



**Joint Agriculture and Rural Affairs and
Environment and Climate Change Committees**

Minutes

Meeting #: 1
Date: Monday, June 17, 2024
Time: 9 am
Location: Andrew S. Haydon Hall, 110 Laurier Avenue West, and by electronic participation

Present: Chair: Councillor George Darouze
 Chair: Councillor Shawn Menard
 Vice-Chair: Councillor Clarke Kelly
 Vice-Chair: Councillor Marty Carr
 Members: Councillor Riley Brockington, Councillor David Brown, Councillor Cathy Curry, Councillor Sean Devine, Councillor Theresa Kavanagh, Councillor Rawlson King, Councillor Catherine Kitts, Councillor Matt Luloff, Councillor Tim Tierney

Absent: Councillor David Hill (as advised)

1. Notices and meeting information for meeting participants and the public
 Notices and meeting information are attached to the agenda and minutes, including: availability of simultaneous interpretation and accessibility accommodations; *in camera* meeting procedures; information items not subject to discussion; personal information disclaimer for correspondents and public speakers; notices regarding minutes; and hybrid participation details.

Accessible formats and communication supports are available, upon request.

Except where otherwise indicated, reports requiring Council consideration will be presented to Council on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, Joint Agriculture and Rural Affairs and Environment and Climate Change Committees Report 1.

The deadline to register by phone to speak, or submit written comments or visual presentations was 4 pm on Friday, June 14, 2024, and the deadline to register to speak by email was 8:30 am on Monday, June 17, 2024.

These “Summary Minutes” indicate the disposition of items and actions taken at the meeting. This document does not include all of the text that will be included in the full Minutes, such as the record of written and oral submissions. Recorded votes and dissents contained in the Summary Minutes are draft until the full Minutes of the meeting are confirmed by the Committee. The draft of the full Minutes (for confirmation) will be published with the agenda for the next regular Committee meeting and, once confirmed, will replace this document.

2. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were filed.

3. Strategic Initiatives Department

3.1 Wildlife Strategy Review

File No. ACS2024-SI-CCR-0001– City Wide

Report recommendation(s)

That the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee and the Environment and Climate Change Committee jointly recommend that Council approve the action plan described in this report.

Mr. Will McDonald, Director, Climate Change and Resiliency, Strategic Initiatives (SI) Department, introduced Mr. Nick Stow, Program Manager, Climate Mitigation, SI. Messrs. McDonald and Stow spoke to a brief slide presentation which served as an overview of the report.

The following members of staff were also present to respond to questions:

- Ms Tammy Rose, General Manager, Infrastructure and Water Services (IWS) Department
- Ms Marilyn Journeaux, Director, Water Services-Linear, IWS
- Mr. Tyler Hicks, Associate Director, Water Services-Linear, IWS

- Mr. Ryan Polkinghorne, Program Manager, Storm Water Management, Environmental Monitoring, IWS
- Mr. Roger Chapman, Director, By-Law and Regulatory Services (BLRS), Emergency and Protective Services (EPS) Department
- Ms Christine Hartig, Program Manager, Operations Support and Regulatory Services, BLRS, EPS

Chair Menard asked that members present any Motions they might have prepared.

Motion No. ARAC-ECCC 01-01

Moved by Vice-Chair M. Carr (on behalf of Councillor L. Johnson):

WHEREAS Ottawa’s natural environment includes lands, flora, and fauna regulated and protected by municipal, provincial, and federal laws and agencies; and

WHEREAS the City would benefit from the expertise provided by industry and non-governmental organizations; and

WHEREAS improved public information, outreach, and education on prevention and resolution of human – wildlife conflicts is a key objective of the Wildlife Strategy; and

WHEREAS on July 12, 2023, City Council considered a report by the Office of the City Clerk titled, “Advisory Body Review” and, in doing so, approved several recommendations pertaining to the governance of Advisory Committees and Council Sponsors Groups, and referred recommendations related to Department-led Working Groups to the Mid-term Governance Review;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOVED that the Wildlife Resource Specialist, proposed in Action 7, in consultation with the Office of the City Clerk, review the membership, scope and objectives of a Department-led Working Group, in keeping with Action 2, including the potential participation of representatives from other levels of government, non-governmental agencies and Councillor Liaison(s); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff report back to Council on the results of this review by Q3 2025.

Motion No. ARAC-ECCC 01-02

Moved by Councillor R. Brockington:

That staff in Climate Change and Resiliency provide an update to the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee and the Environment and Climate Change Committee of the revised Wildlife Strategy, two years after implementation, by Q2 2027.

Motion No. ARAC-ECCC 01-03

Moved by Vice-Chair C. Kelly:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the wildlife specialist work with IWSD to create an inventory of existing drains and watercourses with ranking of beaver conflicts and feasibility of alternatives for each, and costing for those alternatives. Progress reports to come to committee and council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That City Staff identify specific locations where alternative management practices such as flow devices will be used while maintaining its responsibilities under the Drainage Act and that staff convene a public forum to learn more about the benefits of flow devices and their application within municipal infrastructure systems, specifically stormwater management systems. This forum should include an invitation to flow device experts, as well as a municipality with a proven track record of using these devices. City staff and the City's Drainage Engineers should also attend; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the City complete a summary of the amount of time per week, that City staff inspect and clean culverts and break up dams at the 30 to 50 beaver management sites in Ottawa. This summary should include where equipment is required along with staff time and salary costs, including expenses associated with any contracted service providers and overtime; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the City invite a flow device expert to analyze the results of the inventory of existing drains and watercourses, review current practices of the City for beaver management and provide recommendations on an approach that integrates flow devices as a beaver management tool for Stormwater Systems based upon respectful coexistence.

Motion No. ARAC-ECCC 01-04

Moved by Councillor S. Devine:

WHEREAS the Ottawa Humane Society currently has an agreement with the Ottawa Animal Emergency & Specialty Hospital that includes the provision of veterinary services for sick/injured wildlife delivered by By-law staff outside of OHS's hours of operation; and

WHEREAS the Ottawa Humane Society currently covers the costs associated with the emergency veterinary clinic for overnight services rendered for wild animals delivered by By-law staff; and

WHEREAS in other Ontario municipalities, the cost for such services is borne by the local municipality; for example, in the City of Burlington, Animal Control has a contract with the City of Burlington for covering costs rendered; in the cities of Perth and Windsor, the contracts for overnight services are billed to the municipalities based on a list of animals and services that are pre-agreed to; and

WHEREAS in Ottawa, the emergency veterinary clinic that provides overnight services for wildlife invoice the Ottawa Humane Society within 48 hours of rendering services; and

WHEREAS in 2023 the Ottawa Humane Society was invoiced \$22,000 for these services rendered for 252 wild animals delivered to the emergency veterinary clinic by By-law staff and is anticipating a substantial increase in 2024 and beyond, likely in the \$50,000 range; and

WHEREAS the Ottawa Humane Society can expect that this annual cost will increase due to reasonably projected increases in the cost of veterinary services; and

WHEREAS this annual cost to the Ottawa Humane Society is a significant impact to their strained capacity to provide overall services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the matter of these costs to the OHS be brought forward to the 2025 budget for consideration as a potential grant to the OHS from the City, to include incremental annual increases.

The Committee then heard from the following delegations:

1. Paul Mussell, Ottawa Federation of Agriculture
2. Sara Barnoski, Ottawa Humane Society and Stephen Smith, Senior Manager of Communications
3. Donna DuBreuil⁺, President, Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre
4. Kate MacNeil, Executive Director, Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre
5. Janet Stavinga, Friends of Stittsville Wetlands
6. Catherine Clysdale
7. Ross Owens
8. Lynda Cronin
9. Mary Sarumi⁺
10. Erica Shardlow⁺, Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES)
11. Selena Walker
12. Autumn Jordan, Nature Canada
13. Anita Utas
14. Ian McConnachie
15. Paul Johanis, Greenspace Alliance
16. William van Geest, Ecology Ottawa
17. Marianne Ariganello

[⁺ Slide presentations are held on file with the Office of the City Clerk.]

Correspondence was also received from the following, as noted.

1. Email dated June 11, 2024 from Lisa Darragh
2. Email dated June 13, 2024 from Shirley Dolan
3. Email dated June 13, 2024 from Jean McKibbon
4. Email dated June 13, 2024 from Debbie Wall
5. Email dated June 13, 2024 from Janet Darlington
6. Email dated June 14, 2024 from Rebecca Last-Guenette
7. Email dated June 14, 2024 from Selena Walker
8. Email dated June 14, 2024 from Autumn Jordan
9. Email dated June 14, 2024 from Nicole Corrado (01)
10. Email dated June 14, 2024 from Nicole Corrado (02) transmitting Coyote petition
11. Emails dated June 14, 2024 from Nicole Corrado (03, 04, 05) transmitting Bear Cub petition
12. Email dated June 14, 2024 from Michael Brownwell
13. Email dated June 14, 2024 from Leah Travis
14. Email dated June 14, 2024 from Jason Burggraaf, GOHBA
15. Email dated June 14, 2024 from Janice Saline
16. Email dated June 14, 2024 from Bird Friendly Ottawa
17. Email dated June 15, 2024 from Friends of Stittsville Wetlands
18. Email dated June 15, 2024 from Greg Lister
19. Email dated June 16, 2024 from C. Foulds

[The above Individuals' submissions are held on file with the Office of the City Clerk.]

Following questions to the delegations and to staff, and at the conclusion of Committee discussions, the following Motions were put forward for the Committee's consideration (Councillors Kavanagh and Kitts suggested friendly amendments to Councillor Kelly's Motion as outlined further below):

Motion No. ARAC-ECCC 01-01

Moved by Vice-Chair M. Carr (on behalf of Councillor L. Johnson):

WHEREAS Ottawa’s natural environment includes lands, flora, and fauna regulated and protected by municipal, provincial, and federal laws and agencies; and

WHEREAS the City would benefit from the expertise provided by industry and non-governmental organizations; and

WHEREAS improved public information, outreach, and education on prevention and resolution of human – wildlife conflicts is a key objective of the Wildlife Strategy; and

WHEREAS on July 12, 2023, City Council considered a report by the Office of the City Clerk titled, “Advisory Body Review” and, in doing so, approved several recommendations pertaining to the governance of Advisory Committees and Council Sponsors Groups, and referred recommendations related to Department-led Working Groups to the Mid-term Governance Review;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOVED that the Wildlife Resource Specialist, proposed in Action 7, in consultation with the Office of the City Clerk, review the membership, scope and objectives of a Department-led Working Group, in keeping with Action 2, including the potential participation of representatives from other levels of government, non-governmental agencies and Councillor Liaison(s); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff report back to Council on the results of this review by Q3 2025.

Carried

Motion No. ARAC-ECCC 01-02

Moved by Councillor R. Brockington:

That staff in Climate Change and Resiliency provide an update to the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee and the Environment and Climate Change Committee of the revised Wildlife Strategy, two years after implementation, by Q2 2027.

Carried

Motion No. ARAC-ECCC 01-03

Moved by Vice-Chair C. Kelly:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the wildlife specialist work with IWSD to create an inventory of existing culverts and watercourses with ranking of beaver conflicts and feasibility of alternatives for each, and costing for those alternatives. Progress reports to come to both committees and council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That City Staff identify specific locations where alternative management practices such as flow devices will be used, excluding Municipal Drains under the Drainage Act, while maintaining its responsibilities under the Drainage Act and that staff convene a public forum to learn more about the benefits of flow devices and their application within municipal infrastructure systems, specifically stormwater management systems pending confirmation that the Environmental Compliance Approvals for those facilities are not contravened. This forum should include an invitation to flow device experts, as well as a municipality with a proven track record of using these devices. City staff and the City's Drainage Engineers should also attend; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the City complete a summary of the amount of time per week, that City staff inspect and clean culverts and break up dams at the 30 to 50 beaver management sites in Ottawa. This summary should include where equipment is required along with staff time and salary costs, including expenses associated with any contracted service providers and overtime; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the City invite a flow device expert to analyze the results of the inventory of existing drains and watercourses, review current practices of the City for beaver management and provide recommendations on an approach that integrates flow devices as a beaver management tool for Stormwater Systems based upon respectful coexistence.

Carried, with Councillor Kavanagh dissenting on the second clause above.

Motion No. ARAC-ECCC 01-04

Moved by Councillor S. Devine:

WHEREAS the Ottawa Humane Society currently has an agreement with the Ottawa Animal Emergency & Specialty Hospital that includes the provision of veterinary services for sick/injured wildlife delivered by By-law staff outside of OHS's hours of operation; and

WHEREAS the Ottawa Humane Society currently covers the costs associated with the emergency veterinary clinic for overnight services rendered for wild animals delivered by By-law staff; and

WHEREAS in other Ontario municipalities, the cost for such services is borne by the local municipality; for example, in the City of Burlington, Animal Control has a contract with the City of Burlington for covering costs rendered; in the cities of Perth and Windsor, the contracts for overnight services are billed to the municipalities based on a list of animals and services that are pre-agreed to; and

WHEREAS in Ottawa, the emergency veterinary clinic that provides overnight services for wildlife invoice the Ottawa Humane Society within 48 hours of rendering services; and

WHEREAS in 2023 the Ottawa Humane Society was invoiced \$22,000 for these services rendered for 252 wild animals delivered to the emergency veterinary clinic by By-law staff and is anticipating a substantial increase in 2024 and beyond, likely in the \$50,000 range; and

WHEREAS the Ottawa Humane Society can expect that this annual cost will increase due to reasonably projected increases in the cost of veterinary services; and

WHEREAS this annual cost to the Ottawa Humane Society is a significant impact to their strained capacity to provide overall services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the matter of these costs to the OHS be brought forward to the 2025 budget for consideration as a

potential grant to the OHS from the City, to include incremental annual increases.

Carried

The report recommendation was then put before Committee and was 'CARRIED', as amended by Motions Nos. ARAC-ECCC 01, 02, 03 and 04.

That the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee and the Environment and Climate Change Committee jointly recommend that Council approve the Action Plan described in this report, as amended by the following:

- 1. That the Wildlife Resource Specialist, proposed in Action 7, in consultation with the Office of the City Clerk, review the membership, scope and objectives of a Department-led Working Group, in keeping with Action 2, including the potential participation of representatives from other levels of government, non-governmental agencies and Councillor Liaison(s); and**
- 2. That staff report back to Council on the results of this review by Q3 2025**
- 3. That staff in Climate Change and Resiliency provide an update to the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee and the Environment and Climate Change Committee of the revised Wildlife Strategy, two years after implementation, by Q2 2027**
- 3. That the wildlife specialist work with IWSD to create an inventory of existing culverts and watercourses with ranking of beaver conflicts and feasibility of alternatives for each, and costing for those alternatives. Progress reports to come to both committees and council; and**
- 4. That City Staff identify specific locations where alternative management practices such as flow devices will be used, excluding Municipal Drains under the Drainage Act, while maintaining its responsibilities under the Drainage Act and that staff convene a public forum to learn more about the benefits of**

flow devices and their application within municipal infrastructure systems, specifically stormwater management systems pending confirmation that the Environmental Compliance Approvals for those facilities are not contravened. This forum should include an invitation to flow device experts, as well as a municipality with a proven track record of using these devices. City staff and the City's Drainage Engineers should also attend; and

5. That the City complete a summary of the amount of time per week, that City staff inspect and clean culverts and break up dams at the 30 to 50 beaver management sites in Ottawa. This summary should include where equipment is required along with staff time and salary costs, including expenses associated with any contracted service providers and overtime; and
6. That the City invite a flow device expert to analyze the results of the inventory of existing drains and watercourses, review current practices of the City for beaver management and provide recommendations on an approach that integrates flow devices as a beaver management tool for Stormwater Systems based upon respectful coexistence; and,
7. That the matter of costs to the OHS (for the provision of veterinary services for sick/injured wildlife delivered by By-Law staff outside of the Ottawa Humane Society's hours of operation) be brought forward to the 2025 budget for consideration as a potential grant to the OHS from the City, to include incremental annual increases.

Carried, as amended, with Councillor Kavanagh dissenting on Clause 4 above.

4. Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm.
Next Meeting: to be determined.

Original to be signed by
Councillor S. Menard, Chair

C. Zwierzchowski,
Committee Coordinator

Original to be signed by
Councillor G. Darouze, Chair

K. Crozier,
Committee Coordinator