

Minutes of the regular meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on November 17, 2011 at 6:00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Justin Straker - Chair                      Director Giles  
Director Hutchins                                      Dave Polster  
Director Kent    Roger Wiles  
Pete Keber     Rodger Hunter  
Judy Stafford    Chris Wood  
Janna Jorgensen                                         Kevin Visscher

**ALSO**                      Directors Duncan and Morrison  
**PRESENT:**                Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy Division  
Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary  
Tyler Innes, Sophy Roberge

**REGRETS:**              Bruce Fraser, John Morris, Director Walker

Chair introduced and welcomed the new members of the Environment Commission, Tyler Innes and Sophy Roberge.

**APPROVAL  
OF AGENDA**

**It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ADOPTION  
OF MINUTES**

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING  
OUT OF MINUTES**

**B1**

Light Pollution at our facilities – Kate Miller spoke on the LEED standards for lighting for commercial facilities. Discussion ensued.

**It was moved and seconded to request the Regional Board to incorporate best practices re light pollution when retrofitting or building new CVRD facilities.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Regional Environmental Policy Department to provide Best Management Practices document.

**B2**

**Building Sustainable Communities Conference in Kelowna – February, 2012.** Web site for info is: <http://www.freshoutlookfoundation.org/events/bsc/2012/2012-building-sustainable-communities-conference> . Funding to be set aside from the current EC budget to register four people.

**It was moved and seconded to allocate a budget to a maximum of \$5500 to register four people to attend the Fresh Outlook Conference on Building Sustainable Communities, to be held in February, 2012; and further, participants will provide a written report to the commission post- conference.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Participants, chosen by a draw were Judy Stafford, Roger Wiles, Janna Jorgensen, and Pete Keber.

**B3** Environment Commission new two-year appointments of Tyler Innes, Sophie Roberge and Roger Hart were approved at the Regional Board meeting November 9, 2011.

**B4** Update of presentation on the Corporate Strategic Plan and what should be the focus by the Environment Commission. Request for a report back from Jacob Ellis for December meeting. The Corporate Strategic Plan will be updated in February, 2012.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**C1** Funding request by email from Ted Van der Gulik, BC Ministry of Agriculture, for Partnership for Water Sustainability Society, to map agricultural areas, inventory of crops and irrigation used or required. Our contribution would leverage other monies for these purposes. Discussion.

**It was moved and seconded to contribute \$30,000 from the 2011 budget to support a partnership agreement for the initiative of mapping agricultural land by the Partnership for Water Sustainability.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Would the Environment Commission entertain requests for funding from the Regional Environmental Policy Division, for funding LiDAR analysis or acquisition?

**Action: Kate Miller will provide a report for December meeting.**

**C2** Email from Kris Rasmussen, re environmental work of the CVRD.

**Action: Director Giles will respond to this email.**

**C3** Advertising opportunity from Cowichan Lake Recreation. Not at this time.

**REPORTS**

**R1** **Land Committee** – no report.  
**Action:** Justin Straker will send an informal request for an update re previous motion to the Board on land use re previous motion to the Board on land use recommendations.

**R2** **Communications Committee** – Video Contest Plan to showcase the best videos at next meeting. Suggestion to ask someone from Arts Council to be on judging panel as well as Film Cowichan. Local government staff was also invited. Volunteers from the commission to assist with judging are Phil Kent, Pete Keber, Janna Jorgensen, Rodger Hunter, Sophie Roberge, and Judy Stafford.

**R3** **Water Committee** – no report. New Environment Commission members are invited to join this committee.

**R4 Agriculture – Judy Stafford**

A background paper was distributed re a workshop on agriculture for the farmers of the Cowichan Valley, with speaker David Cohlmeier.

**It was moved and seconded that up to \$6,000 from the 2011 budget be allocated for an educational agricultural workshop, with guest speaker David Cohlmeier; further, that the speaker will have a specific focus on environmental practices such as watershed protection.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Discussion ensued. Water conservation, management practices, and environmental aspects of sustainability practices should be emphasized in this workshop. Recommendation to request a donation from participants with proceeds to the food bank or other worthy cause. Request that time be allotted for a brief presentation from the Environment Commission on its work.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NB1**

**Environment Commission Work Plan for 2012-2013** Discussion on each of the following items and the need for leaders of each area ensued:

- Items 1, 2, 3 – water and waste plans - no budget needed but committee needed to discuss and advise
- Item 4 – develop a Regional Environmental Strategic plan – in the 2012 budget of Regional Environmental Policy Division,
- Item 5 – Monitor above plan – but not developed as yet. Could report to board on strategic priorities,
- Item 6 – to further develop, aid and implement the CVRD Corporate Strategic Plan,
- Item 7 – support staff on development of Regional Sustainability Plan,
- Item 8 – working with Economic Development Committee on developing a working relationship between the commissions. Chairs will set up meeting to address Item 7
- Item 9 – Update on CVRD State of Environment reporting; set targets and actions for 5 year updates.
- Item 10 – Communicate 12 Big Ideas and what they mean
- Item 11 – Request consultations on issues from CVRD staff and board on major decisions with environmental implications. Need more communication. Need to introduce ourselves to the Board, be visible and develop a shared framework.
- Item 12 – Develop 5-year plan based on 2012 work plan

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

**NEXT MEETING**

December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011

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Chair

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Recording Secretary

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