

Minutes of the regular meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on December 10, 2009 at 6:10 pm as amended by the CVRD Board January 13, 2010.

PRESENT: Rodger Hunter, Vice-Chair Director Kent
 Director Duncan Director Hutchins
 Roger Wiles Bruce Sampson
 Judy Stafford Pete Keber
 Francis Hugo Bruce Fraser
 Director Hutchins Mike Kelly
 Chris Wood Larry George

ALSO

PRESENT: Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy
 Brian Dennison, Manager, Engineering and Environment
 Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Director Giles, Judy Stafford, Justin Straker

**APPROVAL
OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be amended with the addition of NB4 – Carbon Neutral Fund and that item NB2 – Water Centric be deleted, and further that the agenda, as amended, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

**ADOPTION
OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the November 5, 2009 Environment Commission meeting be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

GUEST SPEAKER

Cowichan Carbon Busters – Peter Nix Explained what his group has done, where they are going, and how they can plan to get there. Asked for help with his mobile Climate Action trailer – needs funds to get it going. Public gets it that action is needed *now*. Hand-outs were given out on a Climate Action team, and information on the trailer. Discussion on how we can get the public engaged. The regional government has funding to? put energy reduction into future OCP's and have it as a requirement in their planning and zoning of subdivisions. Question: Should costs be reduced on government fees if it is for something that is environmentally sound? (Reducing emissions, lessening energy use).

ACTION: Director Kent, Director Duncan, Bruce Sampson and Rodger Hunter volunteered to meet with Peter Nix to flesh out his ideas and see if this commission can help aid in an action plan. Suggestion to ask for a Grant-in-Aid for getting his climate action trailer off the ground. The sub-committee will work on that with him.

**B BUSINESS ARISING
OUT OF MINUTES**

B1 Sub-Committee Reports

- a. **Environmental Lens Development** – This issue has not moved forward very quickly.

It was moved and seconded

That the Board require all CVRD Departments to develop an Environmental Lens Review for all operations and capital initiatives for the Board's review by April 30, 2010.

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved and seconded

That the Board require the format for staff reports to the Board or Committees of the Board to include Environmental Implications; once the Board has received and accepted the environmental lens.

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved and seconded

That the Board encourage the member municipalities and member governments and their directors to apply an environmental lens to their capital projects and programs.

MOTION DENIED

ACTION: Request that the Chair of the Environment Commission find a process to communicate the actions and recommendations of the Environment Commission to member municipalities.

- b. **Regional Sustainability Planning** – group has held 2 meetings – one on what does sustainability mean vs a growth strategy and second on how we can develop a process to communicate with the community around the issues re 12 big ideas. They envision 4 logical groupings of the 12 things:
1. Natural resources – #'s 5,6 8,
 2. Activities that influence our #'s 1, 9 10
 3. Optimize benefits for environment #'s 2, 3,4,
 4. Document ideas for change #'s 11, 12
- Need a simple framework and a shared language. 'Natural step' principles.

Next step to come back with recommendations on the 4 sections of 12 big ideas in order to give feedback to the Board on barriers, opportunities, and resolutions

It was moved and seconded

That the Environment Commission fully supports the development of an Integrated Sustainability Plan (ISP) and supports budget funding for this plan.

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved and seconded

That the motion "That the CVRD and all member municipalities engage in a Regional Growth Management Strategy" be referred to a future Regional Services Meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

and

That the proposal on the integrated community sustainable regional management plan is tabled until a clear understanding is brought forward by the sub-committee.

MOTION DENIED

That the Environment Commission will work to clarify to the Board what exactly a sustainability plan entails.

MOTION CARRIED

8:10 pm

Chris Wood and Director Hutchins left the meeting.

- c. **State of Environment Report** – The consultants have led workshop gathering information. Data is difficult to collect. Summary report coming out and recommendations on next steps.
- d. **Communication Strategy** -
 - i. Advertising – Request to use the last of the commission money on additional work on the State of Environment report.
 - ii. Webpages – Environmental Assistant showed the web pages as they have been developed to the Commission. Discussion took place and commission agrees to look at the pages and comment and finish the last 4 pages. **ACTION:** Dyan to send out the http sites and instructions on their use. Commission members will then read the information and make suggestions and/or additions as well as meet to complete the missing pages.

B2 Budget Update –

Manager, Regional Environmental Policy Division, reported on process of the budget procedure at the CVRD and presented the CVRD 2010 requisition review and items requested for the Environmental Department.

It was moved and seconded

That the Board provide budget approval on the Corporate Services 2010 Requisition Budget Review additional recommended supplemental for items:

1. Environmental Analyst Position;
5. Corporate Planning and Community Climate Change Mitigation Plan;
8. Outreach program for the Environment Commission; and
10. Identify and map areas of high conservation value.

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

NB1 Lead the Way – Manager, Regional Environmental Policy Division, presented the CVRD Environmental Framework database. It shows what departments are doing – what large projects, initiatives, planning projects, and more are in the planning, implementation, or finished stages and what they give to us – ie – water planning, strategic planning, public safety hazard mitigation. Discussion

NB2 Water Centric Planning - tabled till January meeting

NB3 Call for New Member process – we have two vacancies and applications are arriving. Interview process in January and Chair will appoint two directors to be part of the interview and decision making.

NB4 The Board made a motion in February, 2008 that CVRD examine tax shifting.....carbon neutral reserve fund. We might be able to have a fund here in CVRD. We should encourage the board to create the fund and consider putting a portion of offsets into a reserve fund. City of Duncan is working on it now and can show it to commission.

ACTION: It will be part of the January agenda item.

CORRESPONDENCE

C1 none

INFORMATION

IN1 Brian Dennison collected comments from participants of Climate Change Workshop and they were distributed. Prevailing comment was a *need for action*.

IN2 The Chair sent a message and said that change is slowly being felt in this organization. Awareness is increasing and we are building a good foundation and are working towards change. Thank you to the Environment Commission for their work and role modelling, and commitment to the environment.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 6 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Chair

Recording Secretary

Dated: _____