

Minutes of WATCH meeting
Tuesday, February, 19, 2008 Oaks Inn 7 pm.

Members present: Bela Trebics Dave Courteaux Jim Hasson
Art DaCosta Kris Lee Charlotte Druer

Introduction: Bela welcomed everyone

Approval of Agenda: m. Kris Lee s. Charlotte Druer

Approval of January Minutes:

Minutes not available. January meeting was a guest presentation from Walpole Island.

Review of January meeting:

Discussion: WATCH will keep contact with the group from Walpole to make sure that they are aware of our projects.

Correspondence:

1. Northern Ethanol - on LanXess property but there is no information on location of proposed plant, public meetings, environmental issues. Jim will update group as new information arises.
2. Royal Polymers Request for Alternate Standard on Vinyl Chloride
The MOE decision has been deferred. Scott Grant would like to know if the group wishes a presentation. Agreed that Scott would be invited early spring to a meeting if the Ministry has something new to introduce.
3. Shell Open House January 22, 2008
The event was very well attended. Jim, Charlotte and Kris were there. Jack Whitford Consultants were present to answer questions throughout the room on topics ranging from engineering, roads, marine traffic, environmental, emissions. In April the submission will be sent to MOE for approval. Sulphur and benzene emissions will be lower than legal requirements in U.S. and Canada.
4. Air quality report from Heart & Stroke indicates that there is a relationship between heart disease and air quality. This is very relevant.
5. Shell Spill in January. Shell requested from the MOE a release due to lack of spill containment. Jim will follow up about Shell's old refinery site. WATCH is concerned that money will not be spent on the old site and hence the facility will be at risk for more releases to the river.
6. Imperial Oil will present in the fall on status update of construction.

Finance: No change in account

Request for a cheque: Dave Courteaux for computer domain.
Kris Lee for OEN membership.

New Business:

1. Web site Dave suggested editorials on the home page. We need individuals to write articles.

2. Wind Farms The general concern is that the wind mills are going up too fast in too many locations. We are not sure of the long term consequences. The term "clean energy" sounds as if there will be no problems or consequences. It was suggested that WATCH host a Wind Energy Panel Forum inviting both sides to give their arguments for and against. Kris to contact Sydenham Field Naturalists as possible panel guest. Bela will find someone from wind energy industry perspective.
3. Blue Ribbon International Committee attended by Jim Hasson
Jim talked about the committee's work and the involvement of the various levels of government Bev Shipley MP, Pat Davidson MP, Bob Bailey MPP, Steve Arnold Mayor. A report will be issued March 1.
4. 4 Agency Group Jim has not heard back after his presentation last fall. Will contact them.
5. Earth Hour March 29, 2008 at 8 pm reduce electricity use for an hour. Kris to contact schools and media. Congratulations to Tom McGregor for introducing this to CK Council. WATCH hopes that Council will support this event of awareness.
6. SLEA Spill Notification protocol Kris Lee will contact SLEA to get Bela as contact for spills notification.
7. IJC sanctioned scientific report states serious health effects along Great Lakes. U.S. governments are asking to suppress this information and not make it public. Jim has written a letter on behalf of WATCH supporting Herb Gray and the IJC asking the report to be released.
WATCH to write letters to IJC, BPAC and USCDC.
8. Monitoring Project This issue is still on the table. Kris will meet with Brian McDougall from St. Clair Region Conservation Authority in March to see what can be done.

Next meeting March 19, 2009

Adjourned: 9:15 pm