



MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (ACES)
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2012-NOV-14 AT 4:30 PM
NANAIMO MUSEUM (100 MUSEUM WAY)

Members Present:	Diane Brennan, Chair Calvin Tant Anne Kerr Ted Perry	Suzanne Andre Wally Wells Sheri DeBoer Glenda Hunter
Guests:	Bill Merilees Jennifer O'Rourke	Harriet Rueggeberg
Members Absent:	Jan Hastings Shelley Serebrin	Snuneymuxw First Nation Rep
Staff:	Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner	Rebecca Tubbs, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

Staff noted that D. Brennan will arrive late as she is coming from another meeting. In the meantime, A. Kerr volunteered as Designate Chair. A. Kerr called the meeting to order at 4:34 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

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

- a) Late Item: Rainwater Harvesting:
For information. The Regional District of Nanaimo has published a Rainwater Harvesting Best Practices Guidebook for those who wish to learn more about the benefits and opportunities of rainwater harvesting. The guide costs \$15 + HST and can be obtained through the RDN.
- b) Item 7C) Summary of Notes from the 2012-OCT-26 NMCA Workshop by Parks Canada:
R. Lawrance requested that the item be placed under Correspondence, Handouts, Notices.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2012-SEP-19 & 2012-OCT-10)

It was moved and seconded that the 2012-SEP-19 Minutes be adopted as presented.
The motion was carried.

It was moved and seconded that the 2012-OCT-10 Minutes be adopted with the following changes:

- Item 2) Article re Rain Gardens:
A. Kerr presented a news article regarding an underused playing field in James Bay, Victoria that was converted into a rain garden and landscaped with native plants. **The rain garden will intercept two storm sewers and collect and cleanse run off from nearby pavement, sidewalks and roofs. This** idea would be great for Nanaimo.
- Item 5a) Byron Gallant, Canadian Homebuilder's Association:
 - A specific roof plain orientation makes solar hot water useful. **Heating with solar panels requires reinforced roof trusses to accommodate the weight of the solar panels and to factor in snow and wind loads. For solar panels to be effective, the orientation of the lot and the orientation of the roof's plane are critically important for capturing the energy of the sun's rays.** With today's design of subdivisions, orientation is limited. In most cases, it is not effective. It would be effective, for instance, on an acreage where the home can be oriented in any way.
 - Technology changes so quickly that what is built today ~~gets forgotten tomorrow~~ **is out-of-date** by tomorrow.

The motion was carried.

C. Tant arrived at 4:37 pm.

D. Brennan arrived at 4:40 pm and took over as Chair of the meeting.

R. Lawrance introduced Chris Jackson, the new manager of Community Planning, who attended the meeting to observe and familiarize himself with the group.

4. Items Arising from Minutes

5. Delegations

- a) Bill Merilees, Jennifer O'Rourke & Harriet Rueggeberg – Protection of Riparian Areas within the City of Nanaimo:

D. Brennan welcomed Mr. Bill Merilees, Ms. Jennifer O'Rourke and Ms. Harriet Rueggeberg, who attended the meeting to discuss the protection of riparian habitat. Concerns were raised about the perceived loss of habitat throughout the City. With the recent changes to the Federal Fisheries Act and uncertainty about the effectiveness of the Provincial Riparian Area Regulation, the delegation proposed that the City of Nanaimo review its existing process for variances under the City's Watercourse DPA and Zoning Bylaws.

Examples of variance processes were presented to the Committee from other local government jurisdictions in BC and Alberta. The delegation requested that the Committee review the list of resources and examples provided and consider the mitigation and compensation process adopted in other communities.

D. Brennan thanked the delegations for their presentation.

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

Mr. Merilees, Ms. O'Rourke and Mrs. Rueggeberg excused themselves from the meeting.

The Committee discussed the delegation's request for support of a no net riparian loss policy. Before they can develop any sort of solution or policy, they must know what is currently being dealt with. Questions included:

- How often are variances requested vs granted?
- What is the City's current process for handling variances and variance infractions?
- Should we create a site inventory?
- Do we rely too heavily on private professionals?
- Should we hire an internal staff expert?
- How do we know developers are following the rules once granted a variance?
- Should we complete six-month and one-year impact analysis of the variances granted?
- What other mechanisms are available?
- How do we enforce these policies?
- What other factors are considered by staff when deciding whether or not to grant a variance?

R. Lawrance will look into finding some answers to the above questions, the City's current practice, best practices in other communities, etc. and report back to ACES.

It was moved and seconded that staff draft a memo to the Committee on the City's watercourse bylaw and how similar bylaws are administered elsewhere in BC. The variance process will also be given specific focus. The motion was carried.

6. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices

- a) News Article – Does “Sustainable” conflict with “Resilient”?:
For information.
- b) News Release – RDN Board Adopts Agricultural Area Plan:
For information.
- c) NMCA Workshop Notes:
For information.

W. Wells noted that the Chamber of Commerce has tried to contact Parks Canada many times since their presentation to ACES, with no luck garnering any sort of response from them.

The above correspondence was received as presented.

7. Ongoing Business

- a) Community Sustainability Action Plan – Draft Report to Council:
After hearing feedback at the last meeting, staff has revised the report to include the Committee's suggested changes and would like to present it to Council on 2012-DEC-03 with the Committee's endorsement.

It was moved and seconded that the Community Sustainability Action Plan be approved as presented. The motion was carried.

It was suggested that the following changes to made to the report:

- Specify why the provincial targets were originally accepted and why we will not be reaching them.
- Highlight information that was gathered at the workshops.
- Include a section that specifies changes made by the management team.
- Make strong connections to the Corporate Strategic Plan.
- Include page numbers when referencing other parts of the plan.

It was moved and seconded that the CSAP report be approved with the above-noted amendments and that the CSAP be recommended to Council for adoption. The motion was carried.

- b) Invasive Plant Management Strategy – Draft Display Boards/Open House Schedule:
R. Lawrance reviewed the draft display boards, noting that they will be used at upcoming open houses and information events. R. Lawrance will meet with Parks and Bylaw staff to review the information and direction of the strategy. The information will be displayed at a variety of locations around town (Parks yard, Department of Fisheries & Oceans office, Nanaimo Aquatic Centre, Bowen Park, etc.) until early December. As well, R. Lawrance will look into tagging along with other events to help promote the strategy. Other suggested locations to display the information: the malls, local nurseries, horticultural society meetings, neighbourhood association meetings, streamkeeper society meeting).
- c) Summary of Notes from the 2012-OCT-26 NMCA Workshop by Parks Canada:
See Item 6C.
- d) Work Plan Status Check:
R. Lawrance reviewed progress made on the items listed in the 2012 work plan. In the new year, a 2013 work plan will be completed and sent to Council for approval.

It was noted that in the next work plan, it may be beneficial to leave some space and time for ad-hoc items that may come to the Committee's attention throughout the year. This would allow for some opportunity to address emerging issues.

8. New Business

a) ACES Christmas Dinner:

The Committee will meet for Christmas Dinner on Friday, 2012-DEC-14 at 5:30 pm at the Westwood Lake Bistro.

9. Council Update

10. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 2012-DEC-12 at 4:30 pm in the Nanaimo Museum (100 Museum Way).

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date