

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – MAY 13, 2025

MS Teams Meeting

Roll Call:

Trustees: J. Morning (Co-Chair) R. Hutcheon Members: H. McGregor, Queen's University (Co-Chair) S. Luxford-Oddie, Cataraqui Conservation G. Hendry, Sustainable Kingston J. Hook, St. Lawrence College E. MacEachren, Queen's University Faculty of Education L. MacDonald, Loyalist Township J. Pelow, Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre	Staff: A. McDonnell, Superintendent of Education D. Hendry, Sustainable Initiatives Co- Ordinator Regrets: P. Bearse, KFL&A Public Health J. Pelow, Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre J. Salter-Keane, City of Kingston J. Campbell, Loyalist Township C. Bevens-Leblanc, PIC Representative R. Healey, Kingston Coalition for Active Transportation G. Hall, Queen's University D. Fowler, Manager of Facility Services
Invitees: Victoria Renner – Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network	Recorder and Producer: Jennifer Dooley, Administrative Assistant

Limestone District School Board

Limestone District School Board is situated on traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Morning, Co-chair, called the meeting to order.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Adoption of agenda moved by Stana Luxford-Oddie that the agenda presented, be approved. Carried.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest declared.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Adoption of minutes moved by Stana Luxford-Oddie that the minutes as presented be approved. Carried.

5. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Participants introduced themselves, including their names and organizations.

6. COMMUNITY PRESENTATION – Vitoria Renner – Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network

Victoria Renner gave an overview of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network, its UNESCO designation, and its focus on sustainability through education, conservation, and eco-tourism. She also gave a detailed explanation of the Youth Climate Action Summit: goals, structure, and outcomes. Victoria highlighted successful student-led climate action plans (e.g., composting, recycling, plant-based cooking classes, pollinator literacy fair). Emphasis was given to importance of youth involvement in planning, workshops, and event sustainability efforts (e.g., carpooling, compostable name tags). She also discussed funding challenges and interest in expanding the summit and securing sustainable funding.

7. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION UPDATES

- Limestone District School Board – D. Hendry

Daniel Hendry shared updates on school-based environmental initiatives, including Earth Hour participation, upcoming reports on youth transit programming, and summer facility work.

- Limestone District School Board – A. McDonnell

Nothing to report.

- Limestone District School Board – Trustee J. Morning

Nothing to report.

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- Limestone District School Board – Trustee R. Hutcheon
Nothing to report.

- Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre – J. Pelow
Jess Pelow reported on education programs, a successful Earth Week virtual tour, participation in local eco-conferences, and the launch of a new nature walk program aimed at becoming a future field trip destination.

- Loyalist Township – L. MacDonald
Luke MacDonald described the tree subsidy program, e-waste drives, and the construction of a net-zero-ready pool facility. Odessa Public School's food cycler program was highlighted as a partnership between the township and local schools.

- Cataraqui Conservation – S. Luxford-Oddie
Stana Luxford-Oddie provided updates on active native plant sales, busy education programs, and partnerships with Sandy Pines.

- Queen's University Faculty of Education – E. MacEachren
Elizabeth MacEachren introduced the Envirathon program, a science-focused environmental competition not currently present in the Limestone board and encouraged local adoption.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8a. Joy Morning raised concerns about the environmental footprint of AI, including increased electricity and water use, and the lack of regulatory oversight. This prompted a broader discussion on the sustainability of digital vs. paper-based practices.

8b. Robin Hutcheon and others reflected on the need to reconsider assumptions about the environmental benefits of going paperless, emphasizing the importance of balancing convenience, sustainability, and resilience in education and operations.

8c. Alison McDonnell confirmed that LDSB has developed AI guidelines for staff and students and suggested inviting a speaker on AI's environmental impact for a future meeting.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE- TBA

10. ADJOURNMENT

Heather McGregor adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

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