

### ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

MONDAY, MAY 5, 2014 7 P.M.

> LEKSAND ROOM AURORA TOWN HALL



### TOWN OF AURORA ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

**DATE:** Monday, May 5, 2014

**TIME AND LOCATION:** 7 p.m., Leksand Room, Aurora Town Hall

### **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RECOMMENDED:

THAT the agenda as circulated by Legal and Legislative Services be approved.

### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of April 3, 2014** 

pg. 1

### RECOMMENDED:

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting minutes of April 3, 2014 be adopted.

### **DELEGATIONS**

### MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

Memorandum from Municipal Engineer
 Re: Town of Aurora Comprehensive Stormwater Management
 Master Plan (CSWM-MP)

pg. 6

### RECOMMENDED:

THAT the memorandum regarding Town of Aurora Comprehensive Stormwater Management Master Plan (CSWM-MP) be received; and

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommend to Council:

THAT Council adopt the Town of Aurora Comprehensive Stormwater Management Master Plan.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

2. Memorandum from the Supervisor of Parks
Re: Self-Watering Planters and Hanging Baskets

pg. 8

### RECOMMENDED:

THAT the memorandum regarding Self-Watering Planters and Hanging Baskets be received for information.

3. Memorandum from the Program Manager, Environmental Initiatives pg.~10 Re: Invasive Species Removal

### RECOMMENDED:

THAT the memorandum regarding Invasive Species Removal be received for information.

4. Meeting Extract regarding EAC14-04 – Environmental Advisory pg. 22
Committee Report of April 3, 2014

### RECOMMENDED:

THAT the meeting extract regarding EAC14-04 – Environmental Advisory Committee Report of April 3, 2014 be received for information.

5. Pending List pg. 24

### RECOMMENDED:

THAT the Pending List be received for information.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ADJOURNMENT**



### TOWN OF AURORA ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** Thursday, April 3, 2014

**Time and Location:** 7 p.m., Leksand Room, Aurora Town Hall

**Committee Members:** Councillor Paul Pirri (Chair), Councillor John Gallo (Vice Chair),

Gregory Cook, Larry Fedec, Judy Gilchrist, Danielle Howell,

David Taillefer (arrived 7:35 p.m.), and David Tomlinson

Member(s) Absent: Svetoslava Topouzova

Other Attendees: Christina Nagy-Oh, Program Manager, Environmental

Initiatives, and Raylene Martell, Council/Committee Secretary

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

### **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

### Moved by Judy Gilchrist

Seconded by Danielle Howell

THAT the agenda as circulated by Legal and Legislative Services be approved.

### **CARRIED**

### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

**Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2014** 

### Moved by Gregory Cook

Seconded by Judy Gilchrist

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting minutes of February 6, 2014 be adopted **as amended**.

### CARRIED

### **DELEGATIONS**

None

### MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Extract from Council Meeting of February 25, 2014

Re: Delegation (b) Kate Greavette, York Region Food Charter Working Group Re: York Region Food Charter

### Moved by Judy Gilchrist

Seconded by David Tomlinson

THAT the extract from Council Meeting of February 25, 2014 be received; and

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee endorse the York Region Food Charter; and

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommend to Council:

THAT Council endorse the York Region Food Charter.

### CARRIED

2. Extract from Council Meeting of February 25, 2014

Re: Memorandum from the Program Manager, Environmental Initiatives Re: Green Purchasing Best Practices Part A

### Moved by Gregory Cook

Seconded by Danielle Howell

THAT the extract from Council Meeting of February 25, 2014 be received; and

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommend to Council:

THAT Council endorse the Greening Greater Toronto Green Purchasing Guide as a basis for the development of a Town of Aurora Green Purchasing Guide.

### CARRIED

3. Extract from Council Meeting of February 25, 2014

Re: Report IES14-006 – Implementation of a Clear Bag Waste Program

Moved by Judy Gilchrist

Seconded by Larry Fedec

THAT the extract from Council Meeting of February 25, 2014 be received; and

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee endorse the Clear Bag Waste Program; and

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommend to Council:

THAT Council endorse the Clear Bag Waste Program.

### CARRIED

4. Memorandum from Council & Committee Coordinator/Deputy Clerk Re: Representative for the Trails and Active Transportation Committee

Moved by Larry Fedec

Seconded by Councillor Gallo

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee receive the memorandum regarding Representative for the Trails and Active Transportation Committee; and

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee select *Gregory Cook* to be their representative on the Trails and Active Transportation Committee.

### CARRIED

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

5. Memorandum from the Manager of Corporate Communications
Re: Environmental Section of Town Website

### Moved by Gregory Cook

### Seconded by David Tomlinson

THAT the memorandum regarding Environmental Section of Town Website be received for information.

### CARRIED

### 6. Memorandum from the Landscape Architect Re: The Location of Existing Hydration Stations

### Moved by Danielle Howell

Seconded by Larry Fedec

THAT the memorandum regarding The Location of Existing Hydration Stations be received; *and* 

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommend to Council:

THAT staff report back to the Environmental Advisory Committee on the feasibility of installing a hydration station at Town Park.

### CARRIED

### 7. Pending List – Environmental Advisory Committee

### Moved by David Tomlinson

Seconded by David Taillefer

THAT the Pending List be received for information.

### CARRIED

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Fedec provided information on alternative methods of waste collection in other municipalities including cart-based collection. The Committee discussed the current contract for waste collection services.

### Moved by Councillor Gallo

### Seconded by Danielle Howell

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommend to Council:

THAT staff provide a report to the Environmental Advisory Committee on a cart-based system for waste collection.

### **CARRIED**

Mr. Tomlinson advised the members that he and the Program Manager, Environmental Initiatives would be meeting with Infrastructure and Environmental Services on April 15 regarding locating appropriate culverts for the nesting platform pilot project.

Councillor Pirri provided a brief overview of the success of the Regional Environmental Advisory Committee Forum hosted by the Town of Aurora on March 6, 2014.

Mr. Tomlinson inquired about the invasive Phragmites delegation that was supposed to have occurred at the March meeting. The Program Manager advised that the meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum and the delegate presentation material was emailed to Committee members for their information.

The Program Manager indicated that the 2013 Corporate Environmental Action Plan (CEAP) Progress Report was made available at the March 6 Regional EAC forum and delivered to all Councillors, the Executive Leadership Team, and the staff CEAP team. She further noted that it is available to the public via the Town's website with printed copies available from the Planning and Development Services counter in Town Hall.

Ms. Gilchrist reminded the members of an upcoming evening of discussion regarding the Oak Ridges Moraine, Greenbelt, and Niagara Escarpment land use plans that are due for review in 2015 on Wednesday, April 9 at the Kingbridge Centre.

### ADJOURNMENT

### Moved by Judy Gilchrist

Seconded by Danielle Howell

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

### CARRIED

THE REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF APRIL 3, 2014 IS SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY GENERAL COMMITTEE ON APRIL 15, 2014 AND FINAL COUNCIL ENDORSEMENT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON APRIL 22, 2014.



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### Town of Aurora Infrastructure & Environmental Services

### **MEMORANDUM**

DATE: May 5, 2014

TO: Environmental Advisory Committee

CC: Anca Mihail, Manager of Engineering and Capital Delivery

FROM: Glen McArthur, Municipal Engineer

RE: Town of Aurora Comprehensive Stormwater Management Master Plan (CSWM-

MP)

### RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT EAC receive the Aurora Comprehensive Stormwater Management Master Plan document for information; and

THAT EAC recommend that Council adopt the Town of Aurora Comprehensive Stormwater Management Master Plan document

### **BACKGROUND**

The Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (effective June 2, 2009 through the provisions of the Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008, S.O. 2008, c. 23, as amended), Policy 4.5 states that:

"within 5 years of the date the Plan comes into effect, municipalities, in collaboration with the LSRCA will prepare and implement comprehensive stormwater management master plans for each settlement area in the Lake Simcoe Watershed"

The Infrastructure & Environmental Services Department have completed a Comprehensive Stormwater Management Master Plan in order to comply with the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.

A municipal consultation workshop with staff from the infrastructure & Environmental Services, Planning and Park & Recreation department was held on October 4, 2013 and an "Open House/Information Center" was held on Tuesday, October 15, 2013 in the Holland Room at Aurora Town Hall to present the evaluation criteria and process used for the selection of preferred storm water management alternatives for the Town's CSWM-MP. Town staff and the engineering consultant were available to discuss the plan and answer

questions. Comments from the municipal consultation and Open House were incorporated into the CSWM-MP.

On November 7, 2014 Chris Denich, Water Resources / Environmental Engineering, Aquation Beech limited presented to the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) a general overview of the content within the Town's Draft Aurora CSWM-MP.

At the November 12, 2013 Town Council meeting, Council directed staff to consider the comments from EAC meeting of November 7, 2014 in the final Aurora CSWM-MP document

The Aurora CSWM-MP document has been finalized with consideration to EAC's comments. Below are some recommendations from the CSWM-MP that relate to comments made during the EAC meeting:

- The CSWM-MP document recommends that the Town of Aurora consider for the purposes of long term stormwater management planning, the development and implementation of a marketing strategy to encourage source control measures on private property, including but not limited to:
  - Social marketing strategy to raise awareness within community; and
  - Refine, update or alter existing by-laws related to implementing these measures.
- For all end-of-pipe (EOP) facilities, new or retrofit, the CSWM-MP recommends
  that once stormwater requirements are met per the requirements of the Town of
  Aurora and MOE Stormwater Planning and Design Guide (2003), the Town of
  Aurora consider and include the positive aspects of habitat creation and
  enhancements in accordance with Town documents and past studies including
  the Town of Aurora Stormwater Ponds Vegetation and Wildlife Study
  (Environmental Advisory Committee, 2007).
- As well the CSWM-MP recommends that the Town of Aurora undertake a review and update of the Town's Stormwater Management Policy:
  - o To include the recommendations within the CSWM-MP;
  - To ensure the policies are extended to include all stormwater treatment systems, both conventional and LID, for both water quality and quantity control:
  - To ensure that the Town's storm water management policies will allow the Town to obtain adequate cash in lieu of maintenance from developers for the CSWM-MP recommendations; and
  - To update the Town's Storm Sewer Charges Study to ensure appropriate funds are being collected to deliver future stormwater management capital projects.

The CSWM-MP document was submitted to Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) for their review and endorsement on March 23, 2014.

ATTACHMENTS (Provided on CD to members. Printed copies available upon request.)

Attachment 1: Executive Summary

Attachment 2: Aurora Comprehensive Stormwater Management Master Plan Document



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Town of Aurora

Parks & Recreation Services

www.aurora.ca

### **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** April 11, 2014

**TO:** Environmental Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Sara Tienkamp, Supervisor of Parks

**RE:** Self- Watering Planters and Hanging Baskets

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT the memorandum regarding self-watering planters and hanging baskets be received for information.

### **BACKGROUND**

In September 2012 Council directed staff to establish an Environmental Reserve Fund to offset the cost of future environmental initiatives. Environmental initiatives often result in significant operating cost savings for equipment and facilities, but also often involve higher up-front costs when compared to less environmentally-friendly alternatives. This Fund would cover the cost difference between environmental initiatives and conventional corporate initiatives and would support the implementation of the Town's Corporate Environmental Action Plan.

The Parks Department engages yearly in street beautification involving the placement of 200 plus planters and hanging baskets full of colourful annuals to enhance the streetscape in Aurora. The costs associated with the maintenance of these planters include labour, water, equipment and fuel. In an effort to green our operation, Parks will be investing in self watering containers and phasing them into our inventory as planters become timeworn, this first phase would include 50 planters/hanging baskets. The costs for the Parks Dept. to replace the original planters would be approximately \$2,500.00. In comparison, to initiate the first phase of the self-watering container project, including the replacement of the planters on Wellington St between John West Way/Bayview Ave, Aurora Community Centre and the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex costs would be approximately \$10,500.00. Switching to self-watering planters and baskets would save an estimated \$18,000.00 per year in labour, fuel and water.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Self–Watering Planter Fact Sheet

### **Attachment 1**

(based on a 4 month season and 50 hanging baskets

5 Reasons to Choose Self Watering Planters

WATER SAVINGS



or planters)

Traditional planters use approx. 10,000 litres of water per growing season vs. Self Watering Planters that use approx. 3,750 litres

**TOTAL SAVINGS = 6,750 LITRES** 

Approximate resource consumption



### Time/Labor Savings

Traditional planters require 640 labour hours to water and maintain vs. Self Watering Planters that only require 125 labour hours to water and maintain

**TOTAL SAVINGS = 515 LABOUR HOURS** 



### **Fuel Savings**

Traditional planters consume 2000 litres of fuel to water and maintain vs. Self Watering Planters that use 400 litres of fuel to water and maintain

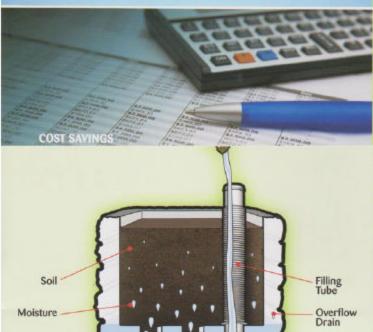
TOTAL SAVINGS = 1600 LITRES OF FUEL



### Green House Gas Savings Carbon Dioxide

Traditional planters emit to the atmosphere 6.66 tonnes of CO2 emissions in the watering and maintaining. Self Watering Planters emit to the atmosphere 1.34 tonnes of CO2 emissions in the watering and maintaining.

TOTAL SAVINGS = 8 TONNES OF CO2 EMISSIONS



Filter

Columns

### Cost Savings Fuel Cost & Labour Savings

Traditional planters require \$20,000 in labour and \$2500 in fuels vs. Self Watering Planters which require \$4,000 in labour and \$500 in fuel

**TOTAL SAVINGS = \$18,000.00** 

### Benefits of a Self Watering Planter

- Slows water evaporation

Water

Storage

- Up to 80% reduction in water consumption
- The water reservoir eliminates the need for daily watering
- Filter columns allow water to rise through the soil
- Promotes extraordinary rapid and lush plant growth
- Dry top surface discourages weed growth



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### Town of Aurora Planning & Development Services

### **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** Monday, May 5, 2014

**TO:** Environmental Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Christina Nagy-Oh, Program Manager, Environmental Initiatives

**RE:** Invasive Species Removal

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT the memorandum regarding Invasive Species Removal be received for information.

### **BACKGROUND**

At the February meeting an EAC member had raised the issue of the invasive Phragmites problem in the Nature Reserve, Wildlife Park, and Arboretum and requested that the topic be put on the agenda for the March meeting. Stacey Bowman, the invasive species specialist from the Regional Municipality of York came to the March EAC meeting to make a presentation regarding Phragmites Invasive species — best practices. Although there was no quorum to hold a formal meeting, the information was still supplied to the members.

A request was made by a member of EAC to have this item placed on the May 5, 2014 EAC agenda for further discussion. A recent inquiry with the Parks and Recreation department confirm that the Town of Aurora does not currently have a policy in place for removing invasive species from public areas.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: Invasive Phragmites presentation from Stacey Bowman, Invasive Species Specialist, Natural Heritage & Forestry, Environmental Services, The

Regional Municipality of York

## Invasive Phragmites



Natural Heritage & Forestry, Environmental Services Stacey Bowman, Invasive Species Specialist Dept.

Regional Municipality of York

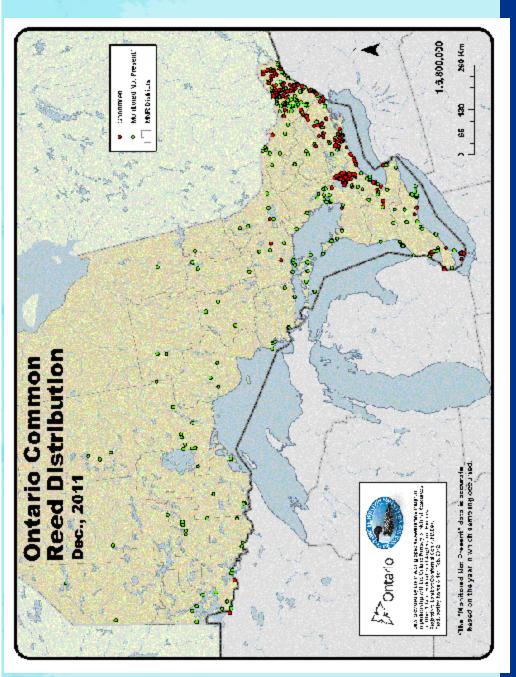


### What is it?

- Reed) is an invasive perennial grass from Eurasia Phragmites australis subsp. Australis (Common
- Introduced first by ships on eastern seaboard of North America; travelled north and west
- Currently still sold in horticulture trade
- than 2 metres, intersperses with native vegetation and has a sparse seedhead, grows less densley australis subsp. Americanus), which is no taller Different from native Phragmites (Phragmites



### Where is it?





## What makes it invasive?

- Outcompetes native riparian vegetation
- Thatch (dead plant stalks) prevent light and water from getting through and native seeds from germinating
- Creates dense, monotypic stands (all phragmites)
- Can lower water levels by transpiring water at a fast rate
- Colonizes quickly through seeds on wind, equipment and animals and spreading rhizomes (underground stems)





# **Effects of invasive Phragmites**

- Decrease in plant and animal biodiversity
- Loss of habitat for invertebrates, fish, birds
- Lower water levels can change everything about a wetland or riparian area
- Thatch is a fire hazard
- Changes nutrient cycling because dead stalks break down very slowly
- Economic and social impacts through preventing access to streams or ponds, filling in marshes, affecting agriculture





# **Controlling invasive Phragmites**

- Single control method often not effective
- OMNR recommends Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which combines two or more methods and includes monitoring and re-assessment
- A commitment of multiple years is critical
- The earlier you act, the more likely you are to succeed
- Prevention and education for general public is key
- human populations will be factors in determining best site-specific control Presence of standing water, critical wildlife habitat, species-at-risk, and
- Ontario Pesticides Act restricts where and what kind of pesticides can be used and by whom



# Control methods - herbicide

- Glyphosate and imazapyr have proven effective
- Can be injected into stems, wicked on or sprayed
- Best applied in early fall when plant is transporting all nutrients to its root system and many native plants have sinecsed
- compressing, mowing or burning to help native More effective when combined with plants regenerate





## **Control methods – mowing**

- Mowing or cutting used alone is not effective
- Cutting can stimulate growth from rhizomes and increase the density of a stand
- Can be combined with herbicide application and/or prescribed burning





## Control methods - prescribed burning

- Burning alone is not effective
- Should only be used on mown or compressed dead stalks, following herbicide application





## Clean-up and disposal

- Currings of plant material must be bagged on-site to avoid spreading seeds or rhizome materials
- Bags of plant material can be left in the sun to decay and can then be burned
- Bagged plant material can also be disposed of in the regular garbage
- Do not compost plant material it can spread the plants seeds and rhizome materials



Phragmites rhizome fragment

 Clothing, equipment and boots and shoes should be cleaned on-site to avoid transporting plant material



### Resources

- Practices in Ontario; 2013 Compendium of Management Activities in Ontario Invasive Plant Council – Phragmites Best Management Ontario -. ontarioinvasiveplants.ca
- Ontario Invading Species Awareness Program fact sheets, public awareness tools -invadingspecies.ca
- Credit Valley Conservation Invasive Species Program Information, sample management plans -creditvalley.ca
- Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative Information, videos, webinars, management guides and fact-sheets greatlakesphragmites.net





### EXTRACT FROM GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING 14-09 OF TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2014 AND ADOPTED AT COUNCIL MEETING 14-14 OF TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2014

### 4. ADOPTION OF ITEMS NOT REQUIRING SEPARATE DISCUSSION

Items 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, and 15 were identified as items not requiring separate discussion.

### General Committee recommends:

THAT the following recommendations respecting the matters listed as "Items Not Requiring Separate Discussion" be adopted as submitted to the General Committee and staff be authorized to take all necessary action required to give effect to same:

15. EAC14-04 - Environmental Advisory Committee Report, April 3, 2014

THAT report EAC14-04 be received; and

THAT Council adopt the following recommendations from the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of April 3, 2014:

1. Extract from Council Meeting of February 25, 2014

Re: Delegation (b) Kate Greavette, York Region Food Charter Working Group

Re: York Region Food Charter

THAT Council endorse the York Region Food Charter.

2. Extract from Council Meeting of February 25, 2014

Re: Memorandum from the Program Manager, Environmental

Initiatives

Re: Green Purchasing Best Practices Part A

THAT Council endorse the Greening Greater Toronto Green Purchasing Guide as a basis for the development of a Town of Aurora Green Purchasing Guide.

3. Extract from Council Meeting of February 25, 2014

Re: Report IES14-006 - Implementation of a Clear Bag Waste Program

THAT Council endorse the Clear Bag Waste Program.

6. Memorandum from the Landscape Architect Re: The Location of Existing Hydration Stations

THAT staff report back on the feasibility of installing a hydration station at Town Park.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

THAT staff provide a report to the Environmental Advisory Committee on a cart-based system for waste collection.

### **CARRIED**

Advisory Committee: ENVIRONMENTAL	TYPE OF RESPONSE
	RESPONSE DATE
	ACTION DEPT.
	ACTION
	SUBJECT
	MEETING
	MEETING
	ITEM NO.

	David T. and Christina N. met with IES in June and scheduled to do a pilot project by adding a couple nesting platforms at the mouths of culverts in April 2014. The meeting is booked for Tuesday April 15, 2014.	Item 6 – EAC Agenda COMPLETED	Item 5 - EAC Agenda COMPLETED		
	June 2013	2014-04-03	2014-04-03		
Manager of Environmental Initiatives	Manager of Environmental Initiatives	Parks staff	Manager of Communications	Manager of Environmental Initiatives	IES, Waste/ Recycling Coordinator
THAT this Item be referred to the September Environmental Advisory Committee meeting with a report from staff.	THAT David Tomlinson and the Manager of Environmental Initiatives be directed to meet with Infrastructure and Environmental Services staff to discuss details regarding swallow nesting platforms at the mouths of two to three culverts as a pilot project.	THAT this item be referred back to staff for clarification on the location of existing hydration stations; and THAT the 2014 budget line regarding this item be deferred to the 2015 budget.	THAT staff be directed to report back on a dedicated environmental section on the Town website to assist users in readily locating Town of Aurora environmental information.	THAT staff report back to the Environmental Advisory Committee on the feasibility of installing a hydration station at Town Park.	THAT staff provide a report to the Environmental Advisory Committee on a cart-based system for waste collection.
1. Memorandum from the Manager of Environmental Initiatives Re: Green Municipal Fund – Call for Funding Submissions	Memorandum from the     Manager of Engineering and     Capital Projects; Re: Creek     Culvert Design Response (Item #4 on the Pending List)	2. Memorandum from the Program Manager, Environmental Initiatives Re: Water Bottle Fill Stations	New Business	6. Memorandum from the Re: The Location of Existing Hydration Stations	New Business
EAC	EAC	EAC	EAC	EAC	EAC
2012-06-07	2013-05-06	2013-12-05	2013-12-05	2014-04-03	2014-04-03
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