



MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (ACES)
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2012-SEP-19 AT 4:30 PM
TRAINING ROOM, CITY ANNEX (238 FRANKLYN STREET)

Members Present:	Diane Brennan, Chair Calvin Tant Anne Kerr Shelley Serebrin	Suzanne Andre Wally Wells Sheri DeBoer
Guests:	Brett Hudson, Planner, BC Parks Tom Shannon, Parks Canada Wayne Bourque, Superintendant, Parks Canada David Bramley, Technical Services Superintendant, Harmac Pacific Ruby Berrie, Program Manager, Georgia Strait Alliance Clint Parchure, Coastland Wood Industries Bernie Dumas, President & CEO, Nanaimo Port Authority Edward Dahlgren, Manager of Marine Operations, Nanaimo Port Authority Doug Jaanz, Nanaimo Estuary Management Committee	
Members Absent:	Michael Schellinck Ted Perry	Michele Patterson Snuneymuxw First Nation Rep
Staff:	Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner	Rebecca Tubbs, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

Chair D. Brennan called the meeting to order at 4:38 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2012-MAY-09 & 2012-JUN-13 & 2012-JUL-11)

It was moved and seconded that the 2012-MAY-09, 2012-JUN-13 & 2012-JUL-11 Minutes be adopted as presented. The motion was carried.

4. Items Arising from Minutes

5. Delegations

- a) Brett Hudson (Senior Planner, BC Ministry of Environment) & Wayne Bourque (Superintendent, Parks Canada) – The proposed National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) for the Strait of Georgia – A review of the process:

D. Brennan welcomed the delegations and guests in attendance. R. Lawrance introduced Mr. W. Bourque, Superintendent, Parks Canada, and Mr. B. Hudson, Planner for BC Parks, who attended the meeting to provide information and to receive comments on the proposed NMCA reserve for the Strait of Georgia.

They began a Powerpoint presentation which reviewed the structure and the specific approach to establishing an NMCA. Reference was made to what was considered when defining the proposed boundary. To-date Parks Canada and the Province of BC have made the presentation to about 12 municipal and 19 first nations groups. The proposed boundary is yet to be finalized and comments are welcome.

The proposed area was selected based on the following:

- To conserve a large range of habitats that includes special and sensitive ecosystems.
- To avoid working within areas of high-tenure concentrations.
- To make the boundaries easier to identify based on reasonably obvious landforms.
- Some areas were excluded based on the fact that they would not make a significant contribution to the area but were making a significant size increase which could be “harder to sell” to government and public.

Parks Canada proposes a phased implementation for the NMCA reserve. The first phase would be to establish a smaller portion of the NMCA reserve (about 800 sq km). Through an establishment agreement, a process of formal review would then be created to determine whether the NMCA is meeting its objectives while minimizing impact on stakeholders.

The NMCA program is new for many, so there is little experience on how to manage tenures, impacts to business and community, etc. at this time. Given this lack of experience, Parks Canada wants to follow a cautious approach. Once these issues are worked through with local stakeholders within the initial NMCA area, they can implement the second phase which will encompass the entire NMCA reserve.

A series of workshops hosted by Parks Canada is being proposed, and local governments, first nations groups and elected representatives are to be invited. Consultation with commercial tenure interests will also begin soon. Discussions have taken place with various sectors but not individual holders.

The CEO of the Port Authority suggested that they speak with industry sooner than later. The more information they have, the more support and co-operation they can provide. It was suggested that the existing business community also be invited to participate in consultation, even if they are not water-based.

Additional comments can be submitted online at www.parkscanada.ca/straitofgeorgia.

The Committee asked why the Nanaimo Estuary is not included in their proposed boundary.

Parks Canada wants feedback on whether or not the proposed boundary extension is appropriate. Many groups have suggested that the boundary be pushed further north, but they have to be realistic about what is possible. If there is large and broad support to expand the boundary north (and good reason), it is possible. Parks Canada is not taking a position on the expansion. If there is overwhelming support for an expansion, they will take it into consideration.

D. Brennan thanked the delegations and guests for attending the meeting, noting that it was an excellent presentation that seems to have alleviated initial concerns but also highlighted some issues that need to be looked at.

R. Lawrance noted that at the next meeting, ACES can discuss how to inform Council from this point on, how to respond to MISSI's request for support regarding an expansion, etc. R. Lawrance will draft a report and present it to ACES for review at the October meeting.

6. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices

a) Nanaimo Declared a Blue Community:

For information. On 2012-SEP-10, Council declared Nanaimo a “Blue Community”. A “Blue Community” acknowledges the following resolutions; recognizing water as a human right; promoting publicly financed, owned and operated water and wastewater services; and banning the sale of bottled water in public facilities and at municipal events.

b) Island Roots Market Co-operative:

For information. A new co-operative is currently looking for members and would like to eventually establish a year-round farmer's market. For more information, visit www.islandrootsmarket.ca.

- c) Council of Canadians Conference (2012-OCT-26-28):
For information. The conference will be held at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre. The public forum will be held on Friday 2012-OCT-26, and is open to everyone, with admission by donation. More information available at: <http://canadians.org/about/AGM/index.html>.

The above correspondence was received as presented.

7. Ongoing Business

- a) Changes to Fisheries Act – Council Resolution & UBCM – Update:
The Committee's resolution has been included on the UBCM agenda. R. Lawrance will prepare some speaking notes for D. Brennan when she presents at the UBCM next week. A. Kerr expressed an interest in helping to make some revisions. They will revise the draft and send it to D. Brennan prior the UBCM. Any additional information that members would like D. Brennan to bring to the UBCM must be provided by Friday, 2012-SEP-21.
- b) Invasive Plant Management Strategy – Update:
The public workshops have been completed, information has been added to the website and a final report has been received from the consultants regarding workshop feedback. Staff has begun a very early draft of a strategy and is looking to prepare for an open house in October/November. At the next meeting, staff will provide draft display boards for review. The open house display boards will be based on the feedback received at the public workshops. An online survey was also posted on the city's website earlier this month and will be available until 2012-OCT-03. The public has been informed about the survey has taken place through the newspaper, CTV, radio, social media, etc.

On 2012-SEP-26, the City is celebrating National Tree Day Parks, Recreation & Culture. The event will include invasive plant workshops, tree care, a historic tree bike tour etc. As well, there will be a large front-page advertising "wrap on" tomorrow's newspaper that promotes the event, as well as provides general information on seasonal tree care. It was suggested that the event information be passed on to School District #68 and Vancouver Island University.

8. New Business

9. Council Update

10. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 2012-OCT-10 at 4:30 pm in the **Nanaimo Museum (100 Museum Way)**.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date