



Minutes

Municipality of Thames Centre

Economic Development Advisory Committee

September 12, 2024, 9:00 A.M.

**Municipal Office - Council Chambers
4305 Hamilton Road, Dorchester, ON**

- Members Present: T. Heeman, Chair/Council Representative
A. McClean, Vice-Chair/Community Representative (*retired 10:07 a.m.*)
S. McMillan, Council Representative
J. Baribeau, Community Representative
C. Hicks-Webster, Community Representative
J. Iglesias, Community Representative
D. Reiche, Community Representative (*retired 9:55 a.m.*)
G. Thorel, Community Representative
- Members Absent: J. Crosby, Community Representative
C. Green, Community Representative
H. Wilson, Community Representative
- Staff Present: D. Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer
A. Storrey, Interim Director of Planning and Development Services
S. Zylstra, Communications Coordinator
S. Henshaw, Recording Secretary
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1. Call To Order

Chair Heeman called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. Approve Agenda

Resolution # EDAC-018-24

Moved by: J. Iglesias

Seconded by: J. Baribeau

THAT the September 12, 2024 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Economic Development Advisory Committee **BE APPROVED** as circulated.

Carried.

3. Disclosure Of Pecuniary Interest

No pecuniary interests were disclosed.

4. Previous Minutes

4.1 May 23, 2024 - Regular Meeting

4.2 June 21, 2024 - Special Meeting

Resolution # EDAC-019-24

Moved by: Sharron McMillan

Seconded by: C. Hicks-Webster

THAT the minutes of the Economic Development Advisory Committee regular meeting held on May 23, 2024 **BE RECEIVED**;

AND THAT the minutes of the Economic Development Advisory Committee special meeting held on June 21, 2024 **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

5. Presentations/Delegations

5.1 South Central Ontario Region (SCOR) Economic Development Corporation - Member Update

Kimberly Earls, Executive Director of the South-Central Ontario Region (SCOR) Economic Development Corporation, was in attendance and provided a presentation to the Committee, as appended to the agenda.

There was some discussion regarding the benefits of micro-credentials.

Ms. Earls advised that Middlesex County gave notice to withdraw membership from SCOR at the end of 2024, and further explained how lower-tier municipalities can still have individual memberships with SCOR.

There was a discussion regarding the benefits of having a membership with SCOR, including advocacy efforts and support for grant applications.

The Committee discussed SCOR's strategic priorities, youth engagement and agribusiness.

There was discussion on formally requesting Middlesex County Council to reconsider the decision to withdraw membership from SCOR.

Member J. Baribeau left the meeting at 9:53 a.m.

Resolution # EDAC-020-24

Moved by: D. Reiche

Seconded by: A. McClean

THAT the Thames Centre Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) encourages Thames Centre Council to **SUPPORT** continued participation at the Middlesex County level with the South Central Ontario Region (SCOR) Economic Development Corporation for 2025.

Carried.

Member J. Baribeau returned to the meeting at 9:54 a.m.

Resolution # EDAC-021-24

Moved by: D. Reiche

Seconded by: A. McClean

THAT the presentation regarding the South Central Ontario Region (SCOR) Economic Development Corporation - Member Update, as presented by Kimberly Earls, Executive Director, **BE RECEIVED** as information.

Carried.

Ms. Earls and Member D. Reiche both retired from the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

6. Reports of Staff

6.1 Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) - Draft Conservation Areas and Lands Strategy (2025-2034)

See below link to provide Public Input for the UTRCA Lands Strategy:

<https://engage.thamesriver.on.ca/utrca-lands-strategy-public-input>

The Committee discussed the UTRCA's Lands Strategy, including trail connectivity and the disposal of surplus lands for public versus private sale.

The Committee further discussed UTRCA's public survey for the Lands Strategy and the timeframe to provide feedback (link for the survey is included on the agenda).

Resolution # EDAC-022-24

Moved by: S. McMillan

Seconded by: A. McClean

THAT the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)'s Draft Conservation Areas and Lands Strategy (2025-2034) **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried.

Member A. McClean retired from the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

Quorum was lost and meeting was Adjourned at 10:07 a.m.