



MINUTES
SPECIAL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

August 25, 2015
9:00 a.m.
City Council Chambers

Action

Present: Mayor D. Canfield
Councillor R. McMillan
Councillor D. Reynard
Councillor L. Roussin
H. Lajeunesse, Deputy Clerk

Regrets: Councillor M. Goss
Councillor S. Smith
Councillor C. Wasacase

~ ~ ~

1. Lieutenant Governor of Ontario Official Civic Visit

Mayor Canfield called the meeting to order and The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, signed the guestbook.

Todd Sellers, Executive Director and Kelli Saunders, Watershed Coordinator of the Lake of the Woods Water Sustainability Foundation (LOWWSF) gave a presentation on the achievements in international watershed governance and cooperative water quality research within the Rainy-Lake of the Woods watershed. The LOWWSF is a bi-national board of directors with a policy to develop community and political support bi-nationally for cooperative action to protect and sustain our lake. LOWWSF initiates and coordinates research partnerships with various agencies and groups at various levels to solve the water quality issues of the Lake of the Woods watershed.

An overview of the Lake of the Woods water basin was given and a map was shown of the boundaries which extend over the international border. The joint responsibility of the partners of the lake and the key to a sustainability plan was explained. An International Watershed Board is in place and they now have key baseline research complete due to the Water

Quality Plan of Study, that has been put together by the International Joint Commission (IJC) to move from research to action. The Water Quality Plan of Study is a very important document and is currently under consideration by the governments of all levels on how to proceed and how to fund. Word on how to proceed from the governments is anxiously awaited by all partners.

A diagram was shown illustrating the overlap of international, regional and local efforts. It was stressed that these partnerships and linkages drive the program and contribute to its success. An overview of the events and accomplishments that have happened to date was given, showing the positive progress that has been made over the past ten years and how close the ultimate goal now is.

Lieutenant Governor Dowdeswell thanked Mr. Sellers and Ms. Saunders for their presentation and congratulated them on their efforts. She explained that the excitement for her in this is that it is so illustrative of the themes of her mandate in Ontario and the world, and she related to their work as has spent time in her past experiences working on similar issues on the Great Lakes. She agreed that there is a long way from planning to implementation and in ten years they have accomplished a lot. Getting citizens involved in taking care of the environment and being engaged is the key to long term success. Aboriginal relations are also important in achieving this. The theme of sustainability is important and it needs to be made sure that communities recognize this. Her Honour indicated that she will use the information in future moving forward and when sharing stories amongst communities, adding that issues are not solvable without working together, especially when related to the environment.

Mayor Canfield thanked Mr. Sellers and Ms. Saunders for attending and the meeting closed at 9:40 a.m.