

Minutes of the regular meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on June 16, 2011 at 6:00 pm.

PRESENT: Director Giles Justin Straker – Chair
 Dave Polster Roger Wiles
 Director Kent Rodger Hunter
 Alternate Director Paterson Director Walker
 Pete Keber Chris Wood
 John Morris Bruce Fraser
 Kevin Visscher

ALSO PRESENT: Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy Div
Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary
Director Kuhn

REGRETS: Judy Stafford

**APPROVAL
OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved with the addition of B3, an overview of the Private Managed Forest Lands presentation to the board and NB5, information on Sansum Point.

MOTION CARRIED

**ADOPTION
OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the May 19, 2011, Environment Commission meeting be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

DELEGATIONS

No delegations

**BUSINESS ARISING
OUT OF MINUTES
B1**

Ecostravaganza Wrap-Up - Chris Wood/Kevin Visscher

Steady stream of people – comments from the public are attached to the agenda. It would be good to plan now for future events and prepare a display of materials and banners to be available. We didn't reach any new people – we support the event but did it work for the EC? To reach new people might be better – and more regionally as well. Perhaps AG Fair in the Fall would be a bigger audience – or a Home Show, or a busy grocery store. Fewer distractions would make it more visible than a busy fair. Follow-up with organizer planned. Thank you to all the volunteers.

B2

Update on the joint Economic Development/Environment Commission planning meeting and proposed Agenda

Chris Wood met with the sub-committee and Phil Kent from the Economic Development Commission. They developed a proposed agenda – to formulate a common sense of principles. Plan for mid- July for first meeting.

It was moved and seconded

That the commission approve the proposed agenda for an upcoming joint meeting between the Environment Commission and the Economic Development Commission and extend the invitation to appropriate staff from municipal local governments.

MOTION CARRIED

B3

PMFL – Director Giles gave a presentation which had been presented to the Board by the Executive Director of Private Managed Forest Land Association. How do they manage their lands? Over 50% of our island forests belong to PMFL.

Action - Kate Miller will look into our taxation structure for forest zoned lands. Discussion ensued. Several directors plus the CVRD CAO, and General Manager, Planning and Development, will meet with Ministry of Forests to discuss changing the PMFL legislation to match the crown land logging legislation. Kate suggests sending a letter to watershed source committee re the PMFL practices asking for their support on this issue - **Action: Kate will email contact info to Gerry who will forward a letter to the watershed source committee.**

None

CORRESPONDENCE REPORTS

R1

Land Committee – no report. Dave Polster said that he is glad to see the issues of the forest companies practices are being addressed by this Commission and the CVRD. Justin read an email he received in response to a request to the CAO on the status of our Motions to the Board – the CAO replied that they hope to respond to them by developing the Integrated Sustainability Plan. Once funding for this Plan is secured staff will appreciate dialogue with the Commission on how to proceed.

R2

Communications Committee - see B2

R3

Water Committee – Gerry Giles – discussed how the committee could have most value and how to make the biggest difference – looked at different models operating in the valley. Most advanced is Cowichan Watershed. The Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable group deserves a lot of credit in improving and highlighting issues. Would EC help to sponsor roundtables in Shawnigan Lake Watershed in order to develop a stewardship plan to help the Shawnigan system? We could use the roundtable model and the Cowichan Watershed Management Plan as good models to follow. Seed money would be available to get it off the ground and work systematically through all the watersheds of the Regional District. Will bring recommendations forward at a later meeting.

R4

Agriculture – Pete Keber

The Agricultural Advisory Committee has formed 3 working groups – 12 most prioritized action goals are settled and are being worked on.

Judy sends a request for funding for another forum in the fall for the Agricultural Committee. Judy will bring for discussion in next meeting. Do we have budget for it – to be determined. Decision after work plan is formulated.

R5

Climate Change, Energy and Smart Growth Committee – no report except this committee should be part of the above 4 – it is a subject pertinent to all aspects in each of the committees. Future sea levels are a large issue. LiDar (mapping imagery) is being done for the region which would give key data and information about shore levels. Discussion ensued.

INFORMATION

None

NEW BUSINESS

NB1

Review of Environment Commission's role. Are we being as strategic and effective as we could be – with our work and our interaction with the Board and staff of the CVRD? Chair presented an overview of the history and terms of reference of the Commission. Are we doing what we are mandated to do? Discussion ensued.

NB2

Development of a work plan to achieve the Commission's mandate and to incorporate these goals: Should we:

- Revisit an Environmental Strategic Plan development?
- Integrate/assist with environmental aspects of the CVRD Corporate Strategic Plan?
- Integrate/assist with the CVRD Regional Sustainability Plan?
- Build on the State of Environment Report?
- Build our 2-way relationship with the Board and CVRD staff (i.e. could meet as a sub-committee to work with manager of Recycling and Waste Management and perhaps assist in some research/planning or developmental ideas.

Commission could give reflective, thoughtful referrals to the Corporate Strategic Plan and the Sustainability Plan. Or could look at outcomes and goals and work within those limits. Discussion ensued. Possible ways to participate in decision making are:

- Referral of Area D OCP - it is on the CVRD website
- Take the Corporate Strategic Plan and develop a work plan around each item in it – plan how can these items be achieved?
- Input in regards to the Integrated Sustainability Plan – identify gaps.
- Educate – inform community about what there is out there for them.

In September we will ask to meet with the General Manager, Planning and Development, and offer support and reference for the proposed Regional Sustainability Plan.

Action: Justin will distribute the draft work plan for review.

NB3 New Members criteria – Two positions open by year end. Consensus is that the interviewing committee will make the criteria up for new members and we will advertise. Roger Wiles will be on the selection committee.

NB4 Summer meeting schedule –. The joint meeting of the Environment Commission and Economic Development Commission will take place in mid-July and the August commission meeting will include a B-B-Q.

NB5 The Land Conservancy (TLC) is raising funds to buy Sansum Point in Maple Bay. TLC has \$595,000 left to raise by June 30, 2011 in order to save this special place. The land is in the Coast Douglas Fir zone, and fits into our master plan for trails and parks. Discussion over whether the commission should donate money but decision was that the CVRD has already donated substantially.

It was moved and seconded

That the CVRD Environment Commission express its support and commendation of the acquisition of the Sansum Point property by the partnership of the Land Conservancy of British Columbia, the Cowichan Land Trust, and the Cowichan Valley Regional District, and note that this acquisition is a positive step towards achieving key environmental targets recognized by the Environment Commission, including protection of lands and biodiversity values.

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

NEXT MEETING August 18th, 2011

Chair

Recording Secretary

Dated: _____