

M1

Minutes of the regular meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on February 22, 2011 at 6:00 pm.

PRESENT: Director Giles – Chair Rodger Hunter
John Morris Kevin Visscher
Justin Straker Pete Keber
Roger Wiles Chris Wood
Bruce Sampson Director Kent (left 7 pm)
Bruce Fraser Director Walker
Dave Polster Director Hutchins

ALSO PRESENT: Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy
Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary;
Director Kuhn, Director Morrison, Mike Kelly, John Koury, Marsha Stanley, Tom Anderson, Geoff Millar, Judy Mills, Kathy Lachman, Director Marcotte, Director Duncan,

GUESTS: Dr. Brad Stelfox, John Nishi

REGRETS: Larry George, Judy Stafford

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented, but reversing the order of New Business and Staff Reports.

MOTION CARRIED

GUEST PRESENTERS

A follow-up presentation was given by Dr. Brad Stelfox and John Nishi on the sustainable land workshop which was held throughout the day at the CVRD, showing the cumulative effects of land uses in the Cowichan Valley. A modelling system was used to demonstrate an approach to objective evaluation of land-use decisions, to support planning for desired conditions in the CVRD. Question-and-answer session ensued.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the January 20, 2011, Environment Commission meeting be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES B1

Combining Economic Development and Environment Commissions
Discussion with Economic Development Commission re the possibility of combining the commissions or their working jointly with the Environment Commission.

The Chair of the Economic Development Commission shared what transpired at their meeting held at 4 pm, February, 22, 2011. There are strong concerns at this time re joining, but it is felt that it would be beneficial to have joint meetings quarterly or biannually to discuss matters of mutual concern or ideas. Possibilities will evolve. Discussion ensued. There are exciting economic initiatives in the sustainable and environmental fields. A facilitated workshop on specific topics with

interactive dialogue would be of much more use for collaborative effort. Another suggestion would be to form a sub-committee to discuss and work on joint initiatives. How do the Environment Commission and Economic Development contribute to large planning issues? They both need to give more input.

It was moved and seconded to have quarterly meetings with the Economic Development Commission and Environment Commission with the first order of business to organize a workshop and further, to set up a task force to look at the different reports that are developed from each commission.

MOTION CARRIED

Suggestion to form a group to organize a workshop to explore issues that may be viable between both commissions. First item will be a discussion on the Sustainable Economic Development Strategy Plan.

Members of the Economic Development Commission and staff left the meeting at 8:15 pm and the meeting resumed at 8:20 pm with the agenda of the Environmental Commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS NB1

Shawinigan Lake Watershed

Bruce Fraser wishes to alert us to the issue of land clearing on the west shore of Shawinigan Lake. It has been clear-cut right over the top of the watershed. This represents a number of failures – cutting of immature timber which is a market failure not waiting until they mature, as well as unregulated corporate self-interest which is a regulatory failure. The negative visual impact is extensive in a recreation area. There is total administrative silence – from CVRD, the Forest Council, which is a governance failure. We have not understood the significance of what we are doing to one of the largest watershed in the CVRD. He feels the CVRD needs to intervene with the province to rectify this injustice. He asks for an audit of the activities of the private managed forest companies. We need to change the rules. There is no authority looking at the total impact of logging activities. Manager of Community Planning states that CVRD has no authority and province won't give up their right to manage the forest lands. The water management board has addressed the issue with effects to the watershed and that may be one way to achieve results.

It was moved and seconded that the following three motions be sent to the Board.

Be it resolved that the Environment Commission recommend to the Regional District Board that a formal complaint be made to the Private Managed Forest Land Council regarding the situation and a formal response from them be provided to both the Regional District and the Environment Commission.

Failing a satisfactory response from the PMFLC, then

Be it resolved that the Environment Commission recommend to the Regional District Board that it make urgent representation to the Minister of Forests to invite the Forest Practices Board to conduct an audit of the oversight practices of the Private Managed Forest Land Council with specific reference to the Shawnigan Lake Westshore Logging Practices and their outcomes.

Failing a thorough and satisfactory airing of and resolution to the issues involved and a commitment to avoidance of any repeats of the situation, then

Be it resolved that the Environment Commission recommends to the Regional District Board that they lodge a formal complaint with the relevant Forest Certification body and request both a formal audit and that the results of the audit be provided to the Board and the Commission.

MOTION CARRIED

STAFF REPORTS

SR1

Environmental Policy Division Budget 2011

Kate Miller presented the Environmental Policy Division's 2011 budget as prepared by the finance department. A summary overview of the budget was provided and it was noted the Environment Commission has been provided with its own budget for programming. It was also noted that the expected 2010 commission surplus has not been carried over into 2011 due to budgetary restraints. Ms. Miller requested that the commission review their proposed 2011 budget to ensure that they have the funds allotted to undertake the proposed programs previously decided upon. Chair Gilles says that she understood we could carry the amount of 14,000 over and will take this up with the CAO immediately. There is a decrease of approximately \$20,000 overall for the Environmental Policy Division for 2011.

Discussion over why the decrease is happening.

It was moved and seconded that the Environment Commission 2011 requisition amount not be reduced by the 2010 surplus of \$14,000 and further, that the Environment commission reallocate the \$14,000 surplus from the 2010 budget to the 2011 budget.

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved and seconded that the Regional Environmental Policy Division budget presented be referred to the next Environment Commission meeting with the request to invite the CFO and CAO to attend, and further that the next Environment Commission meeting be scheduled before the finalising of the budget.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CR1

Communications – Kevin Visscher

A video contest will be held to have students in Middle Schools and Secondary schools to prepare a 90 sec promo video on the environment.

It was moved and seconded to budget \$5,000 from the communications budget for three prizes for the winning students video.

MOTION CARRIED

Time line is aggressive as it needs to be done by school end. Focus will be on State of the Environment. They will use the report card as an analogy to use the report card to make up a video. Communications committee will help with getting the word out.

CORRESPONDENCE

It was moved and seconded to refer all correspondence until the next meeting

C1

Review of Email from Peter Nix dated January 5, 2011

C2

Ecostravaganza Market Place invitation

C3

Land Dedication for F1 zones – forwarded by Loren Duncan

C4

Ecology Economics Ethics blog – email from Hugh Robertson, received January 20, 2011

C5

Email correspondence from Paul d'Haene

INFORMATION

IN1

United Way Public Policy Institute – Judy Stafford

NEXT MEETING

March 17, 2011

ADJOURNMENT

It was recommended that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 pm.