

**ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 16, 2010**

---

Minutes of the regular meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on September 22, 2010 at 6:00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Rodger Hunter                      Director Iannidinardo  
              Bruce Fraser                         Director Hutchins  
              Roger Wiles                                 Director Kent  
              Kevin Visscher                             Director Giles  
              Dave Polster                                 John Morris  
              Bruce Sampson                             Chris Wood  
              Judy Stafford

**ALSO**                      Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy  
**PRESENT:** Brian Dennison, Manager, Engineering/Environment  
              Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary  
              Klaus Kuhn, Electoral I Area Director  
              Ian Morrison, Electoral Area F Director

**ABSENT:** Larry George, Brian Dennison, Justin Straker, Pete Keber

**APPROVAL  
OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented with the addition of two sub-committee reports from Land and Water & Fish sub-committees, as well as a hand out of the Blue Carbon Report.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ADOPTION  
OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the July 15, 2010 Environment Commission meeting be adopted.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**REPORTS**

**R1 Air Quality Report** – Kathleen Milward, Environmental Tech presented a report showing data from ten nights of air quality sampling over the course of January and February, 2010. A mobile Nephelometer was used to measure Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) in the CVRD. Information on the wood stove exchange program was also reported. Discussion ensued.

**ACTION:** Staff to create a report tabulating a comparison of where the residents who participated in the wood exchange program reside. This report should be sent to all regional directors.

At this time it is unknown if funding will be available to duplicate the testing.

**ACTION:** Staff to send the air quality report to municipal Mayors and Councils.

**R2 Sub- Committee Reports**

**a. Communications – Chris Wood**

1. What questions should we put on Ipsos Reid poll? Each sub-committee needs to decide on two questions that are pertinent to the State of Environment and their area of work and submit these to Chris Wood asap.

2. Larger strategy for communicating –information to communicate will come from the sub-committees work.

A plan was proposed for discussion to spend up to \$20,000 of the Environment Commission budget for a communication strategy. This would make a uniform and consistent message. We also need to engage staff members in our region to incorporate the ‘12 things’ concept into every day work. We need to stay with our branding – i.e. the ‘12 things’.

**It was moved and seconded to ask the Regional District to contract a communication service group to implement a communication plan/strategy for the Environment Commission.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**b. Agriculture - Judy Stafford – The Agricultural sub-committee report puts forth the following recommendations:**

1. CVRD support and adopt a food policy ( building on the current Cowichan Food Charter)
2. Review ALR guidelines and make recommendations to improve process to negate land leaving the ALR
3. Support agriculturally related mapping projects
4. Support the formation of the proposed Agriculture Advisory Committee
5. Support a year-round farmer’s market
6. Collect more data and research

Discussion ensued.

***ACTION: Add note to how the subcommittee report template is relevant to the environment commission’s goals and how they link (outcomes).***

**c. Air Quality – Lori Iannidinardo – Health Network is likely to conduct a 15 month study in the CVRD on outdoor and indoor air quality.**

***ACTION - Rob Hutchins will send to staff for the commission’s attention the health report from VIHA on respiratory impacts.***

Plan to give out simple information to people on respiratory irritants: i.e. smoke, mould, and air fresheners. This could be in the form of educational stories or spoken on at public forums.

**Recommendations:**

1. That mobile monitoring results be used to guide more stationary Monitoring
2. That further mobile or temporary monitoring should be conducted in

other possible priority areas within the CVRD.

3. That the commission support a public awareness campaign related to the dangers to public health posed by indoor and outdoor air contaminants.
4. That staff explore the effectiveness of policy tools and incentives in preventing air contamination and implement those that are determined to be most effective.

While the monitoring that exists indicates that air quality is relatively high the Committee is concerned about the higher than average respiratory admissions rates in the area, and gaps in monitoring data.

**It is moved and seconded to write a letter of support, which will include our air quality sub-committee's recommendations, to the Public Health Agency of Canada, Centre for Grants and Contributions, in support of the PHAC Lung Health Phase 2 project grant application.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

***ACTION: Phil Kent will share a report on air quality and children's health with the commission.***

- d. **Land** - Dave Polster the committee has two recommendations:
  1. Getting information out on land based issue facing us through public meetings or workshops in the region
  2. Strategize with experts on the endangerment of the Coastal Douglas Fir ecosystems (down to 1%) and what we can do.
- e. **Water and Fish** – Rodger Hunter Proposed workshops on:
  1. Water supply and quality,
  2. Water demand,
  3. Aquifer and riparian issues -what is happening to the aquifers? – how are their levels and how are they performing right now?
  4. Communication of the need for conservation of a water practice. How much water does each person or business use? Would like to find that data.
  5. Storm water outfalls capacities should be examined.Focus would be ideas that we can do quickly. Encourage partnerships. Look to municipalities for money as well.

***ACTION: The region needs storm water treatment and mitigation strategies – could the Commission address this issue and write a Best Practices bylaw?***

Discussion: Can we help in the collaboration within the district on this issue?

**B BUSINESS ARISING  
OUT OF MINUTES**

**B1 State of the Environment Report update**

Presentations have been made to Municipality of North Cowichan, City of Duncan, and will be made to Town of Ladysmith and Lake Cowichan soon – they have generated a lot of interest and been very well received. Projected cost of \$715.00 for 25 more copies to be printed. Small editorial changes needed, deadline for submissions of any changes by September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010.

NB: Rodger Hunter was asked to write a report to UBCM on the State of Environment report which was submitted for possibility of an award.

**B2 Budget and Work plan for the Environment Commission**

Our annual total budget is \$51,500. Current amount spent or designated \$29,000. The sub-committees need to prioritize their work and how much of the budget they would estimate they need. Each committee will present at next meeting. Submission in advance is recommended for review by the whole commission. Incentive program for rain barrels idea – is there support for that?

No new business

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- C1** Request for quotes from our 12things.ca website to be used on the Energy Solutions Bus Display from Peter Nix, dated August 30, 2010 was received.

***ACTION:** Kate Miller will send a note to Peter that quotes from the 12things.ca may be used as long as not used out of context.*

- C2** Comments from Jim van Barneveld re agriculture section of State of Environment report dated September 6, 2010 to Gerry Giles by email.

**Action:** Judy Stafford will reply and state that Environment Commission has targeted this request as one of theirs and ask if he would like to attend the future Community Green Community meetings.

- C3** Letter from Municipality of North Cowichan's Mayor Tom Walker re the recent State of Environment presentation.

**It was moved and seconded that the correspondence from Peter Nix, Jim Van Barneveld and Mayor Tom Walker be received and filed.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**INFORMATION**

- IN1** CAO will present the Environmental Lens and the corporate Strategy Plan at the next Environment Commission meeting.

- IN2** Blue Carbon Report – Lori Iannidinardo wanted to bring it to the commission's attention that the Cowichan River and Cowichan Bay estuaries are shown as well as how the eelgrass benefits the carbon sequestration.

ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 16, 2010

IN3 Thank you from Judy Stafford for our attendance at the Agricultural Society Harvest B-B-Q.

NEXT MEETING Thursday, October 21, 2010

ADJOURNMENT It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.  
MOTION CARRIED  
The meeting adjourned 9:05 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recording Secretary

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_