

The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes
Minutes
Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting

EAC2026-003
Friday, March 13, 2026
2:00 P.M.
Electronic Participation Meeting

Members:
Councillor Pat Warren
Virginia Colling
Kathleen Cooper
Josh Feltham
Danielle Marcoux-Hunter
Jamie Morris
Deborah Pearson
Dr. Peter Petrosoniak
David Ryrie
Barry Snider
Robert Stavinga
Christine Szabados

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1. Call to Order

In attendance: Councillor P. Warren (arrived 2:30 p.m.), V. Colling, K. Cooper, J. Morris, D. Pearson, P. Petroseniak, B Snider, R. Stavinga, C. Szabados (arrived 3:30 p.m.)

Absent: J. Feltham (Fleming College), Danielle Marcoux-Hunter (Kawartha Region Conservation Authority), D. Ryrie

Staff: J. Stephens (Planning Officer – Environmental Policy), Robyn Carlson (City Solicitor), Nancy Ord (Administrative Assistant)

Chair person called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

The Land Acknowledgement was read:

The City of Kawartha Lakes respectfully acknowledges that we are situated on the Mississauga lands and the traditional territory covered by the Williams Treaties.

We are grateful for the opportunity to work here and we thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this land – for thousands of years. We recognize and deeply appreciate their historic connection to this place. We also recognize the contributions of Metis, Inuit and other Indigenous peoples, both in shaping and strengthening this community and country as a whole. This recognition is connected to our collection commitment to make the promise and the challenge of Truth and Reconciliation real in our community.

Further review was recommended on reading the Acknowledgement once per year following City Council's example (preferred by several members) or at the beginning of each CKLEAC meeting and that alternative wording be considered.

J. Stephens was requested to follow up with the Clerk on the acceptability of revising and shortening the wording.

2. Administrative Business

2.1 Adoption of Agenda

EAC2026.012

Moved By J. Morris

Seconded By K. Cooper

That the Agenda for the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of March 13, 2026 be adopted as presented.

Carried

2.2 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest disclosed.

2.3 Adoption of Minutes

EAC2026.013

Moved By P. Petrosoniak

Seconded By V. Colling

That the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of February 12, 2026 be received and adopted.

Carried

3. Deputations/Presentations

3.1 Tree By-law Update (Robyn Carlson, Solicitor)

R. Carlson (City Solicitor) reported the following:

- City Council approved a tree by-law in September 2024 to enhance protection of trees on City property and to discourage individuals from removing trees on city-owned property.
- Inventory of shoreline owned by the City, the Conservation Authority, Nature Conservancy, Parks Canada or other environmental interest, is underway with GIS & Mapping Division (Geographic Information System). The inventory will be the basis for policy creation and shoreline management for water protection and will inform if sufficient/surplus City shoreline holdings exist to enable meeting of protective goals. Review is underway of acquisition policies and shoreline holdings for asset management.
- Council's 2024 direction for a Tree By-law for private lands proceeding through planning applications for new development, and has been slowed due to the potential impact on the development community of tariffs, budget pressures arising from the 2025 hail storm and forest fires, and the need to hire an urban forester. Other related projects have also been

delayed (Urban Tree Programme and working with Fleming College to pool resources).

- Work is focusing on itemizing the existing shoreline and investigating options of disposing City land vs retention more land by the City for conservation purposes.

Questions raised included:

- The need to get on with preparation of a Tree Protection by-law that addresses private property and that surrounding municipalities currently have such by-laws. Concern about tree removal occurring along shorelines and the need to address selective cutting for new developments areas, rules for cutting trees, shoreline tree cutting and woodlots/wetlands
- The Parks & Recreation Division did not support CKLEAC's past motion to use the Tree Canopy fund as an incentive programme to plant trees. The Division preferred to use the funds to leverage additional funding opportunities and pointed to loss of control to monitor maintenance/health/protection of trees funded on private property and that the Conservation Authority has successful programmes to encourage planting trees on private property.
- The creation of two urban arborist positions with varying roles is proposed with one position currently filled. The second position may be filled between October and December 2026 but may be pushed to 2027 if budget pressures continue.
- The City can plant/replant trees on its road allowances and an inventory will not include trees on road allowances that have been removed in the past.
- Environmental Action Bobcaygeon (EAB) is investigating a grant from Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to do an urban tree plan for all of Kawartha Lakes and which will include planting of trees. They will be partnering with the City's Parks and Recreation Division for this work.
- Other municipalities could be approached to determine if their by-laws go beyond restoration and include the prevention of tree loss and destruction of wetlands and upland forests.
- Council's past direction was to narrow the scope to control cutting trees on private development lands and a 2/3 vote of Council would be required to expand Council's direction to all private property. The Solicitor shared a

screen which informed on the details of Council's approvals and indicated implementation has been held up by budgetary restraints, staffing issues, ensuring the City can enforce an expanded by-law and timing in an election year.

- The definition of "development" reflects the Planning Act and its regulations for processing of various planning applications. Further review will be undertaken regarding building on a single existing lot.
- Protection of ANSI (Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest) and Class 1 wetlands is referred to in the Planning Act for development applications and offenses fall under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Authority (for wetlands greater than ½ hectare) and the Ministry of Natural Resources (except where the Conservation Authority exists and covering some northern areas of Kawartha Lakes). The City also has a Site Preparation By-law for any site that is disturbed (i.e., soil removal, dumping trees or aggregates) and where there is no planning application.

K. Cooper volunteered to investigate and undertake research with Staff and other experts on expanding existing by-laws to inform CKLEAC further and to develop a report to Council on the issues raised.

R. Carlson left the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

4. Correspondence

No correspondence was presented.

5. Action Item Updates

5.1 Climate Change Strategy - Progress Update

J. Stephens reported March 31, 2026 has been scheduled for a full day in person meeting of the CCS Adaptation Team, which includes community engagement. An ICLEI prepared agenda will be circulated. The CCS Mitigation Team meeting date will be clarified but that ICLEI intends the Team meetings to be completed before summer. Consideration is underway for hybrid meetings (both digital and in-person).

The details of the meetings will be shared to those that may have missed the Team meetings.

5.2 2026 Work Plan - Status Update

J. Stephens reported that Council's Committee of the Whole has approved CKLEAC's 2026 Work Plan being presented to City Council for approval on March 24, 2026.

As of March 13, 2026, CKLEAC has \$4261 remaining in its 2026 budget (after payment of fees for annual Bee City membership and Kawartha Bird Control inventory).

CKLEAC was reminded that the Director, Development Services must approve any expenditures before work is undertaken or commitments made to vendors/suppliers

6. New or Other Business

6.1 Advertising Budget Discussion - Environmental Hero and Bee a Hero Awards

Discussion focused on expanding advertising for the Bee a Hero and Environmental Hero Awards programmes to encourage greater participation. The discussion included:

- Quotations from local newspapers and options involving the City's Communications Division.
- Investigation of radio ads and reference to Kawartha Region Conservation Authority's success in using radio ads to encourage participation in its programmes. A radio ad is estimated at \$504 + HST for a 30 second ad.
- Including notice in the City's "Municipal Bulletin" in the Kawartha Lakes Weekly newspaper at an estimated cost of \$250.
- Earth day (April 22, 2026) be the date to invite nominations until the closing date of August 31, 2026 and with certificate being presented at Council's last meeting in October 2026.
- J. Stephens was directed to clarify the procedures for a radio ad and to investigate adding pictures for paper ads. A quote from one or more CKLEAC members was requested for inclusion in a news release to support City published social media posts.
- Stephens was directed to discuss further with the Director, Development Services raising the Awards programme and Earth Week events with the Senior Management Team to encourage a corporate wide effort.
- That award recipients would not be presented with a monetary reward but a certificate signed by the Mayor and Councillor presented at a regular Council meeting.

EAC2026.014**Moved By** V. Colling**Seconded By** C. Szabados

That radio ads and notice on the City's "Municipal Bulletin" in the Kawartha Lakes Weekly newspaper be used to advertise Bee a Hero and Environmental Hero awards programmes for a total cost of up to \$750 plus HST.

Carried**EAC2026.015****Moved By** C. Szabados**Seconded By** B. Snider

That a Certificate of Recognition be awarded to Bee a Hero and Environmental Hero recipients.

Carried

6.2 City of Kawartha Lakes Communications for CKLEAC

J. Stephens suggested additional speakers be invited for CKLEAC meetings:

- City's Communications, Advertising and Marketing Division
- Kawartha Region Conservation Authority ALUS (Alternative Land Use Strategies) representative Joshua Noiseaux (Agricultural Stewardship Technician) on nature-based solutions delivered by farmers for the April 16th CKLEAC meeting.

7. Next Meeting

Thursday, April 9, 2026 is CKLEAC's next scheduled meeting commencing at 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment**EAC2026.016****Moved By** C. Szabados**Seconded By** P. Petrosniak

That the meeting be adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Carried