

Minutes of the regular meeting of the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION held at the Community Futures Boardroom on February 18, 2010 at 7:30 am.

**PRESENT:** Bruce Sampson, Chair  
Dave Jackson, Vice-Chair  
Director Kent  
Director Morrison  
George Robbins

**ALSO**

**PRESENT:** John Morris  
Director Kuhn  
Tom Anderson, General Manager, Planning & Development  
Geoff Millar, Manager Economic Development  
Kathy Lachman, Business Development Officer  
Judy Mills, Recording Secretary

**ABSENT:** Mike Kelly  
Pat Foster

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Sampson gave an introduction. He is an Economist and main focus is Finance and Economic Development. One addendum was added to the agenda.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the January 21, 2010 Regular EDC meeting be accepted.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES**

**BA1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**It was moved and seconded to approve the six Economic Development Commission recommendations from the January 21, 2010 Regular EDC meeting.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BA2 BENCHMARKING UPDATE**

The Benchmarking update was tabled until the next EDC meeting.

**DELEGATIONS**

Not applicable.

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

**C1** The Economic Development Manager reported that Wade Simmons has submitted his resignation to the Commission. The CVRD Chair is in consultation with Cowichan Tribes regarding a seat. Discussion took place and the Commission felt consideration to all First Nations Bands would be appropriate and an adjustment to the bylaw if there is interest to fill more than one seat.

**It was moved and seconded to accept the resignation from Wade Simmons and send a letter of appreciation.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**REPORTS** Not applicable.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** Not applicable.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NB1  
EDC STRATEGIC  
PLAN** The General Manager, Planning & Development reported the CVRD is updating their Strategic Plan which will be oriented towards “sustainability” and include an “economic health” component. The last EDC strategy was done in 2002, therefore, this presents an opportunity to update the EDC strategy and create a sustainable Economic Development Program which includes eco industrial, agriculture and sustainable food among other things. In addition the EDC strategy would foster strong communication and a bridging component between the EDC and the Regional Board.

Discussion occurred and the following observations were made:

- Emphasis on economic activity is needed to spread risk
- Set clear goals – achieve substantial effect – match resources
- Establish clear understanding between Environment Commission and Economic Development Commission
- Economic Development component positions us for stronger support
- Clear plan and reporting would establish level of importance at the Board level
- Set up favourable conditions for attraction
- Stronger communication focus in plan so it reaches the public
- Current EDC activity is in line with sustainability ie: Clean Technology and Agriculture

- “Sustainability” is here to stay and provides opportunity for “integration” to draw the work of the staff into the priorities of the Board
- Establish referral system for new residents/entrepreneurs
- EDC new governance model based on benchmarking report – plan allows staff to succeed, empowers Commission and shows success!
- Strategic planning session critical
- EDC role can be enhanced and re-positioned to draw on Commission members business strengths
- Opportunity to put qualities in place to achieve higher quality of life with a smaller carbon footprint
- Increase integration between political and administrative levels – need to work as a team
- Working together – sustainable Economic Development Commission, Environment Commission and Social
- Economic Development needs to be seen as a “core activity”

The Chair suggested a day long strategic planning session to establish framework and direct what we want to feed into the plan. The Economic Development Manager will send out a communication to Commission members to establish a meeting date in April, preferably a weekday/Monday.

**It was moved and seconded the Economic Development Commission recommends that the Regional Board approve the development of a Sustainable Economic Development Strategy.**

**And, that, the Regional Board approve the \$30,000 cost for this Strategy within the 2010 Budget.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CLOSED SESSION**

Not applicable.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**It was recommended that the Regular meeting adjourn.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 am. Next meeting to be determined.

Certified Correct:

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Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

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