

Minutes of the regular meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on September 15, 2011 at 6:15 pm.

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Director Giles	Director Hutchins
	Director Walker	Roger Wiles
	Dave Polster	Rodger Hunter
	Bruce Fraser	Judy Stafford
	Pete Keber	Chris Wood

**ALSO PRESENT:** Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy Div  
Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary  
Kate Lindsay, Rob Williams, CVRD Green Team  
Director Duncan

**REGRETS:** John Morris, Justin Straker, Director Kent, Kevin Visscher  
Jacob Ellis

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved with the addition of NB3 – Smart Meters.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**DELEGATIONS**

The discussion on the Environment Commission Work plan was postponed until a future meeting.

CVRD Green Team representatives, Kate Lindsay and Rob Williams, presented a synopsis of what the Green Team is undertaking within the CVRD and what their priorities are. Discussion ensued.

**It was moved and seconded that the Environment Commission endorse the work of the CVRD Green Team and recommend to the Board of the CVRD to develop a work plan such that:**

- a) low-flow toilets be installed in all CVRD buildings;**
- b) planting of annuals be replaced with planting of food plants; and**
- c) fossil fuel heating/cooling units be replaced with heat pumps or others non-fossil fuel devices.**

**And further, that surplus funds, if any, from the 2011 Environment Commission budget be used to help fund these initiatives.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the June 16, 2011, Environment Commission meeting be adopted as presented.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

A brief update was given re the August meeting/B-B-Q with the Environment Commission.

**BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES B1**

**Update on the joint Economic Development/Environment Commission planning meeting**

The meeting did not materialize. It is believed that there is not an appetite at this time to have joint meetings or to plan joint work plans. To be discussed at the next meeting.

**B2**                    **2011 Commission Budget Update** - How do we use the budget?  
Ideas brought forward – should a part time staff person be hired to do the commission work? Should we support other groups doing projects that are within our goals? Attendance at the Kelowna 'Building Sustainable Communities' conference would be of great value to members. Discussion.

**Action:** Dyan to send out info on the Sustainability Conference in Kelowna – Feb 2012 – to ask who would like to attend if any? Website is <http://www.freshoutlookfoundation.org/content/building-sustainable-comunities-conference>

**CORRESPONDENCE REPORTS**

None

**R1**                    **Land Committee** – Dave Polster. There is a connection between how water and land are managed. We need to learn where to focus targets to most effectively protect our watersheds. Look at groundwater and aquifer depletions. Analysis needs to be done.

**R2**                    **Communications Committee** – plan to go ahead with our plans to engage students to produce videos on environmental change. It will be advertised as a competition to go out to all youth. Judy Stafford has a link to someone to help who has connections with film industry. Budget of \$5000 was agreed upon at prior meeting.

**Action:** Kate Miller will send out a prospectus of this project.

**R3**                    **Water Committee** – The Cowichan Roundtable is a very valuable group. It would be good to initiate other roundtables – for the Chemainus and Shawnigan areas.

**It was moved and seconded to help facilitate the establishment of a Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable as a precursor to setting up a Shawnigan Watershed Management Plan.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Discussion ensued.

**Action:** Bruce Fraser will develop a method and budget for the above and bring to the next meeting.

**R4**                    **Agriculture** – Judy Stafford  
Water affects everything – irrigation for agriculture is very important. Question: how much does Agriculture use, is it used properly, how do we assess this, can we education on how to manage it – ie. drip irrigation? If we contribute there are many other groups that will also contribute. Water quality and conservation ties in with land use and water use. Water balance workshop will take place in November- it is already planned by the Regional Environmental Policy Division.

**Action:** Judy will clarify for October meeting what partnerships are available and how much is necessary to participate.

**INFORMATION**

Draft letter from Bob McDonald to Cindy Bertram re revisions to the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR). It has been read by numerous other committees and is supported by them. Invitation to commission members to write a letter of support to Cindy Bertram if you choose.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NB1**

Review of the Tri-Regional Waste Study prior to October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting

**NB2**

Appointment of a new Environment Commission representative to the Economic Development Committee – Tabled as no volunteer stepped forward. New members' applications have been received. Rodger Hunter, Gerry Giles, and Roger Wiles will shortlist and conduct interviews.

**NB3**

Smart Meters – tabled to next meeting

**NB4**

Location of Environment Commission meetings - Agenda item for Oct.

**NB5**

Director Giles reported on meeting with Ministry of Forestry and with their staff, re overall plan of Private Managed Forest Lands that is conquerable or better than that on Crown Land, as over 50% of our forests are PMFL. We need to have an overall plan to protect the environment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

**NEXT MEETING**

October 20th, 2011

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recording Secretary

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_