GREN Meeting Minutes Nov 21, 2019

Chair: John J

Minutes: Susan K

1. Financial Report
Greg M reported $1471.88 in account. Reimbursement of $38 approved for Greg for printing handouts of GREN position aggregates.

Donation of $100 approved for Wellington Waterwatchers.

1. Website

Patrick working on updating to make listerve and website more accessible to keep current. Assistance from Deaun and Kevin. Send content info to Deaun deaunm@gmail.com

1. Membership

Approved to keep fees as $10 students, $20 individuals, $40 groups

1. Presentations - Composting

Susan K presented update on Good Green Death Project – working to legalize individual, in-vessel composting of human bodies and using the resulting compost to plant a tree on a protected forest cemetery. See website for info [www.goodgreendeathproject.ca](http://www.goodgreendeathproject.ca)

Susan B presented the need for multi-residential buildings (apartments, condos etc) to have composting service for residents. WasteCo has calculated it would cost $8 - $10/mth for each resident to hire compost pick up. The ROW has tips for setting up composting for property managers and landlords: <https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/living-here/landlords-and-property-managers.aspx>

John J provided background and updates on Ontario’s Waste Reduction plans which continue work of previous government towards producer responsibility for waste. Recycling is a legal requirement; why not green bins? One third of Ontario waste is compostable; half of that is residential and the other half is commercial, institutional or industrial. The Region picks up waste from buildings with 6 or less units. They pick up from 160,000 households, but NOT from 40,000 apartments/condos.

Province transitioning to phase in ban starting in 2022 of putting organic waste in garbage; burning waste will still not be considered as diversion; building code will be changed to legislate inclusion of recycling and green bin in multi-unit buildings.

Action item: Send pro-active letter to MPPs supporting composting in multi-residential buildings. John to do.

1. Bill 132

Greg M presented GREN position on amendments to Bill 132 and the Aggregate Resources Act at the Standing Committee on General Government in London on Nov 21, 2019. See attached presentation. Question for all of us, “Are we being good ancestors?”

1. Provincial Waste Plan – John J shared further info on transitioning to producer responsibility – new system could see producers contracting municipalities to pick up and sort. Could also be return/deposit. Will see inclusion of multi-residential buildings and parks. John J will keep us informed for consultations in 2020.
2. Provincial moratorium extension for water-takings for bottled water

Extended 9 mths. John J will draft letter of support to province. Wellington Waterwatchers asking for environmental assessments before water taking.

1. Region of Waterloo Official Plan

GREN heavily involved in last review. Winter 2020 consultations. How do we want to grow?

Consultations scheduled for: Cambridge City Hall 4 – 8 pm, Nov 27

Wilmot Recreation Complex 4 – 8 pm, Nov 28

Heidleberg Community Centre 4:30 – 8, Dec 4

1. Hidden Valley

Gord not present. No update.

1. Kitchener Climate change grant

City has 2 main projects related to wastes – assess own buildings for waste, special events waste plans. City of Guelph has template for that.

1. Municipal Climate Change Emergency Declarations - Lulu

All local councils have declared. Cambridge declared “crisis”. Flooding, isolated and low-income seniors, buildings no longer being insurable, traffic issues, food security all tied in. Have lower revenue.

1. Federal Election

No discussion.

1. GREN positions

John J stepping down as chair, Kevin staying as Vice-chair, Greg staying as Treasurer, Susan K and Susan B staying as secretaries. No one stepped up as Chair. Discuss options.

1. Next GREN meeting: Susan K and Susan B will arrange next meeting for Jan/Feb 2020. Any interested speakers?
2. Meeting adjourned.