

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

PRESENT: Director Giles, Chair Rodger Hunter
 Roger Wiles Pete Keber
 Justin Straker Mike Kelly
 Judy Stafford Francis Hugo
 Bruce Sampson Director Duncan
 Director Hutchins John Wilson

ALSO

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

ABSENT: Director Kent, Bruce Fraser, Ernie Elliott, Chris Wood

**APPROVAL
OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be adopted with the addition of three informational pieces IN1, IN2 and IN3.

MOTION CARRIED

**ADOPTION
OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the July 9, 2009 Environment Commission meeting be adopted as amended, with the deletion of the words ‘the 89’ in NB1 on page 2, 2nd paragraph.

MOTION CARRIED

**BUSINESS
ARISING OUT OF
MINUTES**

- B1 Update from Chair on Board’s strategic plan retreat.** Goals and objectives identified by the Board at that meeting included:
1. Resolving Regional Recreational Issues
 2. Improving Water Quality and Quantity
 3. Regional Growth Management Strategy Plan
 4. First Nations Liaison
 5. Waste Management Issues
 6. Achieving Economic Development and Stabilization
 7. Providing Environment Stewardship
- Strategic plan for the CVRD evolving. Plan to work on addressing and resolving some of the top priorities. Directors Duncan, Morrison and Hutchins also gave their overview of the retreat. Strategic document anticipated to be released this fall. Discussion ensued.

B2 Feedback re CBWAC presentation

Chair would like some feedback on - a. was the information useful and b. would you like this information presented to this commission to get the holistic picture of some of the issues and work being done? Commission feels that presentations are very useful. Continued education out to the public is very important. Nature Conservancy Canada should present soon. One presentation per session would be excellent and we will strive for that.

Chair opened the floor to discussion. A tour is planned of the watershed soon. Working session in early fall on water stewardship necessary for water basin management.

A Cowichan Lake stewardship group forming.

B3 Sub-Committee Reports**a. Environmental Lens Development**

There are plans for lens to be presented to senior management staff in late August/early September. Chris and Bruce will present. Can it go up on the forum now for commission to give feedback. Action - Dyan

b. Regional Sustainability Planning

Bruce Sampson is organizing a workshop/presentation to senior staff and politicians on Thursday, September 24th with 4 speakers including Jim Hogan, on challenges and solutions of sustainable cities, Nola Kate Seymour of International Centre for Sustainable Cities, Guy Dauncey, and a Climate Secretariat representative, and end off with a panel of 3 people, John Robertson, (Quest model), Chris Core, green buildings, Colin Grant...Economic Development might run a second workshop. Interactive workshop. About 60 people.

c. Inventory Mapping/Indicators

Presented an expression of interest which will be put out for a 'Statement of the Environment Report'. Data mining exercise – what is there and where are we re invasive species, land use, protected areas, water, etc. We can then compare it in the future.

It was moved and seconded

“to support in principle that the Request for Expression of Interest can be sent out after editing by the committee.

MOTION CARRIED

A provincial representative, Angeline Tillmanns, will be invited to our next meeting to discuss the provincial experience in indicator reporting and the use and choice of indicators. Chair invites further discussion.

d. **Communication Strategy**

Chair showed the 12 things website front page and how with further development one click on each of the 12 things pictures will lead to a new page with much more information. Now we have to populate each of these 12 categories.

Can we put this website on all chambers and governments? Can we celebrate district accomplishments (perhaps in Lead the Way) – ie: vegetable garden at the Town of Ladysmith producing food not flowers. When it is finished we need to advertise and tell public about this great website. A progress report would be useful on how we are doing.

Request for volunteers to populate the web pages. Each group will take one category from 1-12.

1. Climate change impacts – Bruce Sampson, Kate, Pete (and others on 1,3,5)
2. Agriculture – Judy Stafford, Ian, Justin
3. Energy Smart – John W., Rob, Pete, Bruce S, Kate
4. Green Economy – Mike, and Economic Development
5. Reduce carbon emissions – same as 1 and 3, John W., Rob, Pete, Bruce S, Kate
6. Water - Francis, Rodger, Roger, Gerry
7. Regional growth management - Phil, Rob, Lorne
8. Biodiversity – restoration - Justin, Kate, Rodger, Roger, Bruce S, Lorne
9. Zero Waste - Francis, Kathleen M., Ladysmith- Rob H, John W.
10. Buses – transportation – Joe Barry, Jim Wakeham, combine with 1, 3, 5
11. Audit our assets – Justin, Kate, Judy, Lorne, DFO (committee 3)
12. Lead the Way – invite all CAO's in the region to tell us all the good things that they have done re 'green' economy and climate change reduction. Need a preamble that links to each government or a list. What we have done, and what are our plans! What are we proud of?

NEW BUSINESS

NB1 Drinking water issues and information

The Environment Commission acts as the regions technical Drinking Water Advisory Group – background information to the commission is provided to assist them with that delegated task by the CVRD Board. Attached report and Memorandum of Understanding – Ministry of Health and Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) are leading the way.

NB2 The CVRD Board is moving forward in the South Cowichan area on the development of a drinking water protection plan in concert with their

South Cowichan Water Study and will be establishing a local Advisory Group which will work with the commission. Call for sub-committee members and Pete Keber volunteered.

- NB3** Bruce Sampson gave a verbal update on the Economic Development committee meeting he attended. They are receptive to economic development with an environmental footprint. Push for a LEED platinum bldg for VIU – made strong recommendations which will come to the board on future economic developments. Mike Kelly said Bruce Sampson introduced a whole new conceptual framework on economic development to the Commission. There was a lot of interest in the sustainable workshop and they will be invited.

INFORMATION

- IN1 Clean technology report** – a verbal update from Pete Keber and Bruce Sampson. The Economic Development Division is attracting clean technology businesses to the valley. BC Government says green energy is not in interest of the residents of BC. We need to provide background to the Board on why a letter should be sent in support of green energy. We could invite Guy Dauncey to speak to Board in September. Bruce Sampson will get a letter drafted. Discussion ensued regarding BCUC recent ruling.

It was moved and seconded

“to request the CVRD Board to send a letter to the government immediately, expressing their concerns over the implications of the recent British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) ruling and indicating that the board support alternative sources of power that do not damage the environment. Cc to Premier, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Resources, and BCUC.

MOTION CARRIED

- IN2** Vancouver Island University has committed to building their new campus building to LEED gold standard and they are hiring a sustainable building manager. It is very difficult to do as a small homeowner – rules are hard to change when BC building code says no to some innovations.
- IN3** Chair announced a grant from province – CVRD will receive \$164,000 to assist in remediation of former Meade Creek incinerator site to address the ashfill left from former days and plans to remine it to get the metal out.
- IN4** Regional Energy Plan moving forward. Commission requests active updates from the Economic Development sub-committee on that parallel program to ensure potential synergies.

NEXT MEETING Thursday, September 10, 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: _____