



**MINUTES**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (ACES)**  
**MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2013-JUN-12 AT 4:30 PM**  
**BOARD ROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE (411 DUNSMUIR STREET)**

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

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**1. Call to Order**

D. Brennan called the meeting to order at 4:42 pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**3. Adoption of Minutes (2013-MAY-08)**

It was moved and seconded that the 2013-MAY-08 Minutes be adopted as presented. The motion was carried.

**4. Items Arising from Minutes**

a) Linley Valley Oil Slick – Update

The Committee had asked to receive an update on the status of this item. Although the source has not been found, it is being contained and monitored by Public Works. Both the Ministry of Environment and City Bylaw Services are involved. More information will be provided to the Committee once it becomes available.

b) Odour Complaints – Update

The Committee had asked to receive an update on the status of this item. Over the spring, a number of odour complaints were received by the City and RDN. The RDN is conducting an investigation to identify the source of the odour. A consultant is being hired to develop a computer model to identify the possible sources using complaint locations, time of complaints, and weather conditions. More information will be provided to the Committee once it becomes available.

c) 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. 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.

D. Brennan suggested partnering with the 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.

c) Tour of Newly Acquired Buttertubs Marsh

Staff proposed a time and date of 5:00 pm on Thursday, 2013-JUN-20. Staff will send members a reminder and map that shows the meeting place.

## 5. Delegations

## 6. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices

a) Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Discussion Paper, Questions from UBCM Attendees, and Answers from DFO (prepared after 2013-MAR-22 UBCM Meeting).

For information. Discussed in Item 4c.

## 7. Ongoing Business

a) Riparian Area Setback Variance Policy Review – Draft Recommendations

A draft report was provided to members via email prior to the meeting. It is comprehensive, and contains recommendations based on options raised during the March 20<sup>th</sup> workshop. It lays out specific recommendations for before, during and after the watercourse setback variance process in no particular order. Because they are options, ACES can look at each individually and support or not support an option. The report was sent to the DPRC for review and was endorsed with the following addition: “to explore ways to incent developers to implement environmental stewardship opportunities.”

The options endorsed today will go on to Council as a staff interim report. ACES will review final recommendations for the options before going on to Council for final adoption in the fall/winter.

### Committee Comments:

- **“Develop clear criteria, within the guidelines, for staff and Council on how a variance request will be accepted”**..... Do not provide this as an option, as many developers will try to “buy their way” out. Have it as a backup, but don’t advertise it as an option.
- Say **“to strive for no net loss”** not “guarantee”.
- **The City hiring their own QEP**..... Any local QEPS that decide to work for the City could essentially be blackballing themselves from the rest of the industry. Although it is the right thing to do, it may be difficult.
- **Retaining a QEP on site during construction**..... Developers are unlikely to want to pay for a QEP during the construction phase. It was suggested that you make them guarantee or “promise” that it be done (bonding, holding back an occupancy permit, etc.) to make sure they are aware of the consequence if they DON’T follow through.
- **Annually report on the total size of riparian area set aside**.....The balanced scorecard may not be the most appropriate place to “report back” on this issue. Consider an annual “state of the environment” report or equivalent.
- **Format**.....The colored sheet format presented to ACES at the last meeting is easier to read. It should be made clear that many of these options rely on each other. They need to be organized in a more logical way.
- Move to developing clear criteria on how a variance will be accepted.
- Re: Define what is meant by “hardship” and “significant enhancement”. Be specific.
- “Look for opportunities that can lead to a net ecological benefit when proceeding with a variance **application**”.
- Re: Developing an educational/public awareness program. Work with local high school eco clubs to increase public awareness and education. Summer co-op? Look into having these things incorporated into the regular curriculum.

Based on the above suggested changes, R. Lawrance will revise the report and forward it to Council.

It was moved and seconded that ACES endorse the recommended options with the suggested changes and clarifications as discussed – in principle. The motion was carried.

b) Green Nanaimo Awards Luncheon – Debrief

For information.

c) Invasive Plant Awareness Month (May) – Debrief

1,000 lbs. of invasives were delivered to Harmac for disposal. Lessons learned for next year include 1) to have a single drop zone location all month long; and 2) to emphasize the commitment required by groups every year to revisit sites and continue removal.

d) Bike to Work Week (2013-MAY-27 to 2013-JUN-02) - Debrief

For information. Bike to Work Week was held May 27-June 2 and was a success. Fifty seven teams were registered in Nanaimo (254 participants total). This is an increase from last year.

e) Community Sustainability Action Plan Update – REEP Focus Group

Staff is working with local realtors to develop a Realtor Energy Efficiency Program (REEP). The first focus group meeting was held with a consultant and BC Hydro representatives along with 30 realtors in attendance. The consultant will provide a report once the focus group meetings have been completed.

**8. New Business**

None.

**9. Council Update**

None.

**10. Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting is 2013-JUL-10 at 4:30 pm in the Service and Resource Centre (411 Dunsmuir Street).

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 pm.

APPROVED:

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Chair

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Date