

Minutes of the regular meeting of the meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION, held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on September 20, 2012 at 6:05 pm.

PRESENT: Justin Straker, Co- Chair Director Hutchins
Director Giles Judy Stafford
Rodger Hunter Pete Keber
Roger Wiles Sophy Roberge
Roger Hart

ALSO

PRESENT: Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy
Brian Dennison, Manager, Engineering & Environment
Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary

REGRETS: Janna Jorgensen, Larry George, Director Kent, Dave Polster,
Tyler Innes, Director Lefebure

**APPROVAL
OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved with the addition of R8, 2013 Budget update, and the cancellation of the delegation, MoE. And add Cowichan River update on water levels and a request from the Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable and an updating on the floodplain and gravel removal.

MOTION CARRIED

**ADOPTION
OF MINUTES**

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

MOTION CARRIED

**BUSINESS ARISING
OUT OF MINUTES
B1**

Status of past motions of the Environment Commission - Justin Straker
In the last two years no clear resolution to:

- 1) Land use and protected areas. – referred to staff and Integrated regional strategic plan plus our environmental strategic plan will begin to cover this.
- 2) Quarterly meetings with Economic Development Commission (EDC) – it hasn't materialized. No impetus from staff to keep it going. We could invite Ec Dev in late November/early Dec to try again. Discussion could be around providing feedback to the sustainability plan. Invite to EDC membership to attend our meetings.

Action:

1. Prepare agenda ready for the next meeting of EDC.
2. Plan a joint meeting of the EC and EDC for our November meeting
Action: Kate Miller to call chair of Economic Development Commission to discuss.

- 3) Privately managed forest lands – an update of that would be good. On a future table – going to UBCM next week and in the hands of the province
Action: Island Timberlands could be invited to give a presentation to a meeting – perhaps in collaboration with EDC.

4) We needed to provide input to Integrated Sustainability Plan – no updates at this time. Invite Tom Anderson to give an update.

Action: We could give a running Action log to remind everyone what tasks should be done.

5) Green building policy – Prepared in the planning and department. Environment Commission to provide feedback and it will need a sub-committee. A draft policy is now developed by planner, Rachelle Rondeau which she will review with working group.

Action: Sophy Roberge, Pete Keber, and Phil Kent volunteered to form a working group to review the draft policy with Rachelle Rondeau.

B2

Central Sector Liquid Waste Management Plan (CSLWWMP)

General Manager for Engineering and Environmental Services explained that the steering committee met and is establishing a function – which will provide a budget for updating and amending the plan. Looking at governance of the Joint Utilities Board (JUB) which may be altered in future. Establishment of an advisory committee with technical expertise and public input is also planned. A member from the Environment Commission could sit on this if interested. The amendment is to look at JUB – if it is to be replaced, when, how etc. Very expensive.

Action: An EC member to be invited to attend CSLWMP – when the advisory committee is struck. Discussion ensued. Future delegation from MoE will address Environment Commission's role to monitor Liquid Waste Management Plans. They will also share what other jurisdictions do.

South Sector Waste Management Plan – there is a draft reference document which directors need to look at to move it forward. I don't remember this – what is the reference to directors?

B3

Area E Request for Feedback on Proposed Bylaw Changes

Volunteers are Jon Lefebure, Roger Hart, Sophy Roberge and Justin Straker. Planner will meet with subcommittee to receive updates and to understand what is currently proposed. A revised plan will be sent to committee prior to the meeting date.

REPORTS

R1

Environmental Strategic Plan Request for Proposal (RFP) and Contract

There were ten proposals received. The RFP chosen by the committee for award was submitted by HB Lanarc/Golder. This will provide a practical plan for short and long terms strategies and will be fundamentally complete by the end of December. First meeting is October 2. CAO will attend.

It was moved and seconded to approve the awarding of the Request for Proposal ES-016-12 for the Regional Environmental Strategic Plan to HB Lanarc/Golder.

MOTION CARRIED

R2 **Plan2Adapt Website and Tool** – it allows one to look at scenarios in the future concerning climate change adaptation and shows certain things such as drought or agriculture, insects or water availability. A very interactive website which will aid governments in future analysis of infrastructure impacts. Please try it.

R3 **Regional Energy Analysis** – Final report attached in the agenda. Energy mapping and modelling tools make it very usable to local governments for planning purposes. It will also show potential challenges to reducing energy consumption and improving energy resilience. Commission will have a full presentation, read report and discussion will be on October's agenda.

Town of Ladysmith invites Kate to present the modelling, possible on Oct 3.

R4 **Communications** – Working on the Brand for communications. Complete update will be at October meeting.

R5 **2012 Video Contest** – updating of graphics on website. Michelle Stapes will assist in promoting the video contest to local schools. Request to increase funding for video contest

It was moved and second to approve the request for \$2500 additional funds to be allocated for the 2012 video contest.

MOTION CARRIED

Only what is needed will be spent as it is not clear how much will be spent. Amount may be adjusted. May look for a 'celebrity' to chair the contest judges.

R6 **Solid Waste Committee** – Roger Wiles
Terms of References drafted and discussed.

It was moved and seconded to approve the Terms of Reference for the Solid Waste Management Plan Subcommittee.

MOTION CARRIED

There will be presentation on the new automated curbside collection system in the near future. Please advise Roger Wiles if you would be interested in attending.

R7 **Agricultural Advisory Committee update** – Judy Stafford gave an overview of the Sept. 13 meeting – Fortis BC gave a presentation asking for support in amalgamating three parts of their company and to standardize their gas rates across the province which will reduce rates on Vancouver Island.

Committee updates – working on a Cowichan Brand, putting together a brochure for new buyers on living beside a farm, workshops are coming up, agriculture show also coming up, encouraging farmers to lease property, farm marketing and a farm incubator project in North Cowichan coming up as well.

CVRD, BC Province and Arts Council are funding a cultural agricultural inventory mapping project as well as natural features highlighted.

Action: Send Rodger Hunter an email if you know of special, significant places which should be added.

R8

Updates from Manager of Regional Environmental Policy Division

- a) **Diking Project** — final approvals from Federal Government.
 - Tenders closed for North Cowichan dike improvements and work will begin very soon.
 - New tender for more dike work on Quamichan Village site out today
 - South dike projects will go out for tender in a week.
- b) **Gravel Removal project** – complicated with many challenges Approval process is difficult with many provincial criteria to fulfil before acceptance to work in area but approvals have now been granted for emergency works to be undertaken, log jam removal and limited gravel removal on North Arm of Cowichan River..
- c) **Cowichan River water level** – we are in middle of record breaking drought.
 - Water level reduced leaving lake – if prolonged zero deposition is expected to be November 1st. Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable is very concerned about the ramifications on fisheries and community infrastructure.
 - Also concerned about operation of the weir – would like CVRD and the Environment Commission make this issue more public.
 - BC River Day on September 30th.
- e) What are the ramifications for our area re Bill 38 and substantial change of environmental protection and the complete deconstruction of a regulatory system? Requesting help and feedback from EC to the Cowichan Stewardship roundtable so they can make a presentation or report to federal government.

ACTION ideas were discussed on drought.

- Issue a press release on concerns with our water for public awareness or have an article written by newspaper.
- Write letters of concern to government to maintain flow – sample letters available.
- Prepare a petition
- Government can apply to province for additional water storage
- Cowichan Watershed Board is working on this
- Distribute preamble to individuals to give them understanding on the Bill 38. pc: Cowichan Roundtable.

ACTION: Kate Miller and Rodger Hunter will work on an ad campaign and press release in local newspapers to bring attention to this issue asap, prior to BC River's Day.

It was moved and seconded to allocate up to \$4000 for a river campaign.

MOTION CARRIED

Action: Kate Miller will prepare an ad from the Environment Commission for approval re water.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

INFORMATION

IN1

August 18 Bike Tour – Pete Keber – tabled to October meeting

IN2

Tour of proposed Enbridge Pipeline – Judy Stafford – update from her trip in northern BC in August – she spoke to many people who live there and how will it affect them. Presentation tabled to October meeting.

IN3

Shopping bags from Nature Conservancy were handed out to members.

NEW BUSINESS

n/a

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

NEXT MEETING

October 18, 2012

Chair

Recording Secretary

Dated: _____