

Minutes of the regular meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on March 2, 2009 at 6:15 pm.

PRESENT: John Wilson
Roger Wiles
J. Francis Hugo
Chris Wood
Rodger Hunter
Peter Keber
Bruce Sampson
Bruce Fraser
Justin Straker
Judy Stafford
Director Duncan
Mike Kelly

ALSO

PRESENT: Gerry Giles, Chair
Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy
Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary
Director Morrison
Brian Dennison, GM, Engineering and Environment Services

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES M1

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the November 20, 2008 Environment Commission meeting be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES B1

Mandate of the Environment Commission –The line ‘That the CAO be accountable for implementation of the CVRD Environmental Strategic Plan’ as approved by the Board December 10, 2008, was removed from the bylaw and the amended Bylaw was approved by the CVRD Board January 14, 2009.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

Members introduced themselves prior to the meeting, over dinner.

NEW BUSINESS

Report of the Chairperson, Gerry Giles, Chair of the CVRD Board

NB1

Role of the CVRD – Chair explained the role of the CVRD and
a) The tools it has at its disposal to affect change
b) The role of its elected officials
as per Tab 1 Introduction, in the Environment Commission binder.

NB2 **Structure of the CVRD** – Chair and GM of Engineering and Environmental Services went over the Corporate Structure and the reason for the re-organization of the CVRD. Kate Miller is not solely an employee for the Commission, but also works for and with the Board of the CVRD, and with other municipalities in the Cowichan Valley and also with the federal and provincial government.

NB3 **Role of the Environment Commission** – Chair explained why there are so many commissions and committees; for now Economic and Environment Commissions will remain separate. Terms of Reference are set out in the Environment Commission’s Binder Tab 1. Bylaws are explained in Tab 2.

NB4 **Membership and External Communications** - Environmental Manager explained how commission members, when speaking for the Commission, must have decisions and opinions be supported by the whole commission and not offer their personal opinion. Although unable to attend this evening, Cowichan Tribes is very much involved with this commission. They have given us ortho-photo maps to use which are of huge benefit.

NB5 **Environmental Strategy Development to date.** Kate explained the history of what the commission did and is to do. Details in Tab 3 of Binder. The four goals of the Strategy are:

- to protect the environment from avoidable harm,
- to restore, rehabilitate and enhance the natural environment,
- to encourage economic and social development compatible with environmental stewardship, and
- to lead by example.

Results of survey – Get on with it! was prevailing response.

NB6 **Environmental strategy framework** - 12 component framework. Environmental Manager explained how the strategy developed. Discussion ensued regarding what we can do to crack barrier of unbelievers. More marketing is needed. We have to convert to action the concept of environment protection. ‘Imagine BC’ was a very powerful tool, as was the ‘Participaction’ campaign. Commission should lead by example, followed by CVRD staff, and so forth – it will snowball. Next meeting – commission will begin process.

It was moved and seconded to encourage Environment Commission members to take environmental actions that will reduce their environmental footprint, including but not exclusive to undertaking, voluntarily, individual energy audits.

MOTION CARRIED

Action – John Wilson will begin a list of actions that members can do to be an example to the public.

NB7 **Ongoing CVRD programs and initiatives overview by Environment Manager**

Phenomenal amount of work going on in the Valley and by local groups. A few examples include:

- a. Water governance – water resources – shared government governance model – surface water management primarily.
- b. Integrated flood management plan for Cowichan/Koksilah River Basin.
- c. Lidar for Cowichan Lake boundaries. No funding available to continue this work at this time.
- d. UBCM Innovations project – mapping of our energy in the CVRD and in the community.
- e. Environmental Lens – remove artificial construct between Environmental and Economic decisions – lens should be on everything we do – purchasing, transportations, events, and actions.
- g. Carbon Neutral programming update — no funding at this time.

NB8

Decision on meeting dates and schedules and on suitable dates for attendance by members.

It was moved and seconded that the Environmental Commission meet on the fourth Monday in the month.

MOTION CARRIED

NB9

2009 Budget is \$31,000 for the commission’s meetings and their work plan. We need funding to be leveraged with other community groups, or we should apply for more funding. Further information will come to commission on funding opportunities as they arrive.

NB10

Agenda and work plan for upcoming year. Development of a work plan and meeting dates to be discussed at next meeting.

NB11

Election Of Chair And Co-Chair

Loren Duncan nominated Gerry Giles as chair and she agrees to chair the next meeting only, and at that meeting all members would be present and a vote for chair and co-chair will be held.

CORRESPONDENCE

C1

Economic Development – Request for membership on agriculture plan. A consultant is hired and will be trying to attract members to participate in the planning process. Next meeting will be Friday, March 13 at 11 am at Cowichan Future Corps. Questions: 1. is there any inventory on agricultural production numbers and 2. How much land is in the ALR and of that, how much is used for agricultural purposes. Make sure members have updated terms of reference before they go to the meeting.

It was moved and seconded that Loren Duncan, Judy Stafford and Peter Keber be appointed to sit on the Economic Development Agricultural Committee as liaisons from the Environmental Commission.

MOTION CARRIED

C2

Economic Development – Clean Technology Sector. Focus is energy production. Consultant would like an Environment Commission member representative to sit in this group and have the report read and

then commented on at their meeting next week.

It was moved and seconded that Peter Keber and Bruce Sampson be appointed to sit on the Clean Technology committee.

MOTION CARRIED

C3

Solar Energy Workshop – March 8, 2009

How solar panels work, how you can retrofit them for your houses, major reduction in price if 20 people commit to it. Should be an excellent workshop.

**INFORMATION
IN1**

The following items were considered:

Regional Energy Plan focussed on scan of energy opportunities in this region with a hope to move to energy self-sufficient, early development, housing, heating, and economic development opportunities. Carbon neutrality and GHG emissions – embed into our OCP’s some of this language. How do we increase sustainability and make good decisions on developments. How do we build capacity?

Action: Chris Wood, John Wilson, Bruce Sampson, Pete Keber and Lorne Duncan offered to sit on this group as a steering committee.

NEXT MEETING

March 24, 2009

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Chair

Recording Secretary

Dated: _____