

Minutes of the regular meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on May 14, 2009 at 6:00pm.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy
Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Director Giles, Chair
 John Wilson
 Director Hutchins
 Brian Dennison, GM, Engineering and Environment Serv.

**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 April 9, 2009 Environment Commission meeting be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

**BUSINESS
ARISING OUT OF
MINUTES B1**

Report from the Chair

- a. The Environment Commission representative appointed to the Economic Development Commission is Bruce Sampson and the alternate is Chris Wood.
- b. The Environment Commission representatives appointed to the Agricultural Commission are Lorne Duncan and Peter Keber.
- c. Cowichan Tribes will send a representative to the Environment Commission meetings as often as possible.

It was moved and seconded that the Report from the Chair be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

B2 Recommendation of the Board on the Environment Lens Report

The Manager of Regional Environmental Policy stated that the Board approved the recommendation:

“ That the Manager of Regional Environmental Policy, working with the Environment Commission and CVRD and member municipal staff, develop a variety of environmental lenses for Board consideration, usable by the CVRD and its member municipality staff to support the Board’s resolution of December 10, 2008, that *"the CVRD embed an environmental lens into all decision-making immediately"*.

The commission will move forward on this policy and begin to implement procedures. Discussion ensued.

B3 Web Page overview

The Manager of the Regional Environment Policy Division showed a PowerPoint of the original Environment Commission webpage – and explained about the back door and member discussion forum. She also demonstrated the content of the ‘12 things’ web page. There was agreement to try the Backroom of the Environmental Commission website as an internal discussion forum. Discussion ensued.

B4 Work Plan review – the following points were discussed

- Commission should put check list together for staff and board on what we want to see in the lens. Provide template and examples.
- Staff and Board need to take ownership and buy in to this too.
- Board of Directors needs their own set of criteria to make big decisions – Environment Commission could advise them
- Keep it simple – small number of questions to make it easy to use

How do we proceed? Decision to set up working groups – then make presentations to staff and perhaps board.

a. Key Issues – we should take a strong position

1. Eco-check (ecological checklist). We need sustainability and environmental lens applied to all CVRD decisions. Get buy-in from the Board and staff – show the benefits – walk the talk – create benchmarks for all departments.
2. The items below fit into a Regional Sustainable Growth Strategy and need to be discussed:
 - It is a high priority
 - Needs to be done at corporate level
 - Focus should be on regional ‘sustainability’
 - We must demonstrate the benefits of positive change
 - Could limits be placed on growth? Has been done elsewhere (for example Qualicum and Whistler).
 - Lost opportunities the issue.

It was moved and seconded that the Environment Commission establish three working groups to:

1. **Develop an environmental lens in the spirit of the Board’s recommendation.**
2. **Draft recommendations for approaches to regional sustainability.**
3. **Develop actions for inventory/mapping/indicators/baseline and communication.**

MOTION CARRIED

The sub-committee will be comprised of the following members:

Group 1

Chris Wood - Chair
Bruce Fraser
Bruce Sampson
Judy Stafford
Gerry Giles

Group 2

Phil Kent -Chair
Mike Kelly
Pete Keber
Roger Wiles
Francis Hugo
John Wilson

Group 3

Justin Straker -Chair
Kate Miller
Rodger Hunter
Judy Stafford

Chair Giles will try to visit each group.

- b. **Role of the commission in achieving implementation of the environmental strategy**
- c. **Priorities of the commission in the next two years – will flow out of work plans.**

NEW BUSINESS

Status of reporting on the 12 big ideas – Kate Miller

- NB1 CVRD in process of developing an environmental tracking system which will be shared with other local governments.

CORRESPONDENCE n/a

INFORMATION

- IN1 Economic Development has received a **Clean Technology Report** – 3 identified clusters of work. The business development officer will make a presentation to our commission upon request.

IN2 Judy Stafford announced a presentation she could give on the 'Transition Town model' and also a 'Community Resilience pilot'.

NEXT MEETING June 9, 2009 at 6 pm (changed from June 11/09 due to a board conflict)

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

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Chair

Recording Secretary

Dated: _____