opposition putting Wynn in difficult position
* Build (home builders alliance) blaming greenbelt policy limiting supply of land and driving up house prices truth is developers are sitting on 30 years worth of land – Neptis Foundation organization works with big data to uncover some of these truths
* Greenbelt anniversary coming up
* Over 90% of people want greenbelt expansion into Waterloo Region (Environics polls)
* What do we need to do pre-election? Consensus that Waterloo or Simcoe should be first; Waterloo is most receptive and ready. Could leapfrog Wellington through Beverly Swamp (was a mapping error) How big a priority is it?
* Some expectation that it could be expanded into Vaughn as a token gesture before election
* Regional staff are warming up to greenbelt expansion
* Need to ramp up contact with politicians to make it election issue

**Hidden Valley** – Yvonne

* Looking at rezoning and updating old Hidden Valley plan
* Planner keeping Yvonne and Gord in the loop and meeting expected with GREN people around March 7
* Hidden Valley Art Competition – WRN supporting the art show as well as rare, Neil Taylor will be an adjudicator

**Radioactive Wastes** – John J Deferred

**Municipal Garbage** – John J Deferred

* Incineration is not an option any more
* Markham is now accepting textiles, Styrofoam

**Regional Transportation Plan** – Don

* Bringing in a new fee system expense, staff – an American town calculated the cost of printing tickets, staffing etc and it was equal to the revenue they would have received
* Capital and maintenance costs. The signs in stations say cash only, but it will be cards that you tap
* LRT stations will have ticket stations
* Riga Latvia has free transit and still being analyzed for impact on ridership
* Should it be free? (check Wikipedia article List of free public transport routes for places around the world that have some or all free public transit)
* Alliance Against Poverty would be good to connect with re free public transit; have to connect early enough with politicians

**Water Taking** - Bob

* Been in contact with Wellington WaterWatchers
* Provincial moratorium on permits for 2 years – worry that the province will just increase the permit fees
* Event planned for June 11 Waterstock in Hillsburgh
* Send events to Theo to go on GREN calendar
* Environmental Defense is pushing for a deposit on bottles

**Biosolids** – Bob

* Committee with people from business, a few students, 2 preliminary meetings that are being orchestrated to status quo, expand, thermal reduction, thermal reduction with energy recovery, landfill, shipped to Sudbury for reclamation
* At least 1 year until recommendation
* This committee will not be tasked with location

**Compost burial option**

* Susan K working on option for composting human remains
* Meeting with City of Waterloo end of Feb
* Connected with Green Burial Society

**Environmental Commissioner – Facing Climate Change** –

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/o/sustainable-waterloo-region-8625401101?utm_source=eb_email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=order_confirmation_email&utm_term=orgnamemessage&ref=eemailordconf>

Sustainable Waterloo Region Event - $35

Thursday March 9, 2017 from 5 to 7 pm

Stantec

300 Hagey Blvd. #100

Waterloo

**Financial Update**: Theo

$2279.80 – website, donated $200 in memory of Daphne, $194.40 for website for the year

**Membership fees due**: $20 (students $10)

**Next meeting**

Mid April only Mondays or Thursdays