

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Special Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on October 8, 2009 at 6:20 pm.

PRESENT: Director Giles, Chair	Director Kent
Roger Wiles	Pete Keber
Justin Straker	Bruce Fraser
Judy Stafford	Bruce Sampson
Mike Kelly	Chris Wood

ALSO

PRESENT: Brian Dennison, Manager, Engineering and Environment
Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary
Councillor Paul Fletcher

ABSENT: Director Hutchins, John Wilson, Rodger Hunter, Director Duncan , Francis Hugo, Larry George

**APPROVAL
OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be adopted with the addition of two items, NB5 and C1.

MOTION CARRIED

**ADOPTION
OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the September 10, 2009 Environment Commission meeting be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

**B BUSINESS ARISING
OUT OF MINUTES**

B1 Update on Cowichan Watershed tour September 13, 2009

Director Kent provided an overview of the watershed tour that took place September 13th and included about 20 staff, politicians and interested parties and CBWAC coordinator Rodger Hunter. The group toured locations to view the issues affecting the watershed of the Cowichan Basin. They visited Cowichan Lake, noted the ecology of the Cowichan River, and observed the estuaries with water level issues. Erosion was studied and stabilization of the bank discussed. Visited Cowichan Tribes fish hatchery and native plant nursery and saw flood channel rehabilitations. Also learned of the operation of the weir, constraints, and geographical limitations. Significantly important to people who live on the Lake. Noted a lot of invasive species on the river banks. Looking at doing more tours with more time given to the Five Fingers area near the Estuary and area around Skutz Falls. Rodger Hunter is now “working on 87 implementations” in the Cowichan River Basin Plan. His main task will be to establish CBWAC (Cowichan Basin Water Advisory Committee). Planning for a parliamentary secretary to

Ministry of Environment John Slater to take a tour of our watershed, Craig Wightman of Living Rivers will also participate.

B2 Sub-Committee Reports

a. **Environmental Lens Development** – committee (Bruce Fraser, Bruce Sampson and Chris Wood) presented their draft document on using an ‘environmental lens’ for decision making in the Regional District to the Corporate Leadership team and CAO of the CVRD on September 22, 2009. They were asked to take a general statement on a rezoning development and apply it to one of our applications and use it as a test. The lens committee will have a meeting soon with the General Manager of Planning and Development to test it on planning phases. Can we engage municipalities as well? Director Kent suggests that we present to the upcoming CAO’s meeting. Chris Wood will respond to Warren Jones and ask him to make those arrangements.

b. Regional Sustainability Planning

The Climate Change Workshop on September 24, 2009 took place from noon to 5 pm. Excellent day. It was an opportunity for a fast track briefing on climate change with top notch presenters and over 50 people attended from the various local governments. Presenters had a variety of topics and chose positive solutions and showed the audience examples of cities that were making things happen. Dinner with senior staff and presenters followed. What is the next step to integrate what we have learned? Next we could show a framework of sustainable environment lens to move us forward. Comment that we should hold ‘**green**’ conferences. We do have, as an Environment Commission, a responsibility to lead by example and to keep reinforcing the message of sustainability. Next steps discussed. This is a huge opportunity for economic paybacks by new business start-ups and new opportunities for jobs in the sustainability field. Serious opportunity for political leadership here. We need to get practical and have demonstration facilities to show people how to utilize what is available and what will make a difference.

c. **Inventory Mapping/Indicators – Request for Expressions of Interest.** Expressions of Interest proposals have been received for the ‘Statement of the Environment Report’. The successful group became a combined group consisting of Veridian Ecological Consulting Ltd. led by Rachel Holt, PhD, of Nelson, BC and Judith Cullington & Associates from Victoria. Group will meet soon with the committee to begin

the scoping exercise. We will try to extend their timeline and there has been an extension of funds available as well. We might use community works fund to augment data gathering. Justin Straker and Judy Stafford will rejoin committee as their former conflict of interest is no longer valid.

d. Communication Strategy - Web page population

Status

1 and 5 – climate change impacts - no action

2 – Agriculture – no action

3 – Energy Smart – Pete will become chair

4 – Green Economy – Mike – done

5 – Reduce carbon emissions - see 1

6 – Water – Chris – in progress

7 – Sustainable Development - Phil - under construction

8 – Biodiversity – Roger W – work in progress

9 – Zero Waste – Kathleen Milward – done

10 – Transportation – Joe Barry – no action

11 – Audit our assets – Justin – similar to 8 – working on it

12 – Lead the way – invitations went out to government – can be mentioned when we met with CAO's

More work will be done this month on all of them.

NEW BUSINESS

NB1 Brian Dennison spoke on the Central and South Sector Liquid Waste Management Plan and sewage lagoons, and info on existing studies.

There are currently two studies– first is on options to replace the existing facility – JUB lagoons and the plan looks towards that replacement. Will be looking at other sites. Chris Corps was mentioned as possible excellent source of new technology information and cost-effective facilities. He will gladly make a presentation to E & E. Resource recovery is a must in this day and age. Environment Commission could provide input as they are the monitoring committee for the waste plan. The other study is a separate option for Cowichan Bay and Eagle Heights systems.

South Sector Plan for sewage collection facility – outfall planned to be used for agricultural purposes. An amendment is planned to stage implementation of the plan and consider re-use alternatives.

NB2 Environment Commission Members Terms of Office - Chair read an email from John Wilson stating he has resigned from the Environment Commission. 5 members have to decide if they wish to re-apply as their terms are up. Roger Wiles, Chris Wood would like to stay on and will re-apply. Mike Kelly will leave the commission at end of 2009 and he will arrange another person to be appointed. Economic Development Commission will appoint someone to replace him.

NB3 Advertising opportunity in the ISC's Winter Activity Guide
We can purchase a full page ad for \$325. Decision to use the '12 things' format. Put our focus for the winter on saying we are doing a 'state of

environment' indicator report and inform the community what the Environment Commission has done since the '12 things' was produced. Chris Wood will undertake some initial writing. We may need to consult with Taiji for final look. Judy Stafford and Gerry Giles will edit.

It was moved and seconded

“To place an ad to showcase the work of the Environment Commission in the Island Savings Centre Winter Activity Guide for \$325 and to replicate where possible.

MOTION CARRIED

- NB4** Topics and Speakers for ongoing education series. We need to compile a speakers list. Presentations will last 30-60 minutes maximum. Need to set up parameters and invite the following for next 6 months meetings:
Cowichan Land Trust – green mapping project for Nov. 5th
Social Planning Cowichan – Community sustainability report – Linden Collette would be the lead speaker. 10 health parameters for December's meeting.
Forest Board – Bruce Fraser on his work, later next year.
Chris Corps - on a sewage system for January. Should also speak to staff in Engineering Departments of CVRD, Cowichan Tribes, and North Cowichan. Brian Dennison will arrange for his department.
Peter Nix – February, 2010
Quest – needs 1 hour – March or could be another ½ day workshop

CORRESPONDENCE

- C1** Email read from Peter Nix to Kate Miller requesting a chance to speak at an upcoming Environment Commission meeting.

INFORMATION

- IN1** Prepare your thoughts for budget decisions for 2010. What does the Environment Commission hope to accomplish next year and need financially? 2009 expense sheet will be available at next meeting.
- IN2** Roger Wiles and Rodger Hunter met with Brian Starzomski, the Ian McTaggart-Cowan Chair professor of environmental studies at U Vic. Met at Cowichan Lake research centre and introduced to him the notion of watershed research needs in the Cowichan region. Angeline Tillmans was also in attendance.
- IN3** Transition town training – Judy Stafford is attending that at end of October and would like to report on it to the Commission. Any members who wish to attend are welcome.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, November 5, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.