

Minutes of the regular meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on April 21, 2011 at 6:00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Director Giles – Co-Chair      Justin Straker Co-Chair  
Rodger Hunter                                      John Morris  
Bruce Sampson                                      Roger Wiles  
Alternate Director Paterson      Director Kent  
Pete Keber    Director Walker  
Bruce Fraser    Chris Wood  
John Morris    Larry George

**ALSO PRESENT:** Warren Jones, CAO, CVRD  
Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary  
Kate Lindsay, Sr. Environmental Analyst  
Directors Morrison, Kuhn, and Duncan

**ABSENT:** Dave Polster, Kate Miller, Kevin Visscher, Judy Stafford  
Introductions of EC members to alternate director Duck Paterson.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented with the addition of Item C1 – Correspondence on anti-sprawl from Director Duncan.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the March 17, 2011, Environment Commission meeting be adopted as presented.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**DELEGATIONS**

Roger Hart spoke on his request for a Sustainable Land Use forum. Gave a brief description of his credentials. Evidence that current land use is not sustainable. Proposed having a community forum and use the Visions 2020 as a starting point – it provides clear targets that we should try to reach. The Environment Commission (EC) could receive the funds, secure a venue, chair an organizing committee, encourage participation by Economic Development, Social Planning and Community Futures, and ensure that the Forum complements other CVRD initiatives. Would also include a group of 20 or 30 people. Discussion ensued.

**BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES**

- B1** Warren Jones, CAO of CVRD spoke on the Land Committee's recommendations presented March 9<sup>th</sup> to the Board as well as the role of the Environment Commission and the budget and work of the Regional Environmental Policy Division. Pertinent points include:
- Response to resolutions from the Environment Commission – Private Managed Forest Lands (PMFL) – a formal complaint was made to PMFL from the CVRD regarding the clear cut at Shawnigan Lake on March 21, 2011.

- Met with PMFL on April 8, 2011 about this issue. Our concerns don't fall under the PMFL Act. There is no consultation needed which is an issue, and 52% of our entire land base in CVRD is PMFL. How they are managed has great significance to us.
  - CVRD will move on to the Province to discuss issue.
  - Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) had a conference in March and CVRD presented a late resolution to the conference 'that the PMFL Act make changes to improve forestry practices and that these practices should be consistent with Crown forest land regulations'. The resolution was approved and will now go to UBCM in September.
  - On April 21 Gerry Giles wrote to the Minister of Forests to request meeting with Minister. It is primarily a Vancouver Island issue rather than the whole of BC. The PMFL owners have now produced a fact sheet giving out information about the Shawnigan Lake cut.
  - Resolution on the land carrying capacities and the effect of human activities on the ecosystem - CVRD is moving forward on a Regional Sustainability Plan (RSP) for the CVRD - has a budget of \$300,000. They hope to accomplish some of these requests through this money. Tom Anderson, General Manager of Planning and Development, is moving the funding application for the RSP through UBCM.
  - Listed the approved Gas Tax Projects for the CVRD: Cowichan Basin Water Mgmt plan implementation project, drainage in Somenos Marsh, compost and sludge facility, flood protection infrastructure, Integrated Regional Sustainability Plan, trail completion, Peerless Road upgrades, Lake Cowichan wastewater plant upgrades, Bings Creek organics collection, Regional Climate Action Plan, Tri-regional waste to energy facility, Cowichan Lake sports arena parking lots.
  - Regional Environmental Policy Division Budget: In 2010 it was \$797,369; in 2011 has risen to \$1,186,984.
  - Explained the Environment Commission Budget – in 2010 it was \$50,000; in 2011 it has risen to \$75,000.
  - Discussion – how can the Environment Commission interact most productively with CVRD staff – how can we engage with the Regional Sustainability Plan? Staff will make an application to UBCM - could the commission members help prepare the application? Tom Anderson is coordinating it. We have a sustainability check list now in effect which we will review this fall.
- B2** Natural Capital in BC's Lower Mainland – “Valuing the Benefits from Nature” report. Phil Kent went to David Suzuki foundation workshop with Kate Miller – they wanted political views on developing natural capital –shared information on how they value natural capital. Value of analyzing future planning. He has a draft back on their policy and hopes local government policy recommendations will come out in the fall. He will review with the Commission.

**B3** Land Dedication for F1 zones – Loren Duncan spoke about this issue. Chair mentioned that South Cowichan is focusing on infilling in the village cores with their OCP revision. CVRD needs to have a consistent strategy for all electoral areas. The South Cowichan OCP is working towards consistency for Mill Bay, Shawnigan Lake and Cobble Hill Village and their surrounding areas. Cowichan Bay will be doing their OCP as well this spring. There will be a meeting 23 June, 2011 to discuss the containment of development areas in the three villages. Could this Environment Commission be involved in discussing or commenting into OCP's – Chair said yes, Environment Commission could be a referral agency. Please read the proposed OCP on our website and send comments.

Tom Walker left meeting at 7:10 pm

**CORRESPONDENCE** Email from Lyle Smith on air quality burning – would like to be a delegation at May meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**CR1** **Land committee** – Roger Wiles – group had reps from Timberwest who put on a PR program for the committee. Timberwest is being sold which indicates there may be leverage on their long range policy on land use.

**CR2** **Communications Committee** – Rodger Hunter said they had a brain storming session and spoke largely on who influences us and who do we influence and how do we interact?

- What is the commission's relationship with the CVRD? How do we manage that relationship? Questions for discussion later.
- Video contest deferred to the fall.
- Table at Ecostravaganza Fair –Chris Wood and Rob Hutchins are putting up booth and manning it for first three hours – need volunteers for the other shifts.
- Budget - \$2000 charge for Ipsos Reid survey question. The Ipsos Reid Survey will be sent out to commission members. ACTION: add discussion of survey to the agenda for May.
- Decision not to purchase the ALCES modelling tool. Could we perhaps buy it and pick one community to use it on? Could use community groups to help send us photos and information digitally. Justin to look into costs and details if photo digitization were conducted internally by CVRD staff. Cowichan Bay is working on their OCP now and could use this tool perhaps.
- Need to clarify when the video contest in the schools will take place.
- Need to develop a focused plan and schedule for 2011.
- Work on an integrated sustainable plan and work with Roger Hart.

**CR3** **Agriculture** – Judy Stafford – tabled as Judy was absent

**CR4** **Water Committee – Rodger Hunter** - didn't meet this month. Gerry and Rodger participated in a water workshop sponsored by Cowichan Tribes. Larry George stated it was a very good conference on the

Cowichan River Estuary. It targeted info that came out of last year's conference: i.e. governance, shellfish, water quality, fish habitat, bird habitat, seals – predation. Summaries will be circulated to all participants.

**CR5 Air Committee** – decision on a new Chair to be made. This committee could be rolled into land use. Should it be included with air quality, carbon emission, and energy usage? Staff may be able to chair if manager willing.

**INFORMATION**

**IN1** Loren Duncan distributed a hand-out urging BC to intervene in the impasse over the anti-sprawl plan.

**IN2** Information coming at next E&E meeting - a new bylaw on backyard burning. South Cowichan areas are against burning, other electoral areas are not opposed to a small amount of burning in rural areas.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NB1** none

**NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, May 19, 2011 @ 6 pm

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

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Chair

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Recording Secretary

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