

Minutes of the regular meeting of the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION held at Community Futures Cowichan Boardroom on March 13, 2009 at 7:30 am.

**PRESENT:** Dave Johel  
Dave Jackson  
Director Kent  
Wade Simmons  
George Robbins  
Maria Lauridsen  
John Morris  
Mike Kelly  
Pat Foster

**ALSO**

**PRESENT:** Director Kuhn  
Director Morrison  
Cathy Robertson, Community Futures Cowichan  
Tom Anderson, G.M. Planning & Development  
Geoff Millar, Economic Development Manager  
Kathy Lachman, Business Development Officer  
Judy Mills, Recording Secretary

**ABSENT:** Director Cossey

**APPROVAL  
OF AGENDA**

Addendums were added to Delegations and Reports.

**It was moved and seconded that the agenda be accepted.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ADOPTION OF  
MINUTES**

**It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the February 5, 2009 Regular EDC meeting be accepted.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING  
OUT OF MINUTES**

Cathy Robertson gave an update on the Rural Economic Diversification Initiative (REDI). The Economic Development Manager gave an update on the West Coast Community Adjustment Program (WestCCAP) and request for support.

**DELEGATIONS**

**D1  
Clean Technology  
Study Update**

Arnold Harasymchuk & Pat English gave a powerpoint presentation on preliminary findings of the Clean Technology Study. The draft report is available from Kathy Lachman, Business Development Officer. The members of the Clean Technology Advisory Council are as follows: Kate Miller, Dr.

Lorna Medd, Cathy Robertson, Brodie Albright and Kathy Lachman. Further updates to come.

**CORRESPONDENCE** Not applicable.

**REPORTS**

**R1**  
**EDC 2008 Annual**  
**Report**

A copy of the EDC 2008 Annual Report was circulated prior to the meeting. The report is in direct response to the Economic Development Commission discussions and request for statistical data. If you have any questions please contact Geoff Millar, Economic Development Manager. To date, the 2009 EDC requisition has went through as requested.

**R2**  
**EDC Update**

The Economic Development Manager gave an update. February has been a busy month with external activities. EDC attended the Pacific Agriculture Show, BC Real Estate Convention and Council of Tourism Industry Conference. The Spirit of BC Summit offered an opportunity for a Cowichan exhibit at the Robson Square Media Centre until Jan 2010. EDC is attending the upcoming Table Top Exhibition in Vancouver. This is an opportunity to showcase local food producers to the chefs and caterers for the 2010 Olympics and Paralympics. Cowichan has three tables at the exhibition.

The Economic Development Manager met with Catalyst for an informational meeting regarding taxation and training options for laid off employees. District of North Cowichan budget approval is set for end of March.

**R3**  
**Planning &**  
**Development Update**

Tom Anderson, General Manager of Planning & Development, reported there has been a notable increase in building permits in February 2009 over February 2008 with two months total in 2009 up by 1.6 million dollars. This is mainly due to Spec homes being built in subdivisions.

**UNFINISHED**  
**BUSINESS**

**UB1**  
**Environment**  
**Commission**  
**Appointment**

The Economic Development Commission and the Environment Commission will each appoint a member to sit on the respective Commissions. This is an opportunity for important collaborations regarding environmental betterment and economic activities.

**It was moved and seconded that Mike Kelly be appointed to sit on The Environment Commission on behalf of the Economic**

**Development Commission.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**UB2**  
**Agriculture Area Plan**  
**Update**

The Business Development Officer gave an update. A Request for Proposal was sent out and the successful proponent is From the Ground Up. The members of the Area Agriculture Plan Advisory Committee are as follows: Graham Myers, Gerry Giles, Jim van Barneveld, Ian Christison, Mike Tippet, Wayne Haddow, George Seymour, Geoff Millar, Kathy Lachman, Joanne McLeod and Roger Cheetham. The consultant will initially facilitate an agricultural producers forum. Project deadline has been moved to the end of the year. Further updates to come.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NB1**  
**EDC Appointments &**  
**Expiry**

Not discussed due to time constraints.

Arnold Harasymchuk & Pat English arrived 8:25 am.  
Wade Simmons left meeting at 9:10 am.  
Pat Foster & Cathy Robertson left meeting at 9:15 am.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Not applicable.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**It was moved and seconded that the Regular meeting adjourn.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 am. Next meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2009.

Certified Correct:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

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