

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held on **Thursday, April 20, 2017** in City Council Chambers at 10:00 a.m. with the following attendance:

PRESENT:	Chair	B. Mearns
	Councillor	L. Iwaskiw
	Mayor	C. Spearman
OTHERS:	Director of Infrastructure	D. Hawkins
	Waste and Recycling Services Manager	D, Schaaf
	Committee Assistant	D. Sarsfield
ABSENT:	Councillor	J. Mauro

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by the Chair B. Mearns.

1. Approval of Agenda

A draft agenda for the meeting was circulated.

L. IWASKIW:

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

2. Approval of December 15, 2016 Minutes

Draft minutes for the December 15, 2016 Meeting were circulated.

C. SPEARMAN:

THAT the Minutes of the December 15, 2016 Meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED

3. Lethbridge State of the Environment – Benchmarking Report, Kathleen Sheppard, Executive Director, Environment Lethbridge

The State of the Environment report explores key indicators so that the City can better understand their environment, the strengths they have within their community and the weaknesses they face as the City works towards becoming more sustainable. By looking at these indicators, Lethbridge's strengths and weaknesses can be assessed.

The seven themes that the report focused on were:

1. Biodiversity
2. Local Food
3. Water
4. Air
5. Waste
6. Energy
7. Climate Change

In some areas, data gaps prevented Environment Lethbridge from drawing conclusions about Lethbridge's environmental health. These gaps have been noted as priorities for future data collection. These included:

- Wetlands
- Native grasslands
- Species at risk
- Water temperature
- Stormwater quality
- Nitrogen dioxide
- Vehicle emissions data

Recommendations by Environment Lethbridge were as follows:

- Improving the condition of riparian areas along the Oldman River;
- Controlling invasive species, particularly in areas of native grassland, wetland and riparian habitats;
- Supporting native pollinators by encouraging the planting of pollinator friendly species and the preservation of remaining native habitat;
- Reducing the amount of food waste that enters the landfill;
- Monitoring and planning for decreasing water flows in the Oldman River;
- Working with regional and provincial representatives to develop regional strategies to improve air quality;
- Encouraging increased use of green transportation options such as transit, cycling and walking;
- Developing cycle-friendly pathways and commuter options through the Cycling Master Plan; and
- Planning for and adapting to changes that will be caused by climate change

Questions focused on the following:

- Meaning of symbols used throughout the report;; for instance, red means that the City can improve and/or a comparison with other places is unfavourable
- Next steps for the City and its citizens
- The implementation of the River Valley Master Plan
- Water rates and its impact on water usage
- Measurement of climate change as viewed through impact on insurance claims
- Amount of food wastes and diversion strategies

A copy of the State of the Environment Benchmarking Report is available at Environment Lethbridge's website.

C.A.SPEARMAN:

THAT the Lethbridge State of the Environment Benchmarking Report be received and filed.

CARRIED

4. Business Recycling Strategy, Alex Singbeil, Waste Reduction Consultant

Alex Singbeil presented a report on the Industrial, Commercial, Institutional, Construction and Demolition (ICI and CD) programs. Some of the highlights included the following:

- Hosted the Alberta Coordinated Action for Recycling Enterprises Conference
- Presented to over 150 business delegates to the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce - Opportunity South Conference on “The Material Efficiency Opportunity” highlighting opportunities for businesses to reduce waste and for entrepreneurs to start businesses in waste collection, processing and recycling
- Diverted over 2000 tonnes of asphalt shingles through incentive of differential tipping fee, and source separation by roofing contractors.
- Made one to one contact with over 100 businesses, approximately a dozen business associations and major institutions
- Overall business waste is down primarily due to the drop in CD waste generated in 2016

Questions focused on the following:

- Relationship between housing starts and amount of demolition material generated
- Opportunity for biomass for the City of Lethbridge
- Vendors environment impact strategy
- Restaurant sector response

L. IWASKIW:

THAT the Business Recycling Strategy Annual Report be forwarded as a presentation to City Council.

CARRIED

5. Residential Curbside Strategy Update, Dave Schaaf, Waste and Recycling Manager

An update on the Curbside Recycling Project was provided by Dave Schaaf. The Materials Recovery Facility will be located at the Waste and Recycling Centre, based on a siting exercise evaluation. Construction is expected to start by this Fall.

An update will be provided to City Council.

Questions focused on the following:

- Strategies used by other municipalities
- Evolution of the materials recovery facility
- Radio frequency identification tags

6. Dates and Times for Future Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, June 15, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 Noon.

7. Adjournment

L. IWASKIW:

THAT the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE ASSISTANT

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held on **Thursday, September 21, 2017** in City Council Chambers at 10:00 a.m. with the following attendance:

PRESENT:	Chair	B. Mearns
	Councillor	L. Iwaskiw
	Councillor	J. Mauro
	Mayor	C. Spearman
OTHERS:	Director of Infrastructure	D. Hawkins
	Waste and Recycling Services Manager	D, Schaaf
	Committee Assistant	D. Sarsfield

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by the Chair B. Mearns.

1. Approval of Agenda

A draft agenda for the meeting was circulated.

L. IWASKIW:

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

2. Approval of April 20, 2017 Minutes

Draft minutes for the April 20, 2017 Meeting were circulated.

C. SPEARMAN:

THAT the Minutes of the April 20, 2017 Meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED

3. Lethbridge Corporate Environmental Sustainability Initiative Update

Stephanie Vehnon, Mandi Parker, and Joel McDonald, Members of the Lethbridge Corporate Environmental Sustainability Initiative (CESI) provided an update on their actions. The Corporate Strategic Plan outlines that employees of the City of Lethbridge are expected to:

- Conduct work in a manner that values, protects and enhances our natural assets (air, land, water and natural features) for future generations
- Consider the impact on the environment, both positive and negative, in our approach to business
- Take responsibility to learn from the community and to ensure that these matters are considered in our decisions

Five pillars serve as guiding principles for the initiative. They are: leadership, people, performance, continuity, and accountability. There are four focus areas:

- Targets – measurable and achievable targets will be identified along with reporting methods

- Integration – environmental sustainability will be integrated throughout the organization within practices, processes, and policies
- Research and development – research will inform on best practices, risks, available resources and a resource library will be compiled
- Relationship building – multiple perspectives of the City of Lethbridge staff will be considered and relationships will be developed and maintained at a cross-functional level.

Targets were developed for waste and air by the Action Team; they will be developed for nature and ecosystems as well as water.

The recommendations included:

- Each business unit to report on environmental efforts during each business planning cycle;
- Each business unit states at least one environmental action they are pursuing in the annual report
- The Natural Leaders Professional Development Program be considered as a learning opportunity for employees within each business unit
- City to apply for Federation of Canadian Municipalities grant funding for up to 80% funding for a two year term position in Fall, 2017
- The current CESI Teams stay as support and guidance for direction of the Phase 1 Action Plan
- Communications and CESI Teams work to communicate environmental awareness and education across the corporation

Questions from the Environment Committee included:

- Status of benchmarking and targeting
- Tours of Flexahopper solar project
- Pilot project at Enmax
- Addition of blue and green carts at public outdoor events
- Review of the waste audit that was done at City Hall
- Bike share program
- Existing programs in other municipalities
- Environmental review to establish new policies and practices
- Funding for new position

4. Lethbridge State of the Environment – Annual Report, Kathleen Sheppard, Executive Director, Environment Lethbridge

Environment Lethbridge conducted a State of the Environment report on thirty-two different indicators in seven environmental categories. Designed as a baseline to track future environmental action, the State of the Environment report summarizes the current status of Lethbridge's environmental health.

Other events included Environment Week, Seedy Saturday, Green Superheroes Celebration, Reuse Rendezvous, and Community Garden Network.

A financial statement for Environment Lethbridge was circulated as well.

5. Property Assessed Clean Energy Program

Leigh Bond, Threshold Energies Corporation, outlined the Property Assessed Clean Energy. It is a proposed financing tool which building owners can use to upgrade the energy performance of their buildings with no money down, and with the financing repaid through an assessment on their property's tax bill.

The Municipal Government Act currently does not allow the financing costs to be placed on a property.

L. IWASKIW:

THAT Administration review the PACE Program, reporting back to City Council by April 1, 2018.

CARRIED

6. Environment Committee Final Report

An end of term report from the Environment Committee will be filed with City Council.

7. Adjournment

L. IWASKIW:

THAT the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE ASSISTANT

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**, held on Friday, May 25, 2018, starting at 1:00 p.m. in the City of Lethbridge Council Chambers with the following in attendance:

MEMBERS: Councillor Mark Campbell
Councillor Jeff Carlson
Councillor Rob Miyashiro

OTHERS: Doug Hawkins, Director of Infrastructure
Joel Sanchez, Waste and Recycling Services Manager
David Sarsfield, Committee Assistant

ABSENT: Councillor Joe Mauro

Call to Order by the Committee Assistant at 1:10 p.m.

Election of Committee Chair:

Nominations were called for the position of Chair of the Environment Committee.

COUNCILLOR J. CARLSON:

THAT Councillor R. Miyashiro be nominated as Chair for the Environment Committee.

The nomination was accepted. There were no further nominations.

COUNCILLOR J. CARLSON:

THAT nominations cease.

CARRIED

Councillor Miyashiro was declared elected as Chair of the Environment Committee and took over the Chair.

Election of Vice-Chair:

Nominations were called for the position of Vice-Chair of the Environment Committee.

COUNCILLOR J. CARLSON:

THAT Councillor M. Campbell be nominated as Vice-Chair for the Environment Committee.

The nomination was accepted.

COUNCILLOR J. CARLSON:

THAT nominations cease.

CARRIED

Councillor Carlson was declared elected as Vice-Chair of the Environment Committee.

Review and Approve the Agenda:

COUNCILLOR J. CARLSON:

THAT the May 25, 2018 Environment Meeting Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

Approval of September 21, 2017 Minutes:

The September 21, 2017 Minutes were circulated.

COUNCILLOR J. CARLSON:

THAT the September 21, 2017 Minutes be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

Review of Work:

The Final End of Term Report for the Environment Committee along with the current Terms of Reference and Financials were presented.

COUNCILLOR J. CARLSON:

THAT the reports be accepted as information.

CARRIED

Presentations:

Environment Lethbridge

Kathleen Sheppard, Executive Director, Environment Lethbridge provided the Committee with an update on their activities. They included:

- Entered into a three year funding agreement with the City of Lethbridge in 2015;
- Completion of a State of the Environment Report for the City of Lethbridge;
- Development and implementation of programs focusing on providing opportunities for residents to learn about sustainability, to take action to become more sustainable and on celebrating and promoting positive examples of environmental sustainability in Lethbridge
- Support from a diverse group of community partners

Environment Lethbridge has requested an extension of the funding for an additional four years:

2018 – 2019	\$ 80,000
2019 – 2020	\$ 75,000
2020 – 2021	\$ 70,000
2021 – 2022	<u>\$ 65,000</u>
Total	\$290,000

It was proposed that the request for funding be referred to the City Council.

COUNCILLOR J. CARLSON:

THAT the Environment Committee recommend the following:

- That Environment Lethbridge be requested to make a presentation at the June 11, 2018 City Council meeting;
- That Environment Lethbridge be provided funding for 2018; and
- That the request for funding for 2019-2021 be referred to the Finance Committee for consideration when the Operating Budget is deliberated.

CARRIED

ISI Waste Diversion

Alex Singbeil, Waste Reduction Consultant, presented the 2017 Annual Report for the Waste Diversion Implementation Strategy. Some of the highlights included the following:

- Opened commercial drop off
- Identified solutions to expanded polystyrene foam recycling
- Created a database to record progress in awareness raising activities, evaluating adoption rates of reduction and diversion practices
- Diverted over 15 tonnes of material for the seat replacement retrofit at Enmax Centre from the landfill
- Increased amount of Industrial, Commercial, Institutional (ICI) waste in landfill compared to 2016
- Decreased amount of construction and demolition (C & D) waste in landfill compared to 2016

The focus in 2018 is on paper and cardboard recycling in ICI as well as encouraging solutions for organics. It is proposed to revise the Waste Diversion Policy by revising the waste disposal targets. The Strategy may also be changed to reflect the implementation schedule for residential processing development.

Surcharges are proposed for C & D designated materials as well as paper and cardboard for all sectors.

Questions from the Environment Committee included the following:

- Success stories being shared with Environment Lethbridge
- Reaction to the upcoming surcharges
- Comparable cities are based on population base
- Balance between revenue received at the landfill and participation in the recycling program
- Impact of commercial wastes being pretreated before being processed at the wastewater treatment plant
- Type of infrastructure required for organics
- Type of policies to encourage a lesser amount of organics to be disposed
- Changes that are proposed to the waste diversion policy and strategy
- Comparison of tipping fees with other municipalities
- Recycling of pizza boxes
- Alternate means of disposing of styrofoam

The ICI Strategy will be tentatively scheduled for the June 18, 2018 Community Issues Committee Meeting.

Next Meeting Dates

Future meetings of the Environment Committee will be set as the need warrants.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**, held on Friday, October 19, 2018, starting at 10:30 a.m. in the City of Lethbridge Council Chambers with the following in attendance:

MEMBERS: Councillor Mark Campbell
Councillor Jeff Carlson
Councillor Rob Miyashiro

OTHERS: Doug Hawkins, Director of Infrastructure
Joel Sanchez, Waste and Recycling Services Manager
David Sarsfield, Committee Assistant

ABSENT: Councillor Joe Mauro

Call to Order by Chairman R. Miyashiro at 10:30 a.m.

Review and Approve the Agenda:

COUNCILLOR J. CARLSON:

THAT the October 19, 2018 Environment Meeting Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

Approval of May 25, 2018 Minutes:

The May 25, 2018 Minutes were circulated.

COUNCILLOR J. CARLSON:

THAT the May 25, 2018 Minutes be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

Environment Lethbridge:

Kathleen Sheppard, Executive Director, Environment Lethbridge provided information about their budget initiative. Questions asked by the Committee included the following:

- Linkage between Corporate Environmental Sustainability Initiative (CESI) and Environment Lethbridge
- Linkage between Environment Committee and Environment Lethbridge
- Updating of the Environment Initiative
- one-time funding for the initiative

COUNCILLOR M. CAMPBELL:

THAT the Environment Committee support the proposed initiative of Environment Lethbridge for the 2019 – 2022 Operating Budget and that the one-time funding source for the \$270,000 be the Environment Committee's BAU.

CARRIED

Review of Work:

The Terms of Reference and Financials were presented. The expense of Brownlee Barristers & Solicitors for the Social Media Presentation is to be re-coded to the Open and Effective Government BAU.

COUNCILLOR J. CARLSON:

THAT the reports be accepted as information.

CARRIED

Update to Council:

Chairman R. Miyashiro will provide an update to City Council on behalf of the Environment Committee. It will include information on financials, support for the Environment Lethbridge Initiative, and the terms of reference.

Inquiries:

The following inquiries were made:

- City Hall, Lethbridge Transit, and Stafford Centre are part of Phase 1 for curbside recycling
- Preliminary work by the City on composting
- Status of the Elm Scale program
- Ash borer beetle program

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY