

Minutes of the regular meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on April 9, 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 Kent
 Director Duncan
 Director Hutchins

ALSO Gerry Giles, Chair

PRESENT: Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy
 Brian Dennison, GM, Engineering and Environment Serv.
 Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Mike Kelly

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

MOTION CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the March 2, 2009 Environment Commission meeting be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

B1 Change of Regular Meeting Dates

It was moved and seconded that the meeting dates of the Environment Commission will be amended to the second Thursday of each month.

MOTION CARRIED

B2 Update on Clean Technology Committee

The Clean Technology Sector ‘Opportunities for Development’ report was distributed. Pete Keber gave an update of the meeting he attended in which the consultant was connected by speaker phone. Pete felt committee needs more depth in range of members but EDC wanted to limit the number on the committee. Phil Kent was present and felt like there was some understanding of the need for a link with Environment and Economic Development Departments and they will do some things together. He will try to keep Environment Commission apprised of that.

ACTION: ALL Please review the document and make comments to Pete Keber and Bruce Sampson to take back to the next committee meeting.

- B3 **Update on Agricultural Committee** – Pete Keber was our representative. He felt it was a very productive meeting – lots of good suggestions – followed by feedback from people in the Agricultural Community itself and now the committee has to take those suggestions and use them. He asks for specifics from Environment Commission to give back to them, such as how to achieve sustainable agriculture in the Cowichan Valley.

ACTION: We will look at the first draft the consultants produce and give feedback. Pete will get info and take back our thoughts to Agricultural committee.

ACTION: Why can't we have more representation at the above two committees. Chair will clarify when the next Agricultural Committee meeting will be and who can attend.

- B4 **Work Plan for Environment Commission** – session planned for April 9, 2009 meeting to develop a work plan. Details under NB1.

- B5 **Election of Commission Chair and Vice-Chair**

Call for nominations for Chair:

Gerry Giles – accepts nomination if there is a co-chair

Rodger Hunter – doesn't accept nomination for chair

It was moved and seconded to elect Gerry Giles as Chair of the Environment Commission, by acclamation.

MOTION CARRIED

Election of the Co-Chair

Rodger Hunter – accepts nomination

John Wilson – accepts nomination

Votes were cast and counted

It was moved and seconded to elect Rodger Hunter co-chair by majority vote.

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

- NB1 **Work Plan Planning – facilitated by Angela Evans**

Angela Evans led a facilitated approach to discussing and planning our proposed initiatives for the year. The commission has a budget of \$30,000 to use as leverage or to plan some strategies and implement them. We are not limited by this small budget – we can partner strategies with funds and grants. How do we want to use the budgets – in meetings, sub-committees, do they all need staff in attendance or will they just act as planning groups? Does the work plan parallel the energy plan?

Four questions were put to the Environment Commission to be considered.

1. What should the **priorities** of the Commission be for this year?
This was discussed in groups of 4 – all 4 groups presented their thoughts on what priorities should be of the Commission.
2. **How** should the commission undertake them?
3. Is there **low-hanging fruit** (not priorities) that would create positive movement in the community?
4. What **communication** programming should we undertake as part of the plan?

To consider:

- Do they all relate to the 12 big ideas?
- What is missing?
- Are there some easy wins?
- How will this get done?
- Where is the overlap?

The decisions on what we will work on resulted with the top priorities being:

1. Eco-check - Sustainability and environmental lens applied to all CVRD decisions - #1
2. Regional Sustainable Growth Strategy #2
3. Energy use and conservation # 3
4. Inventory Mapping #4
5. Communicate, educate and advise community and board # 4
6. Working group on forestry - #4
7. Land use legislation – influence OCP's #5
8. Energy, Water, Food and Forestry are priorities #6

Discussion Some key points discussed were:

- Points:**
- In order to succeed we need to access all the funding we can – Gas tax funding is \$2.2 million (also GST funding)?
 - Develop partnerships - including with Tribes
 - Don't forget value of food production and sustainability - which could potentially lead to exporting dollars
 - Develop potential use of energy
 - Change waste management regulations – make it affordable
 - Develop linkage with Economic Development commission – ie: alternate energy businesses – good for both areas. Work towards a holistic Sustainable Development Commission
 - We could be a demonstration unit within the CVRD
 - Develop good building practices - construction industry wins as well

CORRESPONDENCE

- C1 Clean Technology Sector Report –Commission members will read it and give comments back to Pete Keber.
- C2 The Age of Stupid – information re a movie that will be coming to North America soon which, set in 2055, foretells a world that has been decimated by a failure to act on climate change.
- C3 Nunavut – Environmental Manager has a lot of information to give the commission if interested on her trip and the effects of climate change.

INFORMATION

- IN1 Peter Nix sent an email regarding Solar workshops and administrating groups, and political will to make changes. To be discussed
- IN2 Earth Day – April 25 – in the Duncan Square.
- IN3 We have a library if anyone wants to sign out books or publications.
ACTION: Dyan to send out list of titles.

OTHER

BUSINESS

- OB1 **Appoint representative to Economic Development Commission**
Tabled until Chair meets with Economic Development Manager.
Bruce Sampson and Chris Wood offered to sit on it. Chair will explore these appointments and advise on meeting schedule.

It is planned that both commissions meet and exchange ideas on a regular basis on ways to work together and how to incorporate sustainability, both environmentally and economically.

NEXT MEETING May 14, 2009 at 6 pm

ADJOURNMENT **It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.**

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Chair

Recording Secretary

Dated: _____