



MINUTES

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

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

1. Call to Order

D. Brennan called the meeting to order at 4:48 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

The agenda was approved with the addition of the following late items:

- a) 4th Annual Wild Food Festival and Earth Day Celebration (2013-APR-21):
For information. The fourth annual Wild Food Festival will be held at Bowen Complex from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm and will include samples of local wild foods, live music, community booths, guided plant walks, local food and craft market, plus much more. Admission is \$2 (kids are free). For more information, visit www.nalt.bc.ca.
- b) Tour of Newly-Acquired Buttertubs Marsh (West):
The Committee has been invited on a tour of the newly acquired portion of Buttertubs Marsh. They expressed interest in attending and requested that staff arrange the tour for a future date.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2013-MAR-13)

It was moved and seconded that the 2013-MAR-13 Minutes be adopted as amended below.

Item 2e) News article re International Composting Corporation (ICC) Group:

.... There was a motion made at last night's **RDN Board** meeting to have RDN staff review scrubbing procedures.....

Item 2f) Linley Valley Oil Slick:

For information. There was a recent article in the newspaper regarding an oil slick in the Linley Valley. An investigation has taken place, but the results have not yet been provided. **The Committee would like an update once the results are available.**

The motion was carried.

4. Items Arising from Minutes

- a) UBCM Meeting Regarding Changes to *Fisheries Act* (2013-MAR-22) – Debrief:
Staff participated in a conference call, along with a number of other municipal government reps. The presentation was focused on the expected changes to the *Fisheries Act*. It was made clear that there would be budget cuts, staff reductions and a major reorganization. It was also noted

that there will be a philosophy change from a zone-approach of management, to the creation of service centres that focus on specific responsibilities and priorities for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). Certain communities would deal with specific areas of focus when managing the *Act*. Nanaimo will be one of those communities and will be responsible for oil and gas applications, coastal development, and conservation partnerships within BC.

W. Wells arrived at 5:01 pm.

DFO is requesting that municipalities forward their comments, concerns and questions to UBCM. Those concerns will be put forward to the UBCM's Environment Committee.

ACES asked if a representative from the UBCM's Environment Committee could be invited to attend a future ACES meeting to review UBCM's approach. As well, the Committee suggested the possibility of hosting an "island wide" session, to review the changes to the *Act* and how it may impact fish protection on Vancouver Island.

It was moved and seconded that staff invite a representative from UBCM's Environment Committee to attend a future ACES meeting. The motion was carried.

5. Delegations

None.

6. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices

- a) 6th Annual River Never Sleeps Festival (2013-MAY-05):
For information. The festival is a family-friendly celebration of salmon and their ecosystems and will be held at Rosewall Creek Hatchery (8425 Berray Road, Fanny Bay). The festival will include education, demos, face painting, food and much more.
- b) News Release: Protecting Vulnerable Species – Draft 5-Year Plan for Species at Risk in BC:
For information. The federal government has released a draft five-year plan for species at risk in BC and is looking for public input. The draft plan is available online for viewing at www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/5_yr_plan.
- c) Letter of Support from Islands Trust for NMCA Reserve:
For information. Islands Trust has sent a letter of support to the provincial government for the NMCA, requesting that a joint management partnership be created in order to manage the NBMCA and highlighting their concerns regarding zoning.

7. Ongoing Business

- a) Riparian Area Setback Variance Policy Review – Update:
For information. Staff is currently using the comments received at the 2013-MAR-20 workshop to develop recommendations for review by ACES and DPRC at their next meeting. Outcomes from the 2013-MAR-20 workshop included the following:
 - Consider changes to the development permit area
 - Look more closely at what is happening at the time of development
 - Can the City be flexible on other possibilities before considering a variance to setbacks?
 - Broaden the scope of what the OCP says (by amendment to the OCP)
 - Improve monitoring during and after construction.
 - Include a QEP in the process from start to finish.
 - Improve public awareness and education by clearly stating regulations and requirements.

b) Green Nanaimo Awards – Review Nominations & Make Recommendations:

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be closed to the public in order to deal with agenda items under the Community Charter Section 90(1):

- (b) personal information about an identifiable individual who is being considered for a municipal award or honour, or who has offered to provide a gift to the municipality on the condition of anonymity.

The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting resume as regular and exit the “in camera” session. The motion was carried.

c) Invasive Plant Awareness – Update:

Invasive Plant Awareness Month is May, 2013. Parks staff are planning a series of neighbourhood plant pulls in City parks, group plant pulls at local malls, training sessions, and invasive plant “drop off zones”. Groups interested in participating can contact Parks & Rec at 250-756-5200. More information is available at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/invasives.

d) Water Conservation Workshop (2013-APR-04) – Debrief:

Staff and members of the Committee were invited to attend the workshop, which was designed to provide an update to the existing water conservation strategy. Based on input provided, the consultant will now create a draft strategy which should be available for review in the next month or so. More information can be provided when it becomes available.

8. New Business

None.

9. Council Update

None.

10. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting is 2013-MAY-08 at 4:30 pm in the Service and Resource Centre (411 Dunsmuir Street).

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date