

Minutes of the regular meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on March 18, 2010 at 6:00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Director Giles, Chair                      Director Iannidinardo  
Rodger Hunter, Co-Chair                      Dave Polster  
Director Hutchins                      Roger Wiles  
Bruce Sampson                      Justin Straker  
Judy Stafford                      Pete Keber  
Bruce Fraser                      Chris Wood

**ALSO**

**PRESENT:** Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy  
Brian Dennison, Manager, Engineering/Environment  
Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary

**GUESTS:** Harmony Huffman, Environmental Technologist III  
Francis Hugo, John Wilson, Mike Kelly

**ABSENT:** Larry George, Kevin Visscher, Director Kent

**APPROVAL  
OF AGENDA**

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ADOPTION  
OF MINUTES**

**It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the February 18, 2010 Environment Commission meeting be amended by noting Rodger Hunter was not present and that the minutes be adopted as amended.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

**C1**

The chair gave a verbal thank you and a gift to former commission members Francis Hugo, John Wilson and Mike Kelly in appreciation of their work with the Environment Commission for the past two years.

**C2** CVRD Budget – March 10<sup>th</sup> – Highlights from the Board's budget approvals are:

- an additional \$20,000 for the Environment Commission to use to communicate more effectively,
- \$95,000 for a new position in the Environment Department
- \$500,000 will be taxed for Regional Parks Acquisition
- \$100,000 for Regional Sustainability Plan this year
- \$200,000 gas tax funds in next two years for the Sustainability Plan.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**SR1 2008 Solid Waste and Recycling Report (SWRR) CVRD**

Environmental Technologist, Harmony Huffman, presented the 2008 CVRD Solid Waste & Recycling Report which described the highlights of 2007/08 year. Our waste stream is still growing steadily and is a continuing worry. Planning to have organic waste pick up by 2011. Discussion ensued. Upcoming 2009 report will come out by June, 2010 at which time a communication strategy would be beneficial. Invite reporters to the presentation on the 2009 SWR report where we can inform the public the good and the bad news.

**It was moved and seconded to receive the Solid Waste and Recycling 2008 report as presented.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**B BUSINESS ARISING  
OUT OF MINUTES**

**B1 Action items carried forward: Commission Workplan**

The work plan for next two years.

- Need for communication plan which additional budgeted \$20,000 can be used for.
- Forestry remains undone
- i. Next steps - need focusing agent
  - State of the Environment would be ideal – set priorities and work to turn to positive actions and results. Which focus should Environment Commission have? Forest lands disappearing which is a huge impact ecologically. Land use is of utmost importance – how can we control and plan for it appropriately?
  - What can Commission offer as to recommendations to the Board with the tools we have?
- ii. Potential workshop April 16<sup>th</sup> to speak on the Quest model and clean energy act. Bruce Sampson has organized speakers. Budget up to \$5000. Bruce will try to partner with Climate Secretariat for partial funding. Invite all local government planners as land use is a big topic.
- iii. Justin will meet with Kate, Brian and Gerry about his planned presentation – try to meet April 7 for discussion.
- iv. Looking at potential of getting BC Government funding for public engagement and communications. How do we share this with Government ministries and influential people?
- v. Plan on what we do with State of Environment report and how we present it to the Board. Set up sub-committee to strategize implementation or advancement of some of the

issues on this report and bring recommendations to us. Bruce Fraser, Dave Polster, Roger Wiles, Justin Straker, Brian Dennison, Rodger Hunter, Kate Miller and Gerry Giles make up this committee.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NB1 State of the Environment Draft Report**

The draft report (186 pages) was given to each member of the commission. The consultants attended by speaker phone guiding the commission through the highlights of the report and giving a high level summary. It was thoroughly discussed as to content and results. Land base and sensitive ecosystems, species at risk, fish; and water are what stands out to Judith Cullington as main areas of focus. Data is not available in many cases. Fish section still to come and the final version of the report will then be prepared.

7:30 pm Rob Hutchins left the meeting

**NB2** The Natural Step Exchange – membership is recommended. Cost is \$1000 – look at it as part of our budget? Discussion. Dyan to find out if City of Duncan is a member and if we could access information through them.

7:50 – 8:00 pm Refreshment break

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**CR1** Cowichan Green Community recommendations re food security. Needs to be discussed with the commission to possibly recommend to Board. Can be part of the strategy planning for the State of Environment report and sub-committee will discuss.

**CR2** Earth Day Events April 22<sup>nd</sup> – newsletter space available from Jean Crowder where we can add events. Cowichan Green Community will do that. There will be a fair on April 22 at Charles Hoey Park. Email Judy Stafford for communication.

**INFORMATION**

**IN1** Our area now has official status under the Transition Town movement out of the UK and is called *Transition Cowichan*.

**IN2** Mark Lakeman is speaking on community revitalization- at the Quw'utsun' Cultural and Conference Centre this Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

**NEXT MEETING**

April 15, 2010 Agenda to be discussed

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

**ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION MINUTES – MARCH 18, 2010**

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Chair

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Recording Secretary

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