

Minutes of the regular meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on February 16, 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
	Tyler Innes	

ALSO PRESENT: Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy
Brian Dennison, General Manager, Engineering & Environment
Warren Jones, CAO;
Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary

REGRETS: none

CALL TO ORDER

6:02 pm

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as amended, with the addition of NB1, a discussion on flooding and dikes, and a correction of the date of the last meeting on the agenda to January 19th, 2012.

MOTION CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the January 19, 2012, Environment Commission meeting be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

B1

Overview of a Regional District – Chief Administration Officer presented a brief overview of a Regional District, the area it encompasses, services provided as well as a Regional District budgets, what committees and commissions are involved with it, and how it generally functions. Discussion ensued.

B2

Commission Work Plan – Regional Environmental Strategic Plan (RESP) Justin Straker elaborated on the reasoning behind assisting in developing an RESP. Discussion ensued.

It was moved and seconded that it be recommended to the Board that staff work with the Environment Commission to develop a Regional Environmental Strategic Plan (RESP).

MOTION CARRIED

Suggestions to move this forward were:

- a) to give a brief presentation to the Board to accompany this motion.
- b) that the (RESP) would form a component of and support planned development of a Regional Integrated Sustainability Plan.
- c) that there should be a commission representative on the Sustainability Plan committee through the Planning and Development Department.
- d) an Environment Commission sub- committee be formed to start work on this project. Roger Hart volunteered to help with the framework of the terms of reference for the RESP.

- B3** Commission Budget – Staff report from Manager, Regional Environmental Policy Division was distributed. Discussion ensued.

It was moved and seconded that the Environment Commission budget of the Regional Environmental Policy Division be allocated as amended, at \$61,060 for 2012.

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS

- R1** **Communications Committee** – Janna Jorgensen invited one of the Chairs to join the Communications Committee to help frame the presentation to the Board. They will be attending the next Board meeting (March 14) to present the winners of the video contest. Next communications meeting will be February 23rd at 10:30 am in CR1. A survey will be circulated to the video contest participants to request feedback on the contest.
- R2** **Solid Waste Committee**
Roger Wiles gave a recap of their first meeting. They have met with staff, took part in a field trip to Bing's Creek Waste and Recycling Depot, and will be meeting again in March to tour Meades Creek and Peerless Deposts, and to discuss next steps.
- R3** **Staff Report from Bob McDonald, Manager, Solid Waste and Recycling**
Sets out the role of the Environment Commission as a monitoring committee for the Solid Waste Management Plan.

CORRESPONDENCE

- C1** Thank you card from U Fix It students re video contest.
- C2** Letter of thanks from Canadian Mental Health Association re the video contest with an explanation of how they will spend their winnings on environmentally friendly ideas.
- C3** Email from YG dated January 26, 2012 re the Agriculture workshop, January 19, 2012 .Agricultural workshop. Judy Stafford explained that 107 attended, 100% of those surveyed said they would attend another one, and appreciated the topic and the effort put in to plan the day. There was a wide assortment of interest from the home gardener to commercial scale farmers.

C4 Email from Debra Cebula, Seed Literacy Coordinator, Cowichan Green Community re GMO's and GE free zones in the Cowichan Region. There will be a conference Saturday, February 18, 2012, at the Hub, Cowichan Station, on GMO's and all are invited. It was decided to send the correspondence to the Agricultural Commission for their information.

**INFORMATION
IN1**

Pacific Climate Seminar Series – BC Weather Year in Review for 2011 – An Introduction to PCIC Climate Analysis and Monitoring on February 15, 2012, from 3:30 to 4:30 pm at University of Victoria.

IN2 Information Exchange on Ecosystems and Species at Risk, 9:30 am, February 23, 2012, in Cowichan Bay. Kate Miller will provide the model bylaws to the commission members.

IN3 Invitation to the Cowichan Green Community's 2nd Annual Donor Breakfast on February 22nd, at Duncan Christian Reformed Church, 7:30 am.

**NEW BUSINESS
NB1**

Cowichan Valley Flooding – Dave Polster gave a presentation on flooding within the Cowichan area. Primarily he stated that flooding should be allowed to happen naturally and within the existing tolerances where possible, that we need to restore upland areas so water soaks in rather than running off, and that building on the floodplain should be discontinued.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

NEXT MEETING March 15, 2012

Chair

Recording Secretary

Dated: _____