



CLIMATE PROTECTION WORKING GROUP MINUTES

Tuesday, November 12, 2024 – 2:00 p.m.
Council Chambers – 77 Beckwith Street North, Smiths Falls

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present:

J. Desormeaux
Mayor S. Pankow
S. Brandum
P. Au
S. Gauthier
N. Morris
L. Bradford
Councillor P. McKenna (remote)

Regrets:

Staff Present:

R. Grant, Planner I
M. Elmsley, Planning Clerk

Guests:

None

1. CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

J. Desormeaux called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and read the Land Acknowledgement.

J. Desormeaux welcomed L. Bradford to the committee and introductions were made.

A quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

Moved: N. Morris

Seconded: S. Gauthier

CARRIED: (8-0)

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Climate Protection Working Group meeting from October 8, 2024, were approved as presented.

Moved: N. Morris

Seconded: S. Pankow

Carried: (8-0)

4. DISCLOSURE OF MONETARY INTERESTS

None at this time

5. PRIORITY ISSUES

i.) Consultant – Scope of Work M2 & M3

The group discussed whether a consultant is needed to determine what our current emissions are, what our emissions reduction targets should be, and how to track our progress. It was decided that because staff do not have the expertise or capacity to make a reasonable attempt at establishing these parameters, that a consultant would be helpful. Further, that a qualified consultant will have the expertise to help guide us towards targets and actions to reduce emissions and leverage our assets to get us where we need to be.

During this discussion, the committee members asked if the climate lens tool was being used by all staff when purchasing or making decisions. The group was informed that it is not being used for various reasons. There are two climate lens tools; a larger tool available on the federal website that is designed for use for major projects or purchases (millions of dollars). The second is a smaller scale tool that is in use by various municipalities. The group decided on the following motion:

MOTION:

“THAT, in consultation with other municipalities in Lanark County, staff prepare a draft climate lens tool use policy, for review by the Climate Protection Working Group Committee.

AND, that the draft policy should include a scoring mechanism.”

Moved by: N. Morris

Seconded by: S. Brandum

Carried: (7:0)

(P. McKenna left the meeting at 2:30 p.m. as the sound was not working)

ii.) C.A.P. Update

R. Grant reviewed his report.

The recording structure of what the emissions are should be kept simple and consistent. For example, record the cost and the amount of greenhouse gas emissions only, and be specific. The group discussed possible guiding principles and equity. The different scenarios to use should be based on sewage treatment, trees, biochar, and food hub. These will be the best 4 to start with as they will be the lion's share of what the town can do to reduce emissions. Biochar was discussed as perhaps the best way to reduce emissions.

6. Project Updates

Nothing further than what was covered under agenda item #5.

7. ROUNDTABLE

S. Brandum noted that the County Climate Action Committee meets quarterly, and that Smiths Falls would benefit from having staff at the table. The Health Unit may wish to participate as well. It is unknown if the meetings are recorded. S. Brandum also advised that she was interviewed by QUEST – how rural and small-town areas and their efforts around climate action.

ACTION: R. Grant to request formal notification of the meetings and attend when able.

ACTION: M. Elmsley to circulate reports.

J. Desormeaux advised that the Health Unit is finalizing its Climate Change and Health Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment Report and hopes to have the final available for presentation at the January 2025 CPWG meeting.

8. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is December 12, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

THAT, the Climate Protection Working Group adjourn its proceedings at 3:31 p.m. and stand so adjourned until the next duly called Committee meeting.

Moved: N. Morris

Seconded: S. Pankow

Carried: (7-0)