

Minutes of the regular meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on December 16, 2010 at 6:00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Director Giles – Chair                   Rodger Hunter  
                  Director Iannidinardo                 John Morris  
                  Director Hutchins                         Bruce Fraser  
                  Roger Wiles                                 Dave Polster  
                  Justin Straker                             Chris Wood  
                  Pete Keber                                Judy Stafford  
                  Bruce Sampson                         Director Lorne  
                  Director Kent

**ALSO**            Kate Lindsay, Sr. Environmental Analyst  
**PRESENT:**     Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary

**ABSENT:**     Larry George, Kate Miller, Kevin Visscher

**APPROVAL  
OF AGENDA**

**It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ADOPTION  
OF MINUTES**

**It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the November 18, 2010, Environment Commission meeting be adopted as presented.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING  
OUT OF MINUTES**

**B1 Environment Commission 2011-2012 member appointments**

**It was noted that the CVRD Board had appointed the following individuals for a one year term on the CVRD Environment Commission, expiring December 31, 2011:**

**Bruce Fraser, Judy Stafford, Bruce Sampson**

**and appointed the following individuals to the CVRD Environment Commission for a two year term expiring December 31, 2012:**

**Chris Wood, Peter Keber, Rodger Hunter, Roger Wiles, Justin Straker**

**and that John Morris was re-appointed to the Environment Commission for a one year term to expire December 31, 2011.**

A special thank you to the commission members – we are being recognized and appreciated by the directors and in the community.

**B2 Signup sheet** for presentations on SoE within the Community will be circulated. There is a need to speak to various groups about the State of the Environment report- i.e. schools, youth groups. Dyan will send out the sign-up sheet to people to add groups to the list and commission members put their name down where they wish. Could we get students trained to do this? We should be with them as back-up, but would be a benefit to involve youth.

**ACTION: Rodger will speak to Kevin Visscher about orchestrating this.**

**B3 Land Committee Recommendations**

Discussion and explanation to review the recommendations as presented and to accept or reject them to have the CVRD Board work towards preserving our quality of life.

**Recommendation #1** – Assess regional carrying capacity and cumulative effects to balance our activities and needs with requirements for ecosystem integrity.

**It was moved and seconded that the CVRD Environment Commission recommends that the CVRD and partner organizations conduct a structured evaluation of regional environmental carrying capacities and the cumulative effects of human activities on the ecosystem goods and services in the CVRD, including current effects, and a range of plausible future effects.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Recommendation #3** – Immediate and Mid-Term Action

**It was moved and seconded that the CVRD begin and advance a collaborative process to address land-use and potential opportunities/constraints on public, crown and private forest lands in the region.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Excellent work done by the Lands Committee. Discussion on the three recommendations ensued.

**It was moved and seconded to refer Recommendation #2 back to lands committee to amend it for next meeting and to have more discussion on how to present it to the Board.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Opposed Judy Stafford and Phil Kent

**It was moved and seconded to endorse the land committee's recommendation #1 and #3 and defer #2 to the next commission meeting for further amendments.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**It was moved and seconded that the committee review its parkland acquisition principle to include Garry Oak ecosystems and old growth forests, Eagle Heights grasslands, Chemainus Bald Eagle tree, and Koksilah big trees.**

**DEFERRED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

11 responses were received by email in response to our advertorials. Acknowledgment of Chris Wood for very excellent work in producing these ads. Discussion on what to do with correspondence that comes in? Decision to ask staff to ensure that all are acknowledged and to forward to appropriate department within the CVRD.

**INFORMATION**

- Report from the representative of the Economic Development Committee – feels that in some functions the Environment and Economic Commissions should work together. Suggestion to bring both committees together to discuss the benefits of having one sustainable growth commission. This will be the topic at the next meeting
- Economic well-being and environmental health to be discussed by the Ladysmith Environmental Committee
- Climate Smart Program Launched - 10 businesses to be chosen to receive training to manage their own green house carbon emissions, to save money and reduce emissions. Request will go out for participants from Economic Development Cowichan.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**CR1 Communications – Chris Wood**

- Energy advertorial appears next week – the end of the whole run
- Next target should be land use. Discussion on the strategy for the next year. Need more sophisticated communication method for 2011. Who is the target audience and how do we reach them? Reinforce around 12 things and expand delivery, better media on website, animations, some cost involved with this idea.
- Could leverage with the Board
- Specific communications needed on specific topics – i.e. ecosystems and land use.
- Target developers, real estate professionals, builders, decision makers. Make value of sustainability included in their business decisions
- Engage students in environmental decision making. Prepare a dialogue between schools and students and get it viral by using Twitter and You Tube.
- Awards – recognize achievers in community. Model it on CRD's eco-star awards.

**ACTION: Lands Committee will work on how to accomplish this. Communications will bring back specifics.**

**It was moved and seconded to endorse the framework of the communications committee for 2010 and carry on with a budget of \$26,000 for 2011.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CR2 Agriculture – Judy Stafford**

85 people attended workshop from Vancouver, Victoria to Courtney, with 40% younger farmers. Requests for another, longer workshop, and a road show to reach other communities. It was very good value. Absolutely excellent speaker. Biggest gain was the collaborative effort including Agricultural Society, CVRD Environment Commission., CGC, Duncan Fire Department, City of Duncan, with the lunch consisting of local food from farmers. Every CVRD committee or meeting should use local food – we need to walk the talk! Group will meet again and plan the 2011's focus. There is also a blog available.

**CR2 Land – Justin Straker**

The workshop for invited guests will be going ahead on the subject of future land uses – model based approach with speaker – planned for February 17<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NB1** Request for endorsement letter to promote sustainable energy use in our community to aid Duncan Christian School's Solar BC grant application

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ACTION: Chair will write the letter.**

**NB2** Consideration of amalgamating the Environment and Economic Development Commissions – further discussion tabled to next meeting.

**NB3** Information Environmental Initiatives Bylaw passed and has been ratified by the Board. This Bylaw provides a standalone financial mechanism for the existing Environmental Policy Division which currently sits in General Government allocation.

**NB4** Invitation by Peter Nix for the Environment Commission to Attend Earth Day Celebrations. Commission will take note of that event.

**NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, January 20, 2011

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

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

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