

Minutes of the regular meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on July 9, 2009 at 6:05 pm.

PRESENT: Director Giles, Chair Rodger Hunter
 Roger Wiles Bruce Fraser
 Justin Straker Mike Kelly
 Judy Stafford Chris Wood
 Bruce Sampson Francis Hugo
 Director Duncan Director Kent

ALSO PRESENT: Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy
Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary
Brian Dennison, General Manager, Engineering & Enviro
Bob McDonald, Manager, Recycling and Waste Mgmt
Director Iannidinardo, Director Kuhn

ABSENT: Dir. Hutchins, Pete Keber, John Wilson, Larry George

INTRODUCTION Introduction of guests Director Ian Morrison, former Director Brooke Hodson, Director George Seymour, Director Tim McGonigle, Allison Conway, member of Social Planning Cowichan working on an update on the Status of the Community report. Introduction of Bob McDonald, Manager of Solid Waste in the Engineering and Environment Department.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA **It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved with the addition of New Business Item NB4, to discuss the new Vancouver Island University (VIU) building standard.**

MOTION CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES **It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the June 9, 2009 Environment Commission meeting be adopted as presented.**

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

NB1 The Chair introduced the Cowichan Basin Water Management team- Michelle Vessey, Environmental Manager of Catalyst Paper, Craig Wightman, Senior Biologist for BC Conservation Foundation and the Living Rivers Program, and Tom Rutherford from DFO who is currently seconded to the Living Rivers Program and acts as the co-chair of the Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable.

They gave a presentation on the Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan and issues surrounding implementing the plan. An overview of the Cowichan Basin Aquatic Ecology was given by Craig Wightman. Updates on the weir at Cowichan Lake and how Catalyst manages the

water flow of the Cowichan River were explained as well as the rule curve.

We must work together to protect our water for all uses – residential and commercial need, fish, and recreation. It will take joint action of the community and all agencies involved to continue the good work that has begun.

Environmental Manager explained that Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan (CBWMP) has been endorsed by the partners and the CVRD Board and is in the process of being implemented except for two of the recommendation contained within the plan: raising the weir and altering the rule curve. This group plans to form Cowichan Basin Water Advisory Council (CBWAC) to help spearhead CBWMP recommendations. They have hired Rodger Hunter as coordinator to facilitate the formation of the CBWAC and to work with the groups and public who have vested interests. She also explained the hiring process for a coordinator. A question and answer period ensued.

- NB2** Update on the CVRD's **Solid Waste Management Plan** with Bob MacDonald. A staff report and table of the years 2007, 2008, and 2009 work in progress was distributed. The Commission's role is to make sure we are on track with the plan. We are a provincial leader in waste management. 68% of waste is recycled at the present time. We have a 50% rate per person reduction at disposal level. Goal is towards Zero Waste. The CVRD is looking at new technology but for the next 3 years garbage will be shipped to Central Washington by train. Investment in technology and buildings comes at a very high cost, ie: to build a waste burning plant creating bio-gas. Need helping studying waste energy facilities which the commission could perhaps help with. One idea he is exploring is to mine the 3 ashfills for metals, then use the ash for fill in old waste landfills. South End depot to be built – looking for land. They haven't phased out of recycling white bins yet – soon.

Establishing a bio-diesel facility at Bings Creek. Recycling – packaging, unrecyclable products were discussed. Need to push public not to buy products that are overly packaged or have non-recyclable parts. Is a new building going to be Leeds certified? Solid Waste Manager states we will be trying to set an example and lead by building 'green buildings'. Comment – Education is the key to make change and we should start with Grade 5 students to 'make a difference'. They can change their parents and start change happening in their community.

- NB3** Update on the CVRD's Central Sector Liquid Waste Management Plan- **Tabled** until the next meeting.

**BUSINESS
ARISING OUT OF
MINUTES**

B1 Sub-Committee Reports

a. **Environmental Lens Development – Chair Chris Wood.**

Chris explained the lens (p 6 – 11). He invited comments. The plan is to present the environment lens document to staff

and board/council members of all member municipalities and get feedback on how it works for them in their departments, and/or what they would like to see changed. Discussion ensued.

Direction from commission is to continue with the lens and the next step is to have the lens committee present their paper to the GM's leadership meetings at an upcoming Tuesday morning meeting at the CVRD.

It was moved and seconded

“to accept the Environmental Lens Draft Plan and endorse the sub-committee work to date; and encourage them to take it out to staff and board members at the CVRD and member municipalities to get their feedback and engagement.

MOTION CARRIED

It was noted that to the 4 member municipalities should be invited to the GM's meeting so they all will engage in the work ahead at the same time. There is a need to move forward with implementing the environmental lens as soon as possible.

b. Regional Sustainability Planning - Chair Phil Kent

They have had 2 meetings – the group participated in a Webinar from The Natural Step Canada Inc. with Dr. Bryan Smith on “Sustainability and Organizational Change”. Plan to host a workshop with Bruce Sampson's group on ‘Sustainable Cities’ to discuss where we are going. Plan for that in mid-September or early Oct with a 3-4 hour workshop. He will provide estimates on cost and how it will unfold at next meeting. The group discussed their topic and decided to hear the workshop and then strategize how to plan sustainability in the CVRD.

c. Inventory Mapping/Indicators – Chair Justin Straker

This is a multi-agency project. What is the baseline of the state of environment – many groups are doing parts of the whole. Ministry and industry people are also collecting data. What can we already use? Land Trust is now setting up a mapping project and Social Planning Cowichan and Cowichan Green Community will add layers with their data. A need to compile all data and find out who is doing what already. ICE-T has a paper on economic indicators for each area of the region. The ICE-T document will be released soon.

d. Communication Strategy – Chair Justin Straker

Web page – Zachariah and team are developing layers on the 12 things web page and it will likely be available at next meeting.

General Question - is there a budget for each group to pay for costs arising from their initiatives? It was decided that \$500 from the environment commission budget will be at the disposal of each group for sub-committee work, to be used as needed.

- B2** Update from the Chair on the Board’s Strategic Plan – until next meeting.
- B3** Update from the Chair on discussion with Mayor of North Cowichan – tabled until next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE n/a

INFORMATION

- IN1** Update on amendment to Economic Development Commission’s Bylaw (copy attached)

NEW BUSINESS

Cont’d

- NB4** Vancouver Island University (VIU) and the need for local LEED building standards.

We need to encourage ‘green’ building in all new buildings. Local government should be setting a very clear example. In order to receive provincial funding VIU needs to build to LEED gold standard or higher. This building will be ready in September 2010 (fast-tracked). LEED certification has quite a high cost to its certification.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE - We need to showcase our leadership – we have to take the right steps and building with high standards leads to large future savings.

NEXT MEETING Thursday, August 6, 2009

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

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Chair

Recording Secretary

Dated: _____