

Minutes of the regular meeting of the meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION, held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on February 28, 2013 at 6:00 pm.

PRESENT: Director Lefebure -Chair Director Duncan
 Janna Jorgensen Director Hutchins
 Jennifer Rowell Dianne Hinkley
 Tyler Innes Pete Keber
 Judy Stafford Sophy Roberge
 Scott Akenhead Maura Walker
 Priscilla Brewer

ALSO

PRESENT: Brian Dennison, General Manager, E&E
 Bob McDonald, Manager, Solid Waste and Recycling
 Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary

REGRETS: Kate Miller, Manager, Environmental Policy Division, Roger Hart, Director Lines

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

A round robin of introductions welcomed our four new members of the Environment Commission: Scott Akenhead, Maura Walker, Priscilla Brewer, and Jennifer Rowell.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as amended with the addition of R5, the Green Building Policy sub-committee report, NB1, a Terms of Reference report for the Solid Waste Management subcommittee, NB2, information on the upcoming meeting re Cowichan Lake rule curve and weir, NB2, footprint in the sand, NB3, the new curbside brochure.

MOTION CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of January 17, 2013, Environment Commission meeting be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

DELEGATIONS D1

Somenos Marsh Society – Presentation of new five year strategic plan and Wetland Restoration project for the Somenos Marsh wetlands by Paul Fletcher. He explained the focus of restoration and protection of the wetlands, and described the wildlife viewing facilities they are building. They are moving towards management of the properties with many of the local naturalist groups involved, such as the Cowichan Land Trust and the Duck Unlimited Society, improving relationships with the community, and restructuring of the society. He asked if the Environment Commission would consider donating any money into the restoration project of the Somenos Marsh. Discussion ensued.

Director Duncan left the meeting at 6:45 pm

**BUSINESS ARISING
OUT OF MINUTES**

- B1** **ePlan update** –Draft final March 7th will be sent to sub-committee who will then meet on March 8th where the plan will have its final review.
- B2** **Environment Commission Workshop/Retreat** – postponed because of a conflict with a large public meeting in Lake Cowichan re the rule curve. Could it be changed to March 16th? Two people are not available so a doodle will be sent out to find a date that works for the majority.
- B3** **Retirement of Environment Commission Members** – Sophy Roberge asked why we can't give a gift to retiring members. Jon Lefebure will bring Chemainus mural books to donate. Rob Hutchins will explore this with corporate services and also will let us know what is in the corporate vault.
- B4** **Appointment of Economic Development Commission representative**
Roger Hart would like his name to stand for reappointment.

It was moved and seconded to appoint Roger Hart as the Environment Commission representative to the Economic Development Commission for the coming year.

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS

- R1** **Cowichan Valley Waste Industry Association** – Manager, Solid Waste and Recycling Division, explained that the Solid Waste Industry Liaison Society want their voice heard at the CVRD. Discussion ensued.

It was moved and seconded that the Cowichan Valley Waste Industry Association's interest in advancing their cause is best served by being invited to participate in a Solid Waste Liaison Group, and that their members be encouraged to apply for upcoming positions on the Environment Commission.

MOTION CARRIED

Action: Staff to come back with a Terms of Reference with Option 3 fleshed out, naming quarterly meetings. Also it was requested to call this group a Solid Waste Liaison group, not a Solid Waste Industry Liaison group.

- R2** **Solid Waste Sub-Committee** – Sophy Roberge
Terms of Reference will be discussed and finalized at the workshop.

- R3** **Communications Committee** – Janna Jorgensen
The video contest winners were presented to the Board February 15 2013 and their videos shown. CVRD Corporate Communications Committee is making changes and a new corporate brand has been prepared. The Environment Commission communications sub-committee is finalizing a

distinct brand for what this commission does. A new chair is also needed for this sub-committee.

R4 Agricultural Advisory Committee. The Regional Advisory Commission met on February 26, noted that the 2nd Annual Cowichan Valley Agricultural Show was a success. A regional workshop explained how sub-committees can help promote agriculture. The incubator program is going out to an RFP.

R5 Green Building Policy – standards to be put into the policy. Rebates on building permit or rezoning fees would be an incentive if certain green buildings were being developed.

It was moved and seconded to strongly encourage Planning Staff to work on preparing a draft of the Green Building Policy.

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

C1

Email dated January 23, 2013, re bike lanes in the Cowichan Valley from Peter Spohn. Discussion – governments get funding to include bike lanes on new roads or in new subdivision.

It was moved and seconded to thank Mr. Spohn for his comments re bike lanes and to refer the letter to the upcoming workshop discussion on March 16, 2013.

MOTION CARRIED

INFORMATION

IN1

EPA provides Tools for Sustainable Communities

NEW BUSINESS

NB1

Upcoming Cowichan Lake meeting March 9, 2013 – The province will offer a public information session on proposed changes concerning the Cowichan Lake weir and the rule curve band re storage in Cowichan Lake. Tyler Innes mentioned that the ePlan will look at our forestry practices and if they are sustainable and how they affect land, water and wildlife.

NB2

Footprint in the Sand – Cowichan Land Trust showing this video on CBC by David Suzuki – a good look on humans' effect on the earth. Also recommended watching is 'Searching for Sugarman' which is an unbelievable story of humanity.

NB3

Curbside Brochure – Manager, Solid Waste and Recycling Division showed the brochure on the new curbside collection program the CVRD is launching, with brand new totes delivered to approximately 12,000 homes within the CVRD sometime around June, 2013.

NB4

Announcement that Dave Polster has formally resigned his appointment in the Environment Commission. A thank you was sent to him from the chair of the CVRD Board.

NB5 **ePlan sub-committee** will meet March 8th to discuss and finalize the plan. Kate Miller will organize.

New members had an opportunity to ask questions and request input at the end of their first meeting with the commission.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

NEXT MEETING March 28, 2013

Chair

Recording Secretary

Dated: _____