

**CITY OF SASKATOON**

**SASKATOON ENVIRONMENTAL  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2009**



## **INTRODUCTION**

The Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee (SEAC) is an advisory body of Saskatoon residents, consisting of nine members of the general public, one City Councillor and one member of the Saskatoon Health Region. These individuals meet regularly to discuss environmental issues relevant to the City of Saskatoon and to provide information and recommendations to Saskatoon City Council. SEAC was formed in 1973 by City Council, and has been actively pursuing its mandate since that time, with the expertise of a dedicated, diverse, and knowledgeable roster of members.

## **PURPOSE**

Through the Administration and Finance Committee the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee provides City Council with advice on environmental implications of City undertakings. SEAC also identifies environmental issues of potential relevance to the City of Saskatoon.

## **AIMS AND DUTIES**

City Council has established that SEAC will:

Provide to Council advice on environmental implications of City undertakings and identify environmental issues of potential relevance to the City.

SEAC has established that they will:

1. Be aware of the resources available to the City of Saskatoon for dealing with environmental issues.
2. Prepare and publish an annual report on the activities of the Committee over the past year.
3. Encourage liaisons between the City of Saskatoon and environmental agencies serving higher levels of government.



## **COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee is made up of 11 members, all of whom are appointed and/or nominated by City Council. One member is a City Councillor representing the City. Another member is appointed as a representative of the Saskatoon Health Region, Public Health Services. The remaining nine members represent the general public.

Members are appointed for two-year terms, which are renewable up to six years. In the event that a member fails to complete his/her term, a replacement may be named to complete that term. New appointments are made by City Council upon resignation of a member and on expiration of the term of public appointments.

## **MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS**

Members of SEAC should possess:

- ◆ A sound general knowledge of the Saskatoon area and its existing and potential environmental issues; and
- ◆ Expertise in disciplines such as ecology, biology, chemistry, physics, geography, economics, demography, sociology, medicine, aesthetics, toxicology, engineering and conservation.

## **MEETING SCHEDULE**

**Meetings are held monthly.**

Day	Second Thursday
Time	11:30 a.m. (except July, August and December)

All meetings are open to the public. Members of the public wishing to attend a meeting are able to review the agenda prior to the meeting, at any branch of the public library beginning on the Friday prior to the meeting date or on the City's web site at [www.saskatoon.ca](http://www.saskatoon.ca), select 'City Clerk's Office' under Departments on the top menu, then select 'Boards and Committees', followed by 'Agendas'.

## **THE YEAR IN REVIEW - 2009**

### **Appointments and Reappointments for 2009:**

- Mr. Darcy Meyers was appointed Chair for 2009
- Dr. Sean Shaw was appointed Vice-Chair for 2009
- Re-appointed Committee members were Councillor T. Paulsen, Ms. Marie-Ann Bowden and Ms. Dani Degenhardt (nee ~~Xu~~).
- Mr. Michael Molaro and Mr. Chris Gallaway were new appointments to replace Dr. Tom Wolf and Dr. Judit E. Smits.
- The remaining members of Ms. Patricia Hanbidge, Ms. Anna Ringstrom, Mr. Darcy Meyers, Ms. Barbara Hanbidge and Ms. Leslie Rea representing the Saskatoon Health Region, had been appointed by City Council for 2008 and 2009.

Administrative support came from Ms. Sheri Praski, Manager, Environmental Services Branch, Mr. Ken Johnson, Environmental Programs Manager, Ms. Colleen Yates, Environmental Programs Manager and from Councillor Tiffany Paulsen.

### **Focus of SEAC for 2009:**

Because of the growing complexity of environmental issues that are being dealt with by the City, SEAC held a task group meeting to establish specific Goals and Objectives for 2009. These were submitted to City Council as information, in a report dated February 23, 2009, (Attachment No. **I**) -

### **Focus priorities**

The 2009 Goals and Objectives included the following areas of focus:

- Support Implementation of Dark-Sky Compliant Lighting Policy
- Support implementation of LEED<sup>®</sup> Standards
- Support and advise on the implementation of the Greenhouse Gas Management Plan and Saskatoon Waste and Recycling Plan
- Educational support, through partnership with other organizations.

The Committee wishes to remind City Council that it looks forward to dealing with referrals involving environmental topics, since SEAC consists of a membership well-equipped to do so.

Other areas of participation:

**1 Dark-Sky Lighting Policy**

The Committee met with representatives from Saskatoon Light & Power on two occasions in 2009 to discuss drafting of the policy and to clarify the intent of the Committee's original report to City Council in 2008.

**2. LEED<sup>®</sup> Standards for all new Civic Building Projects**

The Committee received updates from the Environmental Services Branch on a regular basis. They were advised that the soon to be constructed Lakewood Suburban Centre Fire Hall would be built to LEED<sup>®</sup> Standards and that an assessment of the new process would be conducted afterwards.

**3. Support for Greenhouse Gas Management Plan and Saskatoon Waste & Recycling Implementation Plan**

The Committee continued its support for implementation of the Greenhouse Gas Management Plan and the Waste and Recycling Plan through regular updates from the Environmental Service Branch.

**4. Wetland Policy**

The Committee appointed Dani Degenhardt (nee Xu) and Barbara Hanbidge to the Wetland Policy Review Committee. These members updated the Committee on a regular basis as to the progress being made by the Planning Branch on the policy development.

**5. SEAC Participation in Educational Event  
MVA "Conservation in a Shoe Box" Contest**

The Committee participated in the Meewasin Valley Authority (MVA) "Conservation in a Shoe Box" Contest through funding prizes for the winners consisting of a collection of environmentally-themed books.

**6. Pesticide Education Task Group**

A letter was sent to the Budget Committee in support of funding for the Pesticide Education Program, (Attachment No. 2).

## **Summary of Actions from SEAC Meetings for 2009:**

### **January 2009**

Darcy Meyers was appointed Chair and Sean Shaw was appointed Vice-Chair for 2009.

A Task Group of Darcy Meyers and other volunteer Committee members was established to bring forward Goals and Objectives for 2009.

The Committee discussed the Meredith James Sustainability Report and what the next steps would be. Colleen Yates, Environmental Programs Manager, Utility Services Branch, indicated that the City was working on a sustainability plan. The Committee resolved to wait until the City's process was complete before proceeding further with the recommendations of the Meredith James Sustainability Report.

Barbara Hanbidge provided the Committee with an update on the Wetland Policy Study. It was indicated that the City would be deciding on a consulting company to undertake the Study by the end of the month.

### **February 2009**

Michael Molaro was appointed to the Committee to replace Dr. Tom Wolf.

The Committee resolved that Administration report back on the revised Pesticide Reduction Education Program.

The Committee resolved that Administration report back on whether they will be implementing the required installation of low-flow toilets and shower heads in all new residential homes.

The Committee discussed the 2009 Goals and Objectives as summarized by the Chair. The Committee resolved that the Chair prepare the 2009 Goals and Objectives Report for submission to City Council (via the Finance and Administration Committee).

The Committee undertook extensive discussion regarding the continuation of the Poster Contest as part of their Public Education goal. The Committee resolved that Anna Ringstrom gather additional information of the Annual Art Contest undertaken in Saskatoon schools and that Barbara Hanbidge contact the Saskatchewan Environmental Society to determine their work with schools.

The Committee received information on the planned demolition of the existing St. Mary's School.

**March 2009**

Mr. Rob Chan, Engineering and Technical Support Manager and Mr. Gord Stushnoff, Engineering and Technical Support Section Technologist, Saskatoon Light and Power were in attendance to discuss the development of a Dark-Sky Lighting Policy. They further indicated some potential problems in complying with the Committee's report adopted by City Council and sought clarification with regards to the type of acceptable lighting.

The Committee upheld its support for moving to dark-sky compliant lighting in all public places, as described in the report and that the Administration be encouraged to bring forward a draft Dark-Sky Lighting Policy for further review with the Committee.

Ms. Elisabeth Miller, Senior Planner, Neighbourhood Safety Section, Planning and Development Branch, was in attendance to discuss the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) Program with the Committee.

The Committee resolved that Anna Ringstrom be appointed to assist with adjudication on the submissions for the Environmental Component of the Assistance to Community Groups – Cash Grants Program.

The Committee resolved that the Administration report on whether there are plans for the City to promote water conservation; and that the question of requiring low-floor toilets and shower heads in new residential construction be brought forward to the next meeting.

**April 2009**

Mr. Andrew Whiting, Meewasin Valley Authority, was in attendance to provide information on their Pelican Watch Contest, as well as information on the "Conservation in a Shoe Box" art show. Discussion followed with respect to opportunities for the Committee to participate in this year's "Conservation in a Shoe Box" event, as well as in future years.

The Committee resolved that a maximum of \$800 be allocated to provide refreshments for the reception being held for the "Conservation in a Shoe Box" Student Art Show and to purchase books on environmental topics to be provided as prizes for a draw to be awarded to a school or group participating in the show.

A Task Group was formed to include Anna Ringstrom, Darcy Meyer and Marie-Ann Bowden to assist with the Committee's participation in this year's event and to look at further opportunities to connect with the above initiative next year.

The Committee determined that an educational piece should be done, discussing the benefits of waste minimization and what the City is doing in this area, and tying into Earth Day. Darcy Meyers and Sean Shaw indicated that they would prepare and submit an educational piece as an editorial to the *Star Phoenix*.

**June 2009**

The Committee resolved that the Administration be requested to provide the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee with a copy of the report on LEED<sup>®</sup> standards in the Fire Hall building in the Lakewood Suburban Centre.

Ms. Allyson Brady, Executive Director, Saskatchewan Environmental Society (SES), was in attendance to provide an update on the 2009 Pesticide Education Program.

Mr. Richard Huziak and Ms. Shelley LePoudre, Saskatchewan Light Pollution Abatement Committee, The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, spoke on the issue of identifying dark-sky lighting fixtures. Mr. Huziak noted that in his view, the Council mandate is to create a comprehensive lighting plan for all types of streets, buildings and architectural lighting that produces no light pollution by design – ie – zero light above the horizontal as the normal assumption and default.

The Deputy City Clerk submitted the 2008 Annual Report as prepared by the Chair. The Committee resolved that the 2008 Annual Report be approved with minor adjustments, and be submitted to City Council through the Administration and Finance Committee.

The Committee received a verbal report back on their participation in the "Conservation in a Shoe Box" Art Show. The Committee resolved to continue supporting the project in future years.

**September 2009**

The Committee resolved that the regularly scheduled meeting for October 8, 2009 be cancelled due to the October Civic Election.

Ms. Dani Degenhardt reported on the first meeting of the Committee for Active Transportation Planning for 2010, and the projects that involve bicycle transportation. The Committee resolved that Ms. Degenhardt report back on whether sponsorship of pamphlets for the Active Transportation Committee would be feasible.

The Committee resolved that approval be granted for reimbursement of fees for all Committee members who attended speaker Jan Gehl on August 31/September 1, 2009.

The Committee resolved that authorization be granted for three Committee members to attend the "Building Saskatchewan Green" Conference, with all costs paid by the Committee.

The Committee discussed the proposed 2010 budget for submission to City Council. It was resolved that a three-year budgetary proposal be submitted to the Administration and Finance Committee for approval in the amount of \$7,000 for each year of 2010, 2011 and 2012.

A Task Group consisting of Michael Molaro, Darcy Meyers, Marie-Ann Bowden, and Barbara Hanbidge was established to obtain feedback from Committee members and perhaps University of Saskatchewan School of Environment and Sustainability students on the Downtown Transit Terminal Proposal, for submission to the Administration, through the Administration and Finance Committee, time permitting.

### **November 2009**

Ms. Allyson Brady, Executive-Director, Saskatchewan Environmental Society (SES) was in attendance to provide a summary of their final report on the 2009 Pesticide Education Program. The Committee resolved that a letter of support for 2010 funding for the Pesticide Education Program be submitted to the Budget Committee.

The Deputy City Clerk reported that the Committee met with representatives of Saskatoon Light & Power at a Task Group meeting held on October 8, 2009, and provided comments on the issues that were raised, regarding the Dark-Sky Lighting Policy. The Committee noted that one aspect that came out of the meeting of the Task Group on October 8, 2009 was that flexibility needs to be built into the Policy, so that Administration can consider exemptions. The other aspect was to address how to deal with developers in their lighting plans for their new subdivisions.

A Task Group consisting of Dr. Sean Shaw, Marie-Ann Bowden, and Michael Molaro was formed to develop project(s) suitable for the Master of Sustainable Environmental Management (M.SEM) students and report back in January, 2010.

The Committee resolved that members be authorized to attend the lecture by Mark Roseland, "Toward Sustainable Communities" on December 3, 2009, with the cost to be paid by the Committee.

Referrals from Council - None to report.

### Reports / Recommendations submitted to City Council

- a) SEAC 2009 Goals and Objectives – March 2009
- b) SEAC 2008 Annual Report – June 2009

## Summary of Projects, which received support from SEAC in 2009:

- a) Roadmap 2020 – SEAC continued to support Road Map and has a member appointed to the Board of Directors for a 1-year term (Dr. Sean Shaw).
- b) Meewasin Valley Authority "Conservation in a Shoe Box" -What's your story?" – SEAC supported a student Art Show - a program of the Meewasin Valley Authority - by providing a series of prizes and sponsoring the refreshments.
- c) Saskatchewan Environmental Society, Pesticide Education Program – SEAC wrote a letter to the Budget Committee in support for 2010 funding for the program.

## **Updates and Presentations from City Administration:**

Throughout the year an important component of each Committee meeting was the update from the City's Administrative representative. Ms. Sheri Praski, Environmental Services Branch Manager, and/or Ms. Colleen Yates, Environmental Programs Manager, made summary presentations throughout the year. These presentations provided SEAC with information and updates on initiatives undertaken by the Environmental Services Branch, Utility Services Department.

There were also presentations throughout the year from other Services and Branches in the City Administration that provided insight into the planning and operations being undertaken and their potential impact on the environment. Rob Chan, Gord Stushnoff, and Elisabeth Miller took time from their busy schedules to provide SEAC with updates on various projects and their contributions were greatly appreciated.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee wishes to express gratitude to all those who have helped the Committee in 2009. First and foremost, the expertise, advice and excellent secretarial services provided by Marlene Hall, Deputy City Clerk was greatly appreciated. Ms. Hall's cheerful, competent and professional attitude was integral to the success of this Committee during the year.

SEAC would also like to commend the Saskatoon Environmental Services Branch for the work they are doing for the citizens of Saskatoon. Many of the questions and referrals that could or would have been sent to the volunteers who serve on SEAC, have been handled completely or in part by members of this Branch. This has allowed SEAC to focus on other issues and aspects of environmental relevance to the City of Saskatoon. This collaborative working relationship has resulted in positive environmental decisions that will provide long-term benefits for the people in Saskatoon and in the rest of the province.

In **2009** the following individuals provided reports, information, and other forms of assistance:

Councillor Tiffany Paulsen	Representative of Saskatoon City Council who was an integral part of the Committee.
General Manager Utility Services Department	Representative of the City Administration who attended some Committee Meetings and provided information requested by the Committee.
Ms. Sheri Praski, Manager Environmental Services Branch Utility Services Department	Representative of the City Administration who attended Committee Meetings and provided updates regarding the Department's activities throughout the year.
Mr. Ken Johnson Environmental Programs Manager Environmental Services Branch	Representative of the City Administration who attended some Committee Meetings and provided updates regarding the Department's activities.
Ms. Colleen Yates Environmental Programs Manager Environmental Services Branch	Representative of the City Administration who attended Committee meetings and provided updates regarding the Department's activities.
Mr. Richard Huziak Saskatchewan Light Pollution Abatement Committee	Representing The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - presented information on the standards for dark-sky lighting fixtures.

## **MEMBERSHIP of SEAC for 2009**

Mr. Darcy Meyers, Chair

Mr. Meyers is a Product Development Chemist at Fytokem Products Inc. with an interest in environmental issues in our community.

Dr. Sean Shaw, Vice-Chair

Dr. Sean Shaw is a Research Associate in the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan. His research focuses on the geochemical impacts of mining wastes on the surrounding environment.

Mr. Michael Molaro

Mr. Molaro is the Associate Director of Infrastructure and Sustainability with the Facilities Management Division at the University of Saskatchewan and one of the founders of the Saskatchewan Chapter of the Canada Green Building Council.

Ms. Marie-Ann Bowden

Ms. Bowden is a Professor of Environmental Law at the College of Law, University of Saskatchewan.

Ms. Barbara Hanbidge

Ms. Hanbidge is a biologist and Saskatchewan education specialist with Ducks Unlimited Canada.

Mr. Chris Gallaway

Mr. Gallaway is currently self-employed doing research and policy development work throughout the province. He has formerly served as an assistant to the Minister of Environment and an employee with the provincial EnerGuide program.

Ms. Leslie Rea

Ms. Rea is the Manager, Safe Communities Department, Public Health Services, Saskatoon Health Region.

Ms. Patricia Anne Hanbidge

Ms. Hanbidge is a well-known horticulturist, author and columnist. She is the principal and owner of the fully accredited local horticultural school - the Saskatoon School of Horticulture. She has a special interest in environmental issues and imports biological controls for use by homeowners and commercial players in the horticultural industry.

Ms. Dani Degenhardt (nee Xu)

Ms. Degenhardt is a Ph.D candidate in the Department of Soil Science at the University of Saskatchewan. She has broad research interests in the interdisciplinary fields of environmental chemistry as well pesticide science.

Ms. Anna Ringstrom

Anna Ringstrom is a landscape architect with Crosby Hanna +Associates. She has a particular interest in issues related to innovative stormwater management, green roofs and urban agriculture.

Councillor T. Paulsen

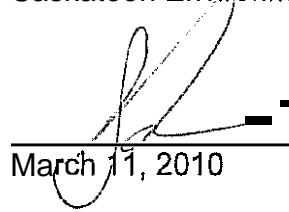
Councillor Paulsen represents Ward 9 and is City Council's representative on the Committee.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Report dated February 23, 2009 – 2009 Goals and Objectives – was forwarded to City Council as information through the Administration and Finance Committee.
2. Letter to Executive Committee of City Council, in support of funding for the Pesticide Reduction Education Program – Environmental Services Branch – Saskatchewan Environmental Society.

Written by: Dr. Sean Shaw, 2010 Chair  
Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee

Approved:



---

March 11, 2010

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

TO: Administration and Finance Committee  
FROM: Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee  
DATE: February 23, 2009  
SUBJECT: 2009 Goals and Objectives  
PILE NO.: CK. 175-9

---

RECOMMENDATION: that this report be received as information and submitted to City Council.

### BACKGROUND:

The Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee's mandate is to provide to Council, advice on environmental implications of City undertakings and identify environmental issues of potential relevance to the City. With this in mind, the Committee undertakes an annual session on Goals and Objectives for the next year, and this report outlines the issues selected as a focus for 2009.

### REPORT:

A Task Group of Committee members held discussions on the issues for focus in 2009. The draft of issues was submitted to the Committee for review. The general issues that the Committee will continue to monitor and advise upon in 2009:

- Support implementation of Dark Sky Compliant Lighting Policy
- Support implementation of LEED Standards
- Support and advise on the implementation of the Greenhouse Gas Management Plan and Saskatoon Waste and Recycling Plan.
- Educational support, possibly through partnership with other organizations. In the past this was a poster contest-but may change format or approach this year.

Inquiries from City Council are always welcomed and appreciated.

### CONCLUDING COMMENTS:

The Committee appreciates referrals from City Council on all matters relating to the Environment, and would encourage that this continue as we move into interesting and challenging times ahead. The Committee is committed to ensuring that Saskatoon remains a leader on environmental initiatives.

Written by: Darcy Meyers

Approved by: "Darcy Meyers"  
Darcy Meyers, Chair  
Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee  
Dated: February 23, 2009

November 26, 2009

Ms. Janice Mann, City Clerk  
(Budget Committee - Operating Budget)

Dear Budget Committee Members:

Re: Support - Funding for Pesticide Reduction Education Program  
Environmental Services Branch – **Saskatchewan** Environmental Society  
(File No. CK. **4200-7**)

As the Committee is aware, \$20,000 in funding was approved for 2009 for the Saskatchewan Environmental Society's Pesticide Reduction Education Program in neighbourhoods in Saskatoon, which is the 4<sup>th</sup> year of their program. They have covered six neighbourhoods in 5 City wards and have made a significant impact on the participating households and their use of pesticides, even with the changes they had to make under funding constraints. This program is delivered by a group of dedicated and enthusiastic Eco-Advisors who have managed to increase awareness significantly, and reduce the use of pesticides by residents.

Your Committee was pleased to review the final report on this program, through a presentation provided by the Saskatchewan Environmental Society, at which time it was determined that there is a funding request for continuation of the Program in 2010, through the Environmental Services Branch. The Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee supports the funding request for this successful program which supports the concept of Saskatoon in its efforts to become a Green Community.

Would you please place this letter of support before the Operating Budget at the appropriate time.

Yours truly,

Darcy Meyers, Chair  
Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee