

January 19, 2023

The Climate Change Advisory Committee of the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met by in the Council Chambers on Thursday January 19, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Clr. Peter Boyles, Chair  
Clr. Mary Elliott, Vice-Chair  
Warden R. Parker, Ex-Officio  
Clr. Larry Turner  
Clr. D. Parker  
Ed Kennedy, Citizen Member (Video-Conference)  
Pierre Bredell

**ABSENT**

Dominic Boyd, Citizen Member  
Reggie Brightman, Citizen Member (Conflict)  
Violet McCullough, Citizen Member

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Brian Cullen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works and Development

**CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Clr. Boyles called the meeting to order and acknowledged that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

**AGENDA**

It was moved by Clr. Turner and seconded by Clr. Elliott that the agenda be approved  
Motion carried.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, were reviewed by the members of the Committee. There being no errors or omissions entered by the members of the Committee, the Chair proclaimed the minutes of the meeting of December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, as the official record of that meeting.

## **DISCUSSION: GREEN ECONOMY PICTOU COUNTY PARTNERSHIP**

Wade Tibbo from the Pictou County Partnership provided the committee with an overview of some of the activities that the Partnership has been working on in relation to the green economy. Mr. Tibbo joined the partnership after working for 10 years in the valley and is focused on the regional investment strategy. The Partnership along with Ignite have held two green tech socials to connect entrepreneurs working or developing projects with each other.

Mr. Tibbo stated that there are several companies looking at Pictou County for the development of bio-char and wood vinegar and other biomass opportunities. Clr. D. Parker stated that his understanding of bio-char is that it has very long lasting effects on the land and is a natural nutrient replacement. Mr. Tibbo agreed and stated that the wood vinegar is seen more as an organic herbicide.

Warden Parker asked Mr. Tibbo what type of industries we are focusing on in terms of the green economy. Mr. Tibbo replied that part of the green economy is looking at ways to make existing businesses more efficient, along with new opportunities in biomass in various forms and fuels. The Partnership helps businesses find incentives to make their businesses more sustainable.

Clr. Turner stated that many businesses would seem to not have the resources or time to work on ways to improve their businesses as they are so concentrated on staying in business. Mr. Tibbo stated that is where the Partnership helps the business navigate the programs. Clr. Turner as a follow up asked how this happens? Mr. Tibbo replied that it happens through referring businesses to program officers; the Partnership visits the business and offers support where it can.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the number of trees lying on the ground is making the area very attractive for biomass and that industry. Mr. Tibbo agreed that the timing of the interest is directly tied to supply.

Warden Parker stated that the green economy is not something that will develop overnight, and that Partnership is taking a leadership role and he thanked Mr. Tibbo for their efforts.

## **REPORTS**

### **TREE PLANTING PROJECT SUB-COMMITTEE**

Mr. Kennedy stated that a review of the application process for 2 billion trees does not appear to align with our level of tree planting activities unless there is a partnership opportunity with someone like the province. The Minimums included in the workbook suggests 10000 trees in an urban setting and 50000 in a rural.

The Committee discussed options and expanding the two programs that were run last year.

It was moved by Clr. D. Parker, seconded by Mr. Kennedy that the Committee recommends to the financial services committee that a budget of \$10,000 be established for tree planting activities in the 2023/24 fiscal year. Motion Carried.

### **ACTION PLAN GOALS**

The CAO referred to an email circulated in the package concerning the NSCC and a suggestion that someone from the Committee could attend their sustainability committee meeting to determine what possibilities could exist between our municipality and their committee. It was agreed that we could indicate a willingness to meet with their committee as suggested.

### **COASTAL EROSION**

Mr. McDowell indicated that it appears the province will bring in the regulations on the Coastal Protection Act in the spring of 2023. As previously discussed, there are still some concerns about who will be required to enforce these new regulations and how it will impact the building permit process in terms of grandfathering existing permits.

Clr. D. Parker asked about potential liability to the municipality around someone building to close to the shoreline and suffering a loss. The CAO replied a number of years ago an opinion was sought from the municipal solicitor on this item and the opinion was basically governments are not help liable for "acts of god" or "force majeure" claims.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE SUB-COMMITTEE**

Mr. McDowell stated that there has not been a meeting on the climate summit since we last met.

Mr. McDowell reported that our own asset management project is moving forward. The Consultants have all information from the municipality looking to get some information from the other units that will help in some of the modelling. Mr. McDowell indicated that once modelling is completed, he will present the findings to the committee and show how this will assist the municipality in planning infrastructure improvements.

**YOUTH ENGAGEMENT**

Warden Parker stated that he met with the principal of North Nova Education Centre about attracting additional youth to the committee. The Principal suggested that the Committee develop a one page synopsis of the mandate and expectations of potential members, and that she would have the document circulate.

Warden Parker asked if the education committee could develop the document for the school. The Education Committee members agreed to

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

February 23, 2023, at 7:00 pm

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Committee the Chair declared the meeting adjourned (8:30 pm)

  
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CHAIR

  
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MUNICIPAL CLERK