

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
BOWEN COMPLEX CONFERENCE ROOM
500 BOWEN ROAD (LOWER LEVEL)
WEDNESDAY, 2015-MAR-11, COMMENCING AT 4:30 P.M.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gail Adrienne
Ted Perry
Wally Wells

Suzanne Andre (*arrived at 4:40 p.m.*)
Shelley Serebrin

Emil Bock
Calvin Tant

Staff: Richard Harding, Director, Parks, Recreation and Environment
Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner
Kevin Brydges, Environmental Bylaw Enforcement Officer (*arrived at 4:40 p.m.*)
Robin Tweed, Recording Secretary

REGRETS:

Councillor Diane Brennan
Jan Hastings

Sheri DeBoer
Anne Kerr

Glenda Hunter

ACTING CHAIR: WALLY WELLS

1. **STAFF CALLED THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TO ORDER AT 4:35 P.M.**

2. **SELECTION OF CHAIR BY COMMITTEE MOTION FOR THE MEETING:**

It was moved and seconded that Wally Wells act as Chair for the 2015-MAR-11 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

3. **INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:**

- Add Item 11.(a) - Verbal update - Cat Regulation Bylaw.
- Add Item 11.(b) – Plant Salvage Program
- Add Item 11.(c) - NALT's AGM & presenter on Climate Change.

It was moved and seconded that the Delegation be moved forward to follow adoption of the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

4. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda, as amended, be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

It was moved and seconded that minutes of the Regular Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability Meeting held Wednesday, 2014-DEC-10, at 4:33 p.m., in the Service and Resource Centre Board Room be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

6. **DELEGATIONS:** (10 MINUTES)

- (a) Delegation request by Joanne Sales, and Judy Broserio, BroomBusters Invasive Plant Society, regarding the 2015 season.

Ms. Sales provided a PowerPoint presentation on the removal of broom. BroomBusters would like the City to demonstrate a desire and commitment to remove broom in the City. They request that the City consider establishing a Bylaw to ensure that property owners take responsibility for broom removal on their property. Ms. Sales will provide a copy of the Parksville Bylaw, which covers all invasive plants and noxious weeds, for the Committee.

\$20K in funding is available in the City's Invasive Plant Management Program budget. Some funds can be allocated to coordinate pick up sites but sites need to be identified in advance. There is currently no Bylaw in place; however, the Development Services Division does not allow clear cutting to happen prior to development. The City's Property Maintenance Bylaw also requires homeowner's to prevent noxious weeds from encroaching onto neighbouring properties.

It was noted that there is a heavy growth of ivy across from the Beacon (possibly Port Authority Property). Richard Harding advised that Mike Davidson should be contacted to determine if this is City property and whether it is covered under the maintenance contract.

Invasive plant month is May, and there is a possibility of also having one in the fall. Staff to consider how to increase media awareness of invasive plants and will return to the Committee with a strategy.

It was moved and seconded that the delegation be received. The motion carried unanimously.

7. **PRESENTATIONS:** (None.)

8. **CHAIR'S REPORT:**

- (a) 2015 ACES Key Date Calendar.

Committee members would like to see the dates of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coast Communities (AVICC) AGM and Convention dates included on the Calendar. The AGM and Convention will be held in Courtenay 2015-APR-10 to 2015-APR-12. Information can be obtained at the following link: <http://avicc.ca/2015-convention-overview/>

It was moved and seconded that the 2015 Key Date calendar be adopted as amended with the addition of the AVICC AGM and Convention dates. The motion carried unanimously.

- (b) Process for Renewing Committee Membership. (*Reference documents: "ACES Mandate & Objectives", "Advisory Committees Terms of Reference".*)

Legislative Services and department staff have begun the process to notify, by way of public advertisement, all NGO groups and members-at-large that the City is seeking applications from individuals and nominations by groups for membership on the ACES due to the expiry of current member terms on 2015-MAR-31. Letters have been sent to the Chamber of Commerce, School District 68, Vancouver Island University, and the Snuneymuxw First Nation for their nominations.

9. **STAFF REPORTS:**

(a) **ACES 2015 Work Plan**
R. Lawrance, Environmental Planner

Purpose: To obtain ACES's and Council's approval on the 2015 Work Plan.

Staff advise that the major piece of work will be the environmental framework.

Staff will also review the possibility that a Watercourse Habitat Compensation Bank can be developed for the City. This would be a useful tool where development has limited room to do restoration on site. Developers could provide funds to be utilized for other watercourse restoration projects within a defined area, such as the same watershed.

Committee members expressed concern with the concept of a compensation bank – feeling that all streams are connected and to compromise a part of the watercourse compromises all of it. Further conversations about what would qualify for the bank still needs to take place. It would not be a tool to be used lightly – a fairly high bar would need to be set. Staff would discuss with other communities for their input. A suggestion was made that staff look at fish values and water qualities and have other agencies involved (for example DFO) in the development of such a program.

UBCM – Committee members asked if staff would be attending and addressing changes that have been made. Staff to look into attendance and presentation.

Committee members felt that there should be a section in the work plan that would cover “Programs/policies to be monitored and promoted.” (In the interest of not losing sight of past committee initiatives – ex. Pesticide use Bylaw.)

Committee requested that headings to be grouped and carried over to the new work plan.

Re: the Pesticide Bylaw Education - Committee members expressed concern that pesticide use and the Bylaw product sheets are not readily available at supply outlets. Perhaps they could be bigger or have a larger sign with tear offs.

Staff Recommendation: That the Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability recommend that Council approve the Committee's 2015 Work Plan.

It was moved and seconded that the 2015 Work Plan, amended with the addition of “Implementation and Promotion of Environmental Programs / Policies”, be adopted, and that the Plan be brought forward to the new Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability. The motion carried unanimously.

(b) **Review of The Woodstove Changeout and Burn It Smart Programs**
R. Lawrance, Environmental Planner

Purpose: To review the regulatory options for managing smoke from wood burning appliances and report back to the Committee with recommendations.

Staff Recommendations: That the Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability recommend that Staff:

1. review the City of Nanaimo's Burn It Smart educational material with woodstove retailers and report back to the Committee with recommendations on improving the program;
2. work with Bylaw Services and Building Inspections and return with recommendations on developing a woodstove appliance bylaw for the City of Nanaimo; and,
3. review the existing Woodstove Change-out Program and explore opportunities to include low / no carbon energy change-outs and report back to the Committee with recommendations.

Committee members requested that recommendation 2. be amended to read “*work with Bylaw Services and Building Inspections to determine if a City of Nanaimo woodstove appliance bylaw or other enforcement mechanisms are appropriate or required and return to the Committee with recommendations; and,*”.

Committee members suggested that staff also work with VIHA regarding policies on emissions/air quality.

The Committee was advised that if the Fire Department is clear that if it is a safety issue, they will address it.

Within B.C. 42 local governments have specific Bylaws.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations, as amended, be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

(c) **Update on Stormwater Engineering Standards Review**
R. Lawrance, Environmental Planner

Purpose: To provide an update on the staff review of Section 7 (Stormwater Infrastructure) of the City of Nanaimo's Manual Engineering Standards and Specifications.

Staff Recommendation: That the Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability receive for information.

It was moved and seconded that the report be received. The motion carried unanimously.

NOTE: Section 7 of the Engineering Standards and Specifications Manual is available at the following link.

<http://www.nanaimo.ca/EN/main/departments/Engineering-Public-Works/4491/engineering-standards-manual.html>

(d) **Environmental Services Report** – December 2014 – March 2015.

Staff advised that the Horticultural Supervisor is reviewing the previous Tree Donation Program with a view to reinstituting it as an alternative to the discontinued park bench program.

It was moved and seconded that the report be received. The motion carried unanimously.

10. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- (a) E-mail dated 2015-MAR-02 from Danielle Prevost, Environment Canada, regarding an invitation to attend a Public Open House on Species at Risk Recovery Planning scheduled for 2015-MAR-25.

- (b) E-mail dated 2015-MAR-04 from BC Wildlife Federation Wetlands Education Program providing a link to the report made available subsequent to the “Wetland Conservation in Eastern Vancouver Island” workshop. Link: <http://bcwfbogblog.com/2015/01/30/wetland-conservation-in-eastern-vancouver-island-a-workshop-for-municipal-and-regional-stakeholders/>

Well attended. Very high level conversation which opened the door for new ideas from some. Some attendees were hoping for more detailed hands-on opportunities.

- (c) Information received on Getting Climate Ready Webinars - Sea Level Rise & Extreme Precipitation with registration links:

Sea Level Rise (2015-MAR-25):

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3285547816579484161?utm_source=Getting+Climate+Ready+Webinars++&utm_campaign=Free+Webinars+in+Climate+Adaptation+&utm_medium=email

Extreme Precipitation on the West Coast (2015-MAR-31):

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3696854225810756865?utm_source=Getting+Climate+Ready+Webinars++&utm_campaign=Free+Webinars+in+Climate+Adaptation+&utm_medium=email

11. **NOTICE OF MOTION:** (None.)

12. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- (a) Committee members asked about the presentations to Council on 2015-FEB-02 regarding “Animal Control - Cat Regulations”. Council did not accept the staff recommendation to “*direct Staff to make no amendments to the Animal Control and Regulation Bylaw regarding cats*”, but instead unanimously passed the following motion:

“It was moved and seconded that council direct Staff to partner with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and prepare a report which presents options for the regulation of cats, including options which may lead to the creation of a cat regulation bylaw, and return to Council with their findings.”

- (b) Plant Salvage program has begun – orientation will be held this Friday, 2015-MAR-13, with notices distributed to Recreation Coordinators. Pick up location will be Shores Drive on the north side of Wally Creek.
- (c) Gail Adrienne distributed a handout to advise the Committee of the upcoming NALT AGM and event speaker, Richard Hebda, who will be addressing “History of BC Coast Forests and Their Future Under Climate Change” following the AGM on Wednesday, 2015-MAR-18, at 6:30 p.m. at the Brechin United Church Hall.

13. **DELEGATIONS:** (10 MINUTES)

- (a) Moved to Item 6.(a) on Agenda.

14. **QUESTION PERIOD:** *(No questions.)*

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved and seconded at 6:15 p.m. that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.



Wally Wells, Acting Chair
Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



Richard Harding, Director
Parks, Recreation and Environment