



C·V·R·D

ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

DECEMBER 15, 2011
6:00 PM – CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street

AGENDA

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Distribution:

CVRD Director Gerry Giles (Co-Chair)	Justin Straker (Co-Chair)
CVRD Director Rob Hutchins	Judy Stafford
CVRD Director Phil Kent	Roger Wiles
Peter Keber	Kevin Visscher
Bruce Fraser	Larry George, Cowichan Tribes
Rodger Hunter	Chris Wood
Dave Polster	Sophy Roberge
Tyler Innes	Roger Hart
Janna Jorgensen	

As Well As:

Warren Jones, CAO, CVRD
Brian Dennison, General Manager, Engineering and Environment Services
Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy Division
Director Morrison
Director Duncan

Agenda Cover Only:

Director B. Fraser	Director T. McGonigle
Director M. Marcotte	Director L. Iannidinardo
Director M. Dorey	Director P. Weaver
Director M. Walker	
Tom Anderson, General Manager, Planning and Development Services	

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 15th, 2011

Draft 2012 Workplan for the CVRD Environment Commission

Dec. 7 version, following initial review by EC, Nov. 17, 2011

Item	Budget	Leader	Partners	Timeline	Notes
1. Continue to act as the monitoring committee for the Solid Waste Management Plan	N/A, covered by CVRD	Form sub-committee to interface; make recommendations to Commission	CVRD staff; MoE	Sub-committee in place for Jan. 2012	Schedule meeting with B. Dennison, B. McDonald, K. Miller
2. Continue to act as the monitoring committee for the Central Sector Liquid Waste Management Plan	N/A, covered by CVRD	Form sub-committee to interface; make recommendations to Commission	CVRD staff; MoE	Sub-committee in place for Jan. 2012	Unknown role with respect to South Sector; schedule meeting with B. Dennison, D. Leitch, K. Miller
3. Continue to act as the monitoring committee for the Local Advisory Water Protection Committee					Status of VI Watershed Protection Committee uncertain; clarify Water Protection committee role of the Environment Commission with respect to above and relationship with the Cowichan Watershed Board and potential South Cowichan Watershed program; coordinate with K. Miller

Item	Budget	Leader	Partners	Timeline	Notes
4. Support CVRD staff in development of a Regional Environmental Strategic Plan, as directed/requested	Budget required to support Commission's activities (outreach, research)	CVRD (K. Miller) – mechanism of Commission involvement to be determined with K. Miller	CVRD staff, community	Based on CVRD workplan development	CVRD workplan approval by March 2012 at latest; include discussion/examination of issues of regional carrying capacity
5. Monitor and advance implementation of the CVRD Regional Environmental Strategic Plan, and report to Board (annually or as required)	n/a	Sub-committee or individuals given responsibility to report to Commission on advancement to date with respect to environmental items	CVRD staff		n/a until RESP is developed; could report to the Board on strategic priorities for programming (relates to item below); review advancement of the CVRD Corporate Strategic Plan to date
6. Support CVRD staff on further development and implementation of the CVRD Corporate Strategic Plan	TBD, following completion of item #5	Co-chairs and W. Jones	CVRD staff	Meeting between co-chairs, W. Jones, J. Ellis, and K. Miller Jan. 2012	Review Oct. session; request identification of priority items by CVRD staff for December for review and incorporation in Commission's priorities and workplan

Item	Budget	Leader	Partners	Timeline	Notes
7. Support CVRD staff on development of the CVRD Integrated Regional Sustainability Plan	n/a	Co-chairs and Tom Anderson	CVRD staff	Meeting between co-chairs, T. Anderson, W. Jones, and K. Miller Jan. 2012	Clarification of the role of the Commission; include discussion/ examination of issues of regional carrying capacity
8. Continue to work with the EDC on developing a working relationship between the commissions		Commission co-chairs and delegated CVRD staff (G. Millar and K. Miller)	CVRD staff	Q1 2012	Chairs of commissions to meet to explore how best to develop a working relationship; brief on each other's workplans; particularly with respect to Workplan Item #7, and to developing a mutually agreeable definition of the term "sustainability"

Item	Budget	Leader	Partners	Timeline	Notes
9. Follow-up and update CVRD State of Environment reporting	Consider allocating surplus funds into account to fund this activity; facilitation budget for workshop and food/drink	Environment Commission co-chairs	CVRD Environmental Policy Division	2 workshops in 2012 to review and set targets; consider facilitation; 2014-2015 SoE update	Steps to pursue: 1) set targets and actions to achieve these based on 2010 SoE; 2) monitor performance with respect to these targets; 3) report out on performance on 5-year cycle. Targets may be set and pursued in partnership with other organizations, e.g. CVRD, Cowichan Watershed Board; workshops can have current sub-committees come with suggestions for targets, and include external partners; activities may include acquisition of relevant data

Item	Budget	Leader	Partners	Timeline	Notes
10. Continue to communicate to the public about the 12 big ideas and what they mean	~\$10k	As required		As required	Develop additional supporting materials for each of the themes; Keep the “brand active”; Continue to report back to the community on how the commission is moving this agenda forward for public and political discourse; Discuss most effective modes of communication – newspaper, fairs, direct presentations?
11. Request consultation from CVRD staff and board on relevant issues with environmental implications	N/A at this time	Co-chairs	TBD	Not initiated	As part of workplan presentation to Board in ~Feb, remind Board members of opportunity to consult with EC
12. Develop 5-yr plan based on 2012 workplan, CVRD initiatives (CSP, ISP, RESP), and targets/SoE work		Co-chairs		Q3 2012	Based on availability of relevant documents; again, activities may include acquisition of relevant data, including low-tech acquisition involving community members

Hello North Cowichan Mayor and Councilors

November 23, 2011

As a Cowichan Carbon Buster, retired environmental scientist and fellow citizen, I send you this summary of actions needed to mitigate climate change from a report by PICS - Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (basically the three main BC universities).

Please note that even the IEA (International Energy Assc.) -not an NGO or radical group but rather formed by governments in the 1970s - says that we have a very short time (5 years or less) to substantially start our journey towards carbon zero if we are to avoid catastrophic breakdown of our climate (scientists have been saying this same for years). An article about this report is found at:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/nov/09/fossil-fuel-infrastructure> - climate-change

Locally, the PICS report is found at: http://www.pics.uvic.ca/assets/pdf/publications/WP_Sustainable_Communities_November2008.pdf>

I know you are busy - so here is a quick summary of recommended municipal actions from PICS:

- 1) First, nurturing collaboration, innovation, and inclusion among municipal departments will contribute to an enabling organizational culture in municipalities. Our municipality needs a "champion" for climate action at the high end of our administration.
- 2) Second, a reorganized regulatory regime needs to deliver clear rules and incentives for sustainable development, particularly on issues of urban sprawl and carbon-dependent building forms. It also must be coordinated.
- 3) Third, federal and provincial funding exists to support infrastructure improvement and development for local governments.
- 4) Fourth, an intentional shift towards a more sustainable development path in communities requires integrated and ambitious targets, facilitated by frequent opportunities for course correction and social learning
- 5) Fifth, action is needed to ensure that the commercialization of sustainable technologies and procedures continues to take place at least at the level of specialized technological (e.g., hydrogen buses and LEED building certification)
- 6) Sixth, innovation within British Columbia needs to be more strategically leveraged by the province. (i.e., we need to plug into university research etc.)

7) Seventh, demand markets for the products and services used in sustainable communities need to be created (i.e., I believe CVRD recommended that staff use e-bikes etc.

8). Eighth, individuals must be provided with information about climate change and sustainability that is locally-relevant, practical, and empowering. Information alone, however, will be insufficient to stimulate significant behaviour change in individuals (Kollmuss and Agyeman 2002). This must be paired with meaningful opportunities to participate...

9) Ninth, expansion of public transit infrastructure, as well as increased incentives for walking and cycling, are crucial...

10) Tenth, complete communities are places where built form, energy generation and use, and food production are integrated

11) Eleventh, long-range planning must account for the long lifespan and physical inertia of urban infrastructure. In addition, changing geophysical conditions, due to climate change, means that long-range planning must not only integrate adaptability into its designs, but also take into account early in the planning process a more dynamic natural system than we have traditionally experienced...

cheers, Peter Nix
Cowichan Carbon Buster
