



## Meeting Minutes

Coordination Committee

Monday December 13, 2021, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Online Webex

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### Present:

Dr. Bruce Newbold, (Chair)

Abigail Amponsah, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Amber Daniels, Office of Energy Initiatives

Andrea McDowell, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton

Barry Duffey, Citizen

Catherine Plosz, Community Planning and Design, City of Hamilton

Dan Dobrin, Ministry of Environment & Climate Change

Fran Scott, McMaster Institute for Health Equity, McMaster University

Geoffrey Knapper, HIEA

George McKibbon, McKibbon & Wakefield Inc.

Heather Govender, Green Venture

Heidi Levitzky, HIEA

James LeMoine, Mississauga of the Credit First Nation

Jahanvi Desai, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton

John Lundrigan, ArcelorMittal Dofasco

Julie Wedzinga, Stelco

Kerry LeClair, Councillor Nann's Office, City of Hamilton

Liesel Knight-Messenger, Green Venture

Lubna Hussain, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Lucas Neil, Hemmera

Lynda Lukasik, Environment Hamilton

Mainul Husain, Health Canada

Matt Adams, University of Toronto

Nico Strabac, Mohawk College Sustainability Office

Sara Yonson, Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority

Shirook Ali, Ecosystem Informatics Inc.

Stephanie Gasko, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Spencer Skidmore, Planning and Economic Development, City of Hamilton

Tiffany Singh, Planning & Economic Development, City of Hamilton

Trevor Imhoff, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton

Timothy Hung, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

**Regrets:**

Adriano Mena, Citizen  
Alexandra Graham, Citizen  
Andrew Sebestyen, Stelco  
Brian Jantzi, Citizen  
Christine Newbold, Planning and Economic Development, City of Hamilton  
Don Curry, Public Health Services, City of Hamilton  
Dr. Denis Corr, Corr Research Inc.  
Giuliana Casimirri, Green Venture  
Kate Flynn, Mohawk College  
Katie Chan, U.S. Steel Canada  
Kayli Thorp, Mohawk College  
Ken Smith, Citizen  
Linda Campbell, Energy Office, Public Works, City of Hamilton  
Mark Smithson, Citizen  
Matthew Lawson, Public Health Services, City of Hamilton  
Myles Sergeant, Trees Please  
Natalie Stacey, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Patrick Quealey, Environment Canada  
Paul Panabaker, Energy Dimensions  
Peter Topalovic, TDM, PED, City of Hamilton  
Rachel Johnson, TDM, PED, City of Hamilton  
Rob Conley, Public Works, City of Hamilton  
Sally Radisic, Public Health Services, City of Hamilton  
Sarah Styler, McMaster University  
Shelley Rogers, Public Health Services, City of Hamilton  
Stephen Burt, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Tom Chessman, Energy Office, Public Works, City of Hamilton

**1. Introductions & Welcome**

- James LeMoine, Mississauga of the Credit First Nation
- Amber Daniels, Office of Energy Initiatives
- Heather Govender, Green Venture
- Liesel Knight-Messenger, Green Venture

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

The City of Hamilton is situated upon the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas. This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, which was an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We further acknowledge that this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

Today, the City of Hamilton is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island (North America) and we recognize that we must do more to learn about the rich history of this land so that we can better understand our roles as residents, neighbours, partners and caretakers ([source](#)).

- Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt: not only a land agreement, but also refers to sharing the land and resources; being sustainable by not taking too much from the land

### 3. Approval of November 8, 2021 Minutes

- Approved

## Presentations:

### 4. Draft Urban Forestry Strategy (15 minutes), Catherine Plosz

- Urban Forest Strategy is a community developed vision set up to outline steps that must be taken to protect and enhance our tree canopy and monitor the trees in forest in the urban area over the next 20 years
- Focus is on the urban area of Hamilton and it includes all individual trees groups of trees and woodlands and it covers both public and private property
- Trees enhance the quality of life for residents by improving air and water quality, reducing flooding in the impacts of climate change, providing recreational opportunities, mental health benefits, and habitats for wildlife.
- Timeline: Project began in 2018, since then, data has been collected, consultations have been had, and draft reports were created and reviewed through public consultation.
- Currently, we are aiming for a tree canopy target of 30% (Hamilton's current canopy cover is about 21%)
- Looking for final approval of the strategy from council in early 2022
- One of our biggest concerns was that distribution of forest cover in Hamilton is not equitable. Canopy cover is tied to soils, geography, historic and current land uses, which creates differences.
- Already working with non-governmental organizations, and conservation authorities, but want to expand partnerships with indigenous peoples, businesses, and industry.
- The Strategy identifies 26 actions and these are grouped under five themes:
  1. Inspire
  2. Act
  3. Protect
  4. Grow
  5. Adapt

### Discussion:

- Curious to know why tree cutting was happening near a McMaster University location. Would recommend the usage of signs explaining why a tree was cut down (e.g. pests)
  - Hamilton has bylaws in effect for trees on private property, however, coverage is uneven – nice to rectify in the future
  - Cannot comment on McMaster's tree removal, but this would be covered under the by-law (not if it were individual trees, but if it was in a woodland, for example)
  - Suggested strong cohesive requirements for cutting down trees

- There is no mention of street trees or boulevard trees in the recommendations that have come forward – how are these addressed in the strategy?
  - The strategy covers both public and private lands, and also focus on government-owned lands such as parks, conversation areas
  - City has by-laws for recommendations for maintenance of city trees
- Differences in Toronto and Hamilton canopy covers may depend on the differing methodologies used by municipalities
- When can we expect the strategy to be passed?
  - Looking to Q1 of 2022
- Strategy covers all urban areas – as identified in the Hamilton Official Plan
- Is there a move to retain mature canopy in new residential developments or whether it was just a replace or meet targets with new plantings?
  - The Urban Forest Strategy is very high level – it identifies future projects that the City needs to do to grow the urban forest and meet our canopy target and vision.
  - Yes, the strategy identifies the need to retain existing tree cover in new developments (see actions 8, 11, 12, and 16). It is recognized that we need to protect existing trees – we cannot meet our canopy cover target by planting alone. This will involve revising the City’s Tree Protection Guidelines to require better protection of existing trees, and developing minimum canopy cover targets for development applications, which means developers will get “credit” for retaining existing trees on site. We will also be looking at incentive programs to encourage developers to retain trees (action 3).

## **5. Air Quality Monitoring Study (10 minutes), Dr. Matthew Adams**

- Air quality monitoring study by City of Hamilton, University of Toronto, and Environment Hamilton.
- Research group is interested in urban air quality and what factors of land use end up affecting air quality
- Hamilton is a city with multiple land uses: industrial core, airport, rail, roads, port, and more
- This project is thinking about air quality exposure along a spatial perspective, by studying if air pollution is equitably distributed or if there exist socio-economic inequalities in terms of pollution exposure
- Results are looking to be published in April 2023, the project is moving fast with public outreach planned for this week.
- 15 Ward sites and 45 additional sites will be chosen (will take into account community voices)
- Passive sampling is being done in this project, monitors will be brought back to the lab for analysis.
- The timeline of this project is across all four seasons – would help identify different seasonal conditions as well
- Elysia Fuller-Thompson under Dr. Adams’ team will be conducting the field sampling, laboratory analysis, and modelling work

### Discussion:

- Locations are not picked randomly? You are looking for specific attributes?
  - Looking to select a wide variety of different land uses as well as based on socio economic factors (such as income)
  - Analysis done further down the road of the project would be greatly appreciated
- How will your air quality monitoring results be standardized according to HAMN or MECP monitoring stations?
  - Our sensors have been validated in the scientific community
  - Our sensors will be located next to organized sensors system, are almost exact when compared to MECP data at least when compared
  - This project fulfills a blind spot and would be much appreciated
- Appreciate the socio-economic dimensions in this project; quantifying inequalities would be beneficial
- For passive samplers, how are concentrations being generated based on how much air is collected?
  - Sensors developed by the Harvard group are being used, parametrization of the coefficients is already established, and we co-located with the MECP sensors to ensure nothing is off track
  - Sensors have been tested and we would confirm the data
- Would be interested in benzene data as a result of steel mills and gas stations
  - Project will also be measuring pH
- What are the next steps at the end of April 2023?
  - Academic outputs will be published
  - Working with Environment Hamilton to convey results to citizens
  - Working with the City to convey information to provincial and federal government
  - Can look into using data as a tool to motivate additional efforts if hotspots are identified
  - Use results to advocate and inform for additional air quality monitoring action plans; aligns with Clean Air Hamilton mandate to work towards the improvement of air quality based on scientific evidence.

### **6. Engagement on Air Quality Monitoring Study (5 minutes), Lynda Lukasik**

- Highlighting community aspect of the project Dr. Adams mentioned
- Attempt to hyper-localize effects of air quality; cater to the audible interest in community to get involved
- The first community session is planned for this upcoming Wednesday night, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Register at [https://www.environmenthamilton.org/local\\_air\\_quality](https://www.environmenthamilton.org/local_air_quality)
  - **ACTION:** Please share with your networks and the community
- Attendees will get an overview of the project (similar to what was just shared), hear from City staff, and will be given an opportunity to share issues and concerns to influence where the air quality monitoring sensors get located.
- Total of four community engagement events:

1. First (this week): to introduce the project
2. Second: provide a basic overview of air regulatory frameworks in Hamilton and beyond
3. Third: provide update on the project progress and glimpse of the kind of data that is being generated. Engaging in conversations for methods in which data can be shared publicly with the community in the most accessible manner
4. Fourth (and last): Details on wrapping up the project, any emerging next steps and conclusions

#### Discussion:

- Engagement with community is commendable, any knowledge-sharing to increase public awareness is excellent
- Look forward to hearing updates

#### **Discussion Items:**

##### **5. Board of Health Presentation, 2020 CAH Progress Report (5 minutes), Bruce Newbold**

- Overview of the slide deck that is going to be presented at the Board of Health meeting, on **January 10<sup>th</sup> 2022 9:30am:**
  - Covers the same info as the CAH Annual Report 2020:
    - What Clean Air Hamilton is + members
    - 2020 Funded projects
    - 2021 Projects that secured funding through RFP
    - Hamilton's Air Quality Trends 2020
    - Future Actions
- Resources:
  - For a copy of the report when finalized and to listen virtually to the Board of Health meeting please see the below links:
    - City of Hamilton BOH Committee Meeting Calendar: <https://www.hamilton.ca/council-committee/council-committee-meetings/board-health>
    - City of Hamilton YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWwjH6uRsa0TtojN8P49rw>
  - Please note that Clean Air Hamilton members can tune into the live Board of Health meeting through the City's YouTube channel. The Cisco Webex meeting link is only shared with presenters and employees who can answer questions.
  - In case of any questions/concerns, please reach out to Jahanvi Desai ([jahanvi.desai@hamilton.ca](mailto:jahanvi.desai@hamilton.ca)) or Trevor Imhoff ([trevor.imhoff@hamilton.ca](mailto:trevor.imhoff@hamilton.ca)).

##### **6. Clean Air Hamilton Forums Page Tutorial (5 minutes), Jahanvi Desai**

- Recently, emails have been very attachment-heavy (presentations, minutes, agendas). To avoid some of the inbox buildup and for an easier mainstream way to access all Clean Air Hamilton files, introducing Forums that can be accessed through the Clean Air Hamilton website: <https://cleanairhamilton.ca/>

- Steps to access:
  - Go to <https://cleanairhamilton.ca/>
  - Navigate to Members Area: <https://cleanairhamilton.ca/forums/>
  - Login using email address and password
    - Please refer to the “set up your account” email you would have received (check spam folder)
    - Click “reset password” if you already have an account (instructions may be sent to spam folder)
- Meeting materials (presentations and draft minutes) will be uploaded to the Forums pages (Events) prior to each meeting; Agenda will be sent with the meeting link via email.
- In case of any questions/concerns, please reach out to Jahanvi Desai ([jahanvi.desai@hamilton.ca](mailto:jahanvi.desai@hamilton.ca))

### **Member Updates:**

Abigail Amponsah, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

- No updates

Amber Daniels, Office of Energy Initiatives

- No updates

Barry Duffey, Citizen

- No updates

Dan Dobrin, Ministry of Environment & Climate Change

- No updates

Fran Scott, McMaster Institute for Health Equity, McMaster University

- No updates

Geoffrey Knapper, HIEA

- No updates

George McKibbon, McKibbon & Wakefield Inc.

- No updates

Heather Govender, Green Venture

- Megan Sutton has moved on to another role
- Liesel and Heather to be participating on this committee in the future

Heidi Levitzky, HIEA

- No updates

James LeMoine, Mississauga of the Credit First Nation

- Will be relaying information to Nation’s chief to get full perspective
- Well connected with the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre

Jahanvi Desai, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton

- Extended contract with the City for the next four months, will be continuing the coordination of Clean Air Hamilton
- City of Hamilton achieved a Carbon Disclosure Project score of B
- If any questions about Clean Air Hamilton, new forums system, or interested in presenting to the committee, please reach out at [jahanvi.desai@hamilton.ca](mailto:jahanvi.desai@hamilton.ca)

John Lundrigan, ArcelorMittal Dofasco

- No updates

Julie Wedzinga, Stelco

- No updates

Kerry LeClair, Councillor Nann's Office, City of Hamilton

- No updates

Liesel Knight-Messenger, Green Venture

- Completed a Fresh Air for Kids visit recently

Lubna Hussain, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

- No updates

Lucas Neil, Hemmera

- No updates

Lynda Lukasik, Environment Hamilton

- No updates

Mainul Husain, Health Canada

- No updates

Nico Strabac, Mohawk College Sustainability Office

- Accepted a position with the Centre for Climate Change Management, Mohawk College
- Home Energy Retrofit program:  
<https://takeactionburlington.ca/2021/05/28/climate-change-its-not-just-about-city-hall-but-we-can-help/>
- Feasibility is being assessed, will be sharing report once finalized

Shirook Ali, Ecosystem Informatics Inc.

- Started scans in the City for air quality monitoring project
- Look forward to sharing results

Stephanie Gasko, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

- No updates

Spencer Skidmore, Planning and Economic Development, City of Hamilton



- No updates

Tiffany Singh, Planning & Economic Development, City of Hamilton

- No updates

Trevor Imhoff, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton

- No updates

Timothy Hung, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

- No updates

*Clean Air Hamilton wishes you a safe and restful holiday break 😊*

### **Next meeting**

**January 10, 2021**

**3:00-5:00pm**

**WebEx**