

Minutes of the regular meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on November 5, 2009 at 6:10 pm.

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

ALSO

PRESENT: Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy
 Brian Dennison, Manager, Engineering and Environment
 Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary
 Councillor Paul Fletcher, Kathy Willow-Woodrow
 Mayor Tom Walker

ABSENT: Larry George, Mike Kelly, Bruce Fraser, Chris Wood

**APPROVAL
OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be adopted with the addition of one item under NB4 – Carbon Busters.

MOTION CARRIED

**ADOPTION
OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the October 8, 2009 Environment Commission meeting be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

GUEST SPEAKER

Cowichan Community Land Trust – Margaret Paridaen presented the Community Green Map and distributed copies. She spoke about how the map came into fruition and what it shows – for example information on First Nations land, local mountains and their history, habitats, invasive species areas, agricultural areas, and stewardship groups to name a few. Their next steps are to distribute to the public, schools, and visitors and put an interactive web map on the community mapping web site. They hope to do a shore line mapping project as well. Cowichan Community Green will soon start a food security map project. Discussion ensued. The Cowichan Community Land Trust was complimented on their initiative and the work involved in making such an excellent tool for the community.

**B BUSINESS ARISING
OUT OF MINUTES****B1 Sub-Committee Reports**

- a. **Environmental Lens Development** – Chris Wood responded to a letter from Warren Jones and asked him to arrange a meeting with the manager of Planning and Development and also requested a time to present to area CAO's at their upcoming meeting. No correspondence from Mr. Jones has been received to date.
- b. **Regional Sustainability Planning**
Group has not met in last month but will meet soon to discuss what they will populate website with and what next steps are after the climate change workshop September 24th, 2009. Also wish to discuss which people we will bring in to speak to us. Phil Kent will share excerpts from Webinar that only his sub-committee has heard so far. Sustainable growth management is a central task for this area and workshops to further educate community need to be planned. Rodger Hunter will arrange next meeting. Feedback from staff on last workshop would be helpful which Brian Dennison is tasked with. Next topic should be on solutions and action. Quest model should also be presented.
- c. **State of Environment Report** – The consultants will meet November 6th with representatives from land, air, water in the Ministry of Environment and local environmental groups, plus staff of the CVRD and North Cowichan. Topic of the meeting is indicator selection. Data back-casting will give stats on where we were in 2007 and compare it with future data years. We hope to gather a substantial amount of data. This workshop is the first step towards that goal.
- d. **Communication Strategy -**
 - i. Web page population – keep it simple – no more that 5 links at most to keep people's attention. One more month to finish this. Pages:
 - 1 and 5 – climate change impacts - no action
 - 2 – Agriculture – complete
 - 3 – Energy Smart – Pete will become chair and finish it
 - 4 – Green Economy – Mike – complete
 - 5 – Reduce carbon emissions - see 1
 - 6 – Water – Chris – in progress – needs to be condensed
 - 7 – Sustainable Development - Phil - under construction
 - 8 – Biodiversity – Roger Wiles – nearly done and can always be expanded
 - 9 – Zero Waste – Kathleen Milward – complete
 - 10 – Transportation – no action
 - 11 – Audit our assets – Justin – similar to 8 – working on it
 - 12 – Lead the way – invitations went out to local government

– no responses from them to date. What this commission and department are doing should be put into the ‘Lead the Way’ page as well – ie. State of Environment report.

ACTION: All pages need to be finished by next meeting and sent to Dyan Freer to start building the web page.

ii. **Advertising** – Outreach. Ad was distributed to Commission to critique it and it will now be placed in the Activity winter guide of the Island Savings Centre and the South Cowichan Activity Guide. Acknowledgement to Chris Wood for is excellent writing on this ad. It was mentioned that the north end should also have this ad in their recreation guide. Dyan will investigate. For remainder of year should we buy more posters, make more brochures, or produce more advertising?

It was moved and seconded that up to \$1500 be spent on renewing advertising on work of the Environment Commission. The Regional Environmental Policy manager will choose which options to use.

MOTION CARRIED

Before we go out to public again we need to have feedback from politicians. First we will make a presentation to Regional Services Committee. Is there any ecological tax shifting ability in our jurisdiction? It is a provincial initiative in regional districts, municipalities have more jurisdiction with their taxes ie: tax holidays, green initiatives get incentives, density, bonusing, impose gas tax and transfer to transit, tax exemption to ecological land preserves, or levy a tax to give incentives to purchasing certain green items. A brief discussion ensued and this topic can be put on the agenda at a future date.

B2 Budget Update – a print out was distributed and discussed. We have \$1895 remaining in the 2009 budget and will have a new budget for 2010 equal to this year. We have requested \$20,000 more as supplemental for more outreach dollars.

NEW BUSINESS

NB1 City of Duncan update on GHG emissions report and Energy planning – Mayor Phil Kent –reports that the City has completed a report of GHG emissions at the corporate and community level – all city vehicles were tracked from 2007, as well as lighting, water, sewer and solid waste– total annual corporate emissions were 332.42 tons which is slightly more than 1% of community emissions. The GHG inventory and establishment of targets, is a requirement of the Climate Action Charter and will demonstrate leadership to the community that the City is serious in addressing GHG reduction. Impacts are regional and need to be expanded to all municipalities and districts; a breakdown is available for those interested. Baseline was 2007 which is what the province uses.

Next steps are to meet requirements of FCM's Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) which includes five milestones. This work meets the requirements of **Milestone 1** (creating a *greenhouse gas emissions inventory and forecast*) and **Milestone 2** (*setting an emissions reduction target*). This provides substantial work towards **Milestone 3** (developing a sustainability plan). The report is to go to the City of Duncan Council and Mayor Kent will share the reports with the Environment Commission and Regional Board. Discussion ensued. First report will be posted on City of Duncan website. What are best ways to use gas tax money? Recommendations are in the report. Ladysmith has also done some of this work. Discussion on how far along the CVRD is in this process.

It was moved and seconded that the Environment Commission recommend that the CVRD Board initiate a Corporate report on Energy emissions so that they meet their obligations under the Climate Action Charter.

MOTION CARRIED

NB2 Update on Cowichan Basin tour of October 23rd - Rodger Hunter coordinated a tour of the watershed for staff and board members. Parliamentary Secretary John Slater was in attendance which we hope will encourage responsible watershed thinking at a provincial level. Craig Wightman, Tom Rutherford and Michelle Vessey also presented information at certain sites. Gerry Giles and Chief Lydia Hwuitsun attended. They toured Cowichan Lake and the weir; talked about functions of Cowichan Lake roundtable, water quality, and rehabilitation on river. A number of Mayors of the region came for the lunch presentation in the Board Room and had a virtual tour of the watershed. Priority is Integrated Floodplain Management Plan and inventory of water going into the lake, the water act empowerment, groundwater and surface water protection public health and more. An excellent tour and excellent turn out of interested people with very good feedback.

NB3 Cowichan Koksilah Flood Mapping plan. The Manager of Regional Environmental Policy gave a PowerPoint presentation to show us the challenges with droughts and with flooding in this lower region of the Cowichan-Koksilah River area. Climate adaption will be primarily about water. What are the issues and the solutions? It is multi-jurisdictional with ideas such as removing dikes, flooding land and understanding potential impacts in each area. Next will be a meeting with technical team and member reps. Report will be given to all council and boards of the jurisdictions impacted. Discussion ensued.
Question - What is government's liability when they know about something but don't act to prevent it?

NB4 Carbon Busters – Email letter distributed from Peter Nix dated Sept 30th 2009. Request to set up a climate action team. Chair asks for direction. Should the commission offer advice or support or endorsement for this team, keeping the mandate of the Environment Commission in mind? Nix should be invited to present to a Board meeting. It is good to get every part of the community engaged and action groups turn into very effective groups and results happen. Judy Stafford already meets as part of the Community Action Group and could report back to Commission.

CORRESPONDENCE

C1 Letter dated November 4th, 2009, from Laurie Gourlay, President of the Mid-Island Sustainability and Stewardship Initiative, referring to their Yellow-Cedar project forming a climate action team to assist farmers and landowners, and to help sequester carbon emissions. Discussion will be at next meeting and further information will be forwarded to commission

INFORMATION

IN1 Chair announces that Francis Hugo and John Wilson, founding members of the Environment Commission, will be leaving the Commission. They will both be missed and were most appreciated. Mike Kelly will also be leaving as a representative of the Economic Development Commission to our meetings but another will be nominated in his place.

IN2 CVRD website won an award for outstanding web site from UBCM.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, December 10, 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: _____