

Minutes of the regular meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on January 19, 2012 at 6:00 pm.

PRESENT:	Justin Straker	Director Lefebure
	Dave Polster	Director Kent
	Roger Wiles	Director Giles
	Judy Stafford	Janna Jorgensen
	Rodger Hunter	Roger Hart
	Sophy Roberge	Pete Keber

ALSO PRESENT: Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy
Brian Dennison, General Manager, Engineering & Environment
Bob McDonald, Manager, Recycling and Waste Management
Warren Jones, CAO; Jacob Ellis, Corporate Services
Director Morrison
Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary

REGRETS: Tyler Innes
6:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR

The Manager of Regional Environmental Policy called for nominations for Chair.

Director Lefebure was duly nominated.

DECLARATION OF CHAIR FOR 2012

There being no further nominations, nominations were declared closed and Director Lefebure was declared elected by acclamation as the Chair of the Cowichan Valley Regional District Environment Commission.

NOMINATIONS FOR VICE-CHAIR

The Manager of Regional Environmental Policy called for nominations for Vice-Chair.

Justin Straker was duly nominated.

DECLARATION OF CHAIR FOR 2012

There being no further nominations, nominations were declared closed and Justin Straker was declared elected by acclamation as the Vice-Chair of the Cowichan Valley Regional District Environment Commission.

ASSUMPTION OF CHAIRS

Director Lefebure assumed the Chair and Justin Straker assumed the seat of Vice-Chair. A decision was made by the commission members that the Chair and Vice-Chair will work together as co-chairs for the Environment Commission.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were given around the table as there were new members present and new elected representatives. Electoral directors named to the Environment Commission for 2012 are Directors Giles, Lefebure and Kent.

OVERVIEW OF ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

Overview of a Regional District – tabled until next meeting. CAO will return to present the overview.

**APPROVAL
OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as amended with a change of order moving NB1, 2, 3, and 4 to the first order of business, before Business Arising.

MOTION CARRIED

**ADOPTION
OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the December 15, 2011, Environment Commission meeting be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

**NEW BUSINESS
NB1**

Private Sector Green Building Strategy – Rachele Rondeau presented an overview of the Green Building Strategy. Discussion ensued

It was moved and seconded to receive the Private Sector Green Building Strategy report for information, and that further discussion and feedback from the Environment Commission be provided at a subsequent meeting; and furthermore, that other municipalities be included in these discussions.

MOTION CARRIED

Kate Miller, Rachele Rondeau, Jon Lefebure and Justin Straker will work together to organize the next session on Green Building Strategies. Suggested that all municipalities be involved and that there could be a unified approach to this strategy, with a goal of attaining the highest standards possible.

NB2**Solid Waste Management Plan – Bob McDonald, Manager, Solid Waste and Recycling.**

Mr. McDonald distributed a handout showing the diversion rate of recycling vs the disposal amounts in the CVRD, from 1990 to the present and explained key aspects of the Solid Waste Management Plan. CVRD is the leader in recycling programs in BC. Goals are to increase the amount of organic components diverted from the waste stream and to have manufacturers reduce packaging and waste. Discussion ensued. North Cowichan will start picking up organics in the spring of 2012; the Town of Ladysmith and City of Duncan are currently picking up household organic waste at curbside.

The Environment Commission will establish a sub-committee to work on the Solid Waste Management Plan, specifically the mandated role of the Commission to act as the Monitoring Committee for this plan.

NB3**Tri-Regional Waste to Energy update – Bob McDonald**

An assessment of thermal treatment technologies for municipal solid waste on behalf of three regional districts – Regional District of Nanaimo, Cowichan Valley, and Capital Regional District. Discussion ensued.

NB4**Corporate Strategic Plan Implementation – Jacob Ellis**

A handout was distributed with further information stemming from the previous discussion in November focussing on areas where the

Environment Commission might assist the implementation of the CVRD Corporate Strategic Plan. Key components to consider are:

- a) Regional Sustainability Plan process – including research on climate change and updating the State of the Environment Report.
- b) Develop regional Watershed Management strategies and Water Planning Policies including shoreline protection public education.
- c) Strategies for a Healthy Environment – pursue and promote strategies on transportation, green energy, water, adaptation, etc.
- d) Air shed strategy – assist in implementation of burning bylaw.
- e) Agricultural Plan – work with the Agricultural Commission.
- f) Communications Strategy – raise public awareness on various topics related to the environment.
- g) Solid Waste Mgmt Plan – assisting in a siting of a regional composting facility.
- h) Assist in the siting of a composting facility and in implementation of an organics collection service.
- i) Help develop an overall environment strategic plan

The Commission would like to be part of discussions on a forest land use plan and to work with the planning department re zoning of forest lands.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

B1

Commission Work Plan – Selection of committee members J. Straker
Volunteers for the following committees needed for this year are:

- 1) Communications – Janna Jorgensen, Roger Hart, Gerry Giles, Dave Polster, Judy Stafford
- 2) Solid Waste – Sophy Roberge, Roger Wiles, Pete Keber, Phil Kent, Judy Stafford

Dyan will send out a doodle poll to set up the first meeting of the first two groups.

Request for clarification on the Role of the monitoring committee and provincial expectations. Staff will bring a report back..

B2

Update on land use recommendations –recommendations forwarded to planning and development and will be integrated into the Regional Sustainability plan process. The Regional Integrated Sustainability Plan approach/Terms of Reference will be brought forward in February or March to Regional Services Committee and the interest of the Environment Committee participation will be referenced.

B3

Economic Development Committee appointment:

It was moved and seconded to appoint Roger Hart as the representative of the Environment Commission to the Economic Development Commission for a term of one year.

MOTION CARRIED

R. Hunter advocates for the amalgamation of the Economic Development Commission and the Environment Commission. It will be discussed at a

future date. A new Economic Development representative to the Environment Commission will be announced shortly.

Judy Stafford requests to be appointed to the Agricultural Commission if there is to be a formal Environment Commission Representative.

Roger Hunter and Peter Keber are current representatives on this committee.

B4 Meeting Schedules. Will continue to be the third Thursday of each month. Afternoon meeting are not convenient to some member's work schedules.

CORRESPONDENCE none

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

R1 **Communications Committee** – Video Contest Feedback. Janna Jorgensen supplied feedback on the video contest. She requests commission members to also send her feedback by email, to further discussion for future planning

R2 **Agricultural Workshop** – Judy Stafford gave an update regarding the Agricultural Forum at Duncan United Church from 9 -3 pm, January 19th, 2012. There were 125 people registered, including small scale farmers, a variety of people with personal gardens, horticultural societies, natural growers groups, people from Victoria, Maine Island, Salt Spring Island. Very informative and a worthwhile, well organized and well run workshop.

Watershed Board is having Ted Vander Gulik from the Partnership for Water Sustainability hold a workshop in March. More information to come.

INFORMATION

IN1 North Cowichan Climate Action and Energy Plan – send comments and ideas to www.ncclimateaction.ideascale.com by February 15, 2012.

IN2 Natural Capital Policy Review

IN3 Annual Report – Vancouver Island Drinking Water Team

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

NEXT MEETING February 16, 2012

Chair

Recording Secretary

Dated: _____