

Bruce Fraser and Justin Straker. Draft coming to this commission at next meeting March 18th.

NEW BUSINESS

NB1 Economic Development Report – Tom Anderson and Geoff Millar and Bruce Sampson, Chair

The Economic Development Committee will focus on updating their strategic plan in the direction CVRD wishes. Too many objectives, needs focus. Would like to support Regional Sustainable Strategic Plan and will have a working session with the Board to create more cross collaboration – great opportunities to open communication and work together on clean technology, agriculture, sustainability and environmentally economic ideas. Must have integration between us. Discussion ensued.

6:25 pm Tom Anderson and Geoff Millar left the meeting.

NB2 2010 Environment Commission work plan – Angela Evans, part of the Fraser Basin Council with a group called Smart Planning for Communities led a planning session for 2010 for and with the Environment Commission.

The work plan of 2009 was distributed for referral and several other pieces of reference material. Pete Keber went over the Draft Environmental Strategy for the CVRD.

Discussion on how have been doing from our goals of 2009:

1. *Has the Environmental Lens been applied?*
2. *Regional Sustainable Growth Strategy?* Perhaps a sustainability strategy is begun.
3. *Energy use and conservation?* Process underway with Regional Energy planning work.
4. *Inventory Mapping?* State of Environment report almost finished.
5. *Communicate, educate and advise community and board?* Process begun and on-going – focus is on the corporate communication first. Website developed and did one large workshop on climate change/action. More planned.
6. *Working group on forestry?* Not begun.
7. *Land use legislation – OCP's?* On-going – 3 reviews happening right now in the south end. Commission hasn't reviewed any of them but we have sent out the message to the Board – external to the commission.
8. *Energy, water, food and forestry are priorities?* CVRD Regional Energy strategy ongoing, external to the commission. Cowichan watershed board established – Cowichan Water Management Plan and South Cowichan

Water Plan are ongoing, external to the commission.

Is there any one thing to recognize? We have supported community groups and initiatives and have invited them to give presentations. How do we work together – regionally, provincially and federally?

- Forestry group –there was too much to do so didn't achieve goals on forestry. Worked on a few priorities. – Forestry will show up in the data from the State of the Environment report. Forestry was again brought up around water and watershed issues. But how do we keep forestry industry alive as well?

Summary:

- More education needed with commission's ideas to build understanding prior to asking for adoption from staff and Board as well as the public.
- Invite developers to share in decisions and learning.
- Commission should give presentations to the Board. Sub-committees with tasks had rewarding experience.

New Ideas: Next 2 years:

1. State of Environment report will show the way
2. Economy – not so stable. Needs to combine Economic strategy with Environment. People don't have so much money anymore. – we need jobs and what kind of economy will it be?
3. Gulf is growing between people who get it and those who don't, leading to paralysis
4. ALR – need to protect and use
5. Food - locally grown is fundamental
6. Energy
7. Water
8. Culture
- 9. Urgency of Climate Change! *****
10. Price of gas needs to increase – not critical enough yet
11. Integrated Flood Management Plan - uses biodiversity, collaboration, small business, sustainability.
12. Change the way we do business
13. GMO's are detrimental to the food and export industries.
14. Consumerism – way too much materialism in our society.

New Tasks Priorities:

- Communicating
- Land Use – science or research based tools to show cost advantage to land use choices – what is the triple bottom line?

Tools we Need:

- Money
- Summer Student or consultant?

Budget requests:

- Additional \$20,000 for Commission projects

For future discussion:

What would make these meetings highly rewarding?

How do you want to see these meetings evolve?

CORRESPONDENCE None

INFORMATION

IN1 Echo Height Forest – The Conservation Opportunity

IN2 Ecostravaganza – Eco Fair June 5, 2010. Commission agreed to support the fair with \$50 contribution.

IN3 Acquisition Fund –

It was moved and seconded to request the Board to support a full allocation of the regional park land acquisition fund in the coming year.

MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING March 18, 2010

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

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Chair

Recording Secretary

Dated: _____