



MINUTES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (ACES)
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2013-JUL-10 AT 4:30 PM
BOARD ROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE (411 DUNSMUIR STREET)

Members Present:	Anne Kerr, Designate Chair Chad Dalrymple Ted Perry	Glenda Hunter (alternate) Shelley Serebrin (alternate) Wally Wells Calvin Tant
Members Absent:	Diane Brennan, Chair Jan Hastings Suzanne Andre	Sheri DeBoer Michele Patterson Snuneymuxw First Nation Rep
Staff:	Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner	Rebecca Tubbs, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

Designate Chair Anne Kerr called the meeting to order at 4:31 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

The agenda was approved as presented with the following late items:

a) Email from Bill Merilees re Request for RAR Test Study Area at Judson's Brook

An email dated 2013-JUL-05 was sent to D. Brennan from B. Merilees requesting that the City consider using Judson's Brook as a test study area for delineating the application and extent of the current RARs. The email states that the study area would provide a practical "hands on" understanding of the process and suggests having the setbacks defined by more than one QEP.

The Committee discussed the request and concluded that: it is too early in the process to consider the request; there may be a multi-pronged agenda at play; and the proposed site is not the most "dynamic" example to use (flat, low bank, etc.).

The above correspondence was received – no action was taken.

b) Canadian Urban Institute Conference in Ottawa: Identify New Models for Tomorrow's Infrastructure

W. Wells provided a debrief on the Canadian Urban Institute Conference. Of note for the Committee was a panel discussion on prioritizing environmental goals and revitalizing communities, including the role of energy planning in relation to land use. W. Wells will provide the presentation at some future date.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2013-JUN-12)

It was moved and seconded that the 2013-JUN-12 Minutes be adopted with the following amendments:

S. Serebrin arrived at 4:48 pm.

Item 4c) Communication with UBCM re Changes to the *Fisheries Act*

The Committee had requested that staff contact UBCM to **determine the process for further action in response to changes to the *Fisheries Act*, and to ensure**

protection of riparian habitats. ~~find out opinions on the changes to the Fisheries Act amongst local governments.~~ After the 2013-MAR-22 meeting hosted by UBCM between DFO and invited local government representatives, UBCM agreed to collect any questions and comments from local government and forward it to DFO for a response. Responses to questions asked during the meeting are attached.

Staff contacted UBCM and was informed that Nanaimo is the only local government to date to contact UBCM on this matter. The Committee **decided to target the 2014 UBCM for any additional inputs, and to monitor the issue in the mean time.** ~~decided to monitor this issue until 2014 to allow the City to 1) better understand what impacts the Fisheries Act changes may have on local aquatic habitat protection; and 2) allow time for the City to complete the watercourse setback variance review.~~

D. Brennan suggested partnering with the ~~Union~~ **Association** of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) on this issue. It would allow Nanaimo to share information with other coastal communities and help assess support and confirm any impact occurring before going back to UBCM. **The Committee will discuss recommending to Council a resolution related to riparian habitat protection for consideration at the AVICC meeting in April 2014.**

The motion was carried.

4. Items Arising from Minutes

a) Tour of Newly Acquired Buttertubs Marsh (West) – Debrief

For information. Some of the Committee members met with B. Merilees on 2013-JUN-20 for a tour of the newly acquired portion of Buttertubs Marsh. A suspected setback infraction was observed near Judson's Brook where some trees had been cut down near the creekside. A follow up investigation is being conducted by the City's Bylaw Department and Urban Forester. Committee members thanked B. Merilees for organizing the tour and expressed interest in touring other local sites in the future.

5. Delegations

6. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices

a) Ombudsperson Notice RE: RAR Review

For information. A letter dated 2013-JUN-18 was sent to the Mayor from the Ombudsperson. The letter was a general notice to local governments that a systematic investigation into the fairness and reasonableness of the administration of the *Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR)* in BC is underway. The letter states that the investigation will focus on the role of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Environment in administering the *Regulation*. Input may be provided via online questionnaire at www.bcombudsperson.ca.

7. Ongoing Business

a) Riparian Area Setback Variance Policy Review – Implementation Timeline

Based on the suggestions made by the Committee at the last meeting, staff revised the interim report and presented it to Council for approval on 2013-JUN-24.

Staff provided members with copies of the draft implementation timeline and reviewed each the items. By September, staff will have a better idea the timeline and how to proceed on each of these recommendations. One of the biggest cornerstones is the Official Community Plan review, which will begin in the fall. During the review, changes will be made to the DPA1 and DPA2

guidelines. The guidelines will include many of the recommendations of this review and will be used by City staff in changing the current variance process.

Staff asked Committee members to review the draft implementation timeline and submit comments to rob.lawrance@nanaimo.ca by 2013-JUL-17. A revised version will be presented back to ACES for endorsement at the September meeting.

b) Community Sustainability Action Plan – REEP Update

For information. As has been reported at previous meetings, two focus group meetings have been held with realtors, City staff, and BC Hydro in order to consider developing a program for realtors to better promote energy efficiency at the time of sale. A final draft report has been prepared and is now ready. Staff will provide a copy of the draft report to members via email after the meeting.

c) Invasive Plant Management Strategy – Draft for Review

Staff provided members with copies of the draft invasive plant management strategy at the meeting. Staff asked members to review this document and submit comments to rob.lawrance@nanaimo.ca prior to 2013-SEP-01. A revised version of the draft (including staff and committee comments) will be re-circulated to members for review prior to the September meeting with the regular agenda package (September 4). Staff will be seeking endorsement from ACES at the September meeting, before going to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

8. New Business

a) Review Work Plan Status

For information. As requested by the Committee, a periodic review of the work plan is undertaken in order to assess the progress made to date.

9. Council Update

None.

10. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting is 2013-SEP-11 at 4:30 pm in the Service and Resource Centre (411 Dunsmuir Street). **There will be no meeting in August.**

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date