

London Development Institute

June 7, 2012

By Email

City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue
London, Ontario
N6A 4L9

Attn.: Mayor Fontana & Members of City Council

Re: Civic Works Committee Agenda, May 29, 2012, Consent Items #1 & #2

Dear Mr. Fontana and Members of Council,

We note that Item Nos. 1 and 2 of the Civic Works Committee agenda, May 29, 2012 recommends spending a total of \$766,000.00 for The Central Thames and Pottersburg Creek Subwatershed Study Updates. This spending is in addition to a previously approved recommendation to complete the Mud Creek Subwatershed Update for \$200,622.40 in the January 23, 2012 Civic Works Committee agenda. This money is further to the Climate Change Adaptation Studies completed by the University of Western Ontario (UWO) and considered at the Built and Natural Environment Committee (BNEC) meeting on July 18, 2011.

We request you to reconsider the approval of the expenditure of the significant amounts of money associated with Items #1 and 2 for the following reasons.

1. Subsequent to a public information session on the Climate Change Adaptation Studies held in November of 2011, City Manager, Jeff Fielding understood that the Development Industry, the UTRCA and various Engineering Consultants had valid concerns with the Climate Change Strategy. It was agreed at that time that further dialogue would occur and it was suggested the a "Climate Change Summit" would be held before any subwatershed study updates were initiated (see attached emails from Mr. Fielding).
2. The Climate Change Adaptation study indicated that the computer model used as the basis of the study would be available for public review. The model has been requested by the UTRCA and Engineering

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Consultants for review but the Climate Change Consultant at UWO refuses to release them at this time. This seems inappropriate that the model is not available for review considering the impact the adaptation policies will impose on future City capital budgets and the development charges by-law.

3. The City has initiated the Mudcreek Watershed Study using the increased rainfall intensity curves recommended in the Climate Change Study and should wait for the completion of the study to determine if the changes found warrant reviewing the other subwatershed studies.
4. We understand that the City is now considering the preparation of a City-wide Stormwater Management Master Plan as previously described in the 2009 DC Background Studies. It would be more appropriate to combine the climate change adaptation work with the Stormwater Master Plan.

We wish to have further consultation and input on stormwater management planning and the sources of financing for this work. There appears to be no formal comprehensive stormwater management plan or financial analysis for this work while approximately \$1,000,000.00 in new study spending will have been authorized in the past 6 months.

Please note that most of the money being spent on the climate change strategy at this time is from the tax base not the development charges fund. It is prudent for you to consider the capital budget and development charge implications in approving the studies proposed on the Council agenda today when a Stormwater Master Plan is being proposed to be completed for the whole of the City.

Sincerely,

London Development Institute



Jim Kennedy
President, LDI

cc LDI Members
cc John Braam, City Engineer
cc Peter Christiaans, Finance

Jim Kennedy

From: Fielding, Jeff
Sent: November 11, 2011 12:53 PM
To: McNally, Patrick; Stanford, Jay; Braam, John
Cc: Kalmar, Faren
Subject: Summit on Climate Change

Hey Guys!

I got an idea – what if we engage local experts, industry and business leaders, community advocates, and politicians on this topic in a ‘summit format’? I’d like to discuss. I will ask Faren to arrange.

Thanks

Jeff Fielding
CAO
City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue
London, ON
N6A 4L9

Jim Kennedy

From: Fielding, Jeff
Sent: November 11, 2011 12:47 PM
To:
Cc: 'Jim Kennedy'
Subject: FW: Climate Change

Joe – agree?

Jeff Fielding
CAO
City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue
London, ON
N6A 4L9

From: Jim Kennedy
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2011 12:22 PM
To: Fielding, Jeff
Subject: Climate Change

Hi Jeff,

I think your suggestion for a summit regarding Climate Change is relevant for all concerned but I would suggest that we have a meeting prior to a summit to review issues to be discussed, set expected outcomes and to prepare an agenda for the meeting.

Some key questions follow:

- Who to attend; MOE, UTRCA, City, LCEO, UWO, Planning, DABU, Finance, LDI?
- Should the meeting be held in Camera?
- How many dollars are left in the initial budget set for this work by Council in 2007?
- What is the budget to complete the studies listed in Item 47.(d) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v) of the Council resolution from July 25, 2011?
- What is the expected outcome of the studies listed above and how will they be implemented?
- Who is responsible for climate change issues; Federal Government, Provincial Government, Conservation Authority or local municipality?
- London's role in Climate Change, should it be considered on a watershed basis?
- Economic impact for the City and future Development Charges, Growth/Non-growth?
- Consider recommendation 3. Of Section 4.2 from the report on IDF Curves by UWO that an economic analysis should be performed to justify the necessary investment the change will require.

We do not deny climate change is happening but we need to consider all of the implications of the work being proposed in the Council resolution and to have a firm belief in the science involved.

Jim Kennedy
President
London Development Institute