



MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (ACES)
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2012-MAY-09 AT 4:30 PM
NANAIMO MUSEUM (100 MUSEUM WAY)

Members Present:	Anne Kerr Diane Brennan, Chair Michele Patterson Sheri DeBoer Shelley Serebrin	Suzanne Andre Ted Perry Calvin Tant Michael Schellinck
Members Absent:	Wally Wells	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 4:34 pm, welcoming C. Tant, newly appointed Environment At-Large member.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2012-APR-11)

It was moved and seconded that the 2012-APR-11 Minutes be adopted as amended below:

Item 2b) Rumor regarding removal of Fisheries Act **habitat provisions**:

At the last meeting, there was mention of a rumor regarding the possible removal of habitat protection from the *Fisheries Act*. Although there is nothing mentioned of the removal in the federal budget, the changes may appear somewhere in a federal omnibus budget bill that is currently being reviewed. T. Perry knows of ex-Fisheries Ministers that have come forward opposing ~~any sort of the rumored~~ changes to the *Fisheries Act* **habitat provisions**.

R. Lawrance would like to form a subcommittee to help work on reviewing the City's watercourse bylaws and how they are applied in light of the potential loss of habitat protection in the *Fisheries Act*.

Item 9b) Invasive Plant Management Strategy Process:

- Provincial government has a mapping and tracking system **that** could be better utilized.

S. DeBoer, M. Schellinck and T. Perry volunteered to participate in an invasive plant subcommittee.

R. Lawrance would like to form a subcommittee to help work on reviewing our watercourse bylaws and how they are applied in light of the potential loss of habitat protection in the *Fisheries Act*.

The motion was carried.

4. Items Arising from Minutes

a) National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) Reserve Extension - Update:

At a previous meeting, a delegation from the Mid-Island Sustainability and Stewardship Initiative (MISSI), requested the Committee's support in expanding the proposed national marine conservation area (NMCA) reserve to include waters around Nanaimo and Gabriola Island. At that meeting, a motion was made for staff to prepare a report containing background info on NMCAs and a recommendation on how to proceed. R. Lawrance then prepared and presented an information report to committee members that recommended a meeting be arranged between Parks Canada, City staff and Council to provide more information on NMCAs before any such support for an expansion is considered. Meeting with Parks Canada staff will help to answer the

Committee's questions on the NMCA process, possible implications and reactions from other communities, etc.

R. Lawrance has contacted Richard Carson, Parks Canada, and requested that a Parks Canada representative meet with ACES and the Nanaimo Estuary Management Committee to discuss NMCAs. A date has not yet been confirmed.

R. Lawrance noted that Mr. Gourlay recently contacted him to say that he would be following up with Council on the proposed expansion. R. Lawrance informed Mr. Gourlay that it may be premature to present the information to Council, as the matter is still being reviewed by ACES, who is in the process of inviting Parks Canada to provide more information.

It was moved and seconded that the item be received as information. The motion was carried.

S. Andre arrived at 4:44 pm.

b) Staff Memo – Proposed Changes to Section 35(1) of the *Fisheries Act*:

R. Lawrance explained that while he was preparing the memo, new information had come forward. A. Kerr was able to provide additional information to add to the memo for review. The Committee has been asked by Council to look more closely at how the City informs the public about its watercourse bylaws. Providing Council with a report on the changes to the *Fisheries Act* is a good way to remind council how the City's watercourse bylaws function, in relation to provincial and federal legislation, while protecting fish values and habitat.

Some ACES members noted that Nanaimo appears to apply its environmental bylaws not as stringently as in other communities. For example, although an erosion control plan is required by the City, follow-up inspections and enforcement of infractions do not appear to happen as regularly as in other communities. The City of Surrey has strong follow-up inspections that issue severe fines for infractions.

It was suggested that the meeting be scheduled sooner rather than later, in hopes of having information ready for Council before the UBCM in September. It was suggested that a small subcommittee be formed to review more closely the information on the changes to the *Fisheries Act* habitat provisions (suggested sources for insight westcoastenvironmentallaw.com; ecojustice.com). M. Patterson and A. Kerr volunteered to participate.

It was moved and seconded that the memo be received as presented. The motion was carried.

M. Schellinck arrived at 5:14 pm.

5. Budget

6. Delegations

7. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices

a) 4th Annual Environmental Mind Grind, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm (2012-MAY-12):

For information. Over 21 teams have registered for this event, which is sponsored by Fortis BC and will be held in Woodgrove Centre.

b) Commuter Challenge, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm @ Diana Krall Square (2012-MAY-15):

For information. This event will be a friendly challenge between car drivers and bike riders and who can reach their destination the fastest.

c) Bike to Work Week (2012-MAY-28 to JUN-03):

For information. Anyone interested in participating can register online at www.biketowork.ca/nanaimo.

The above correspondence was received as presented.

8. Ongoing Business

a) Climate (Sustainability) Action Plan for Nanaimo – Update:

R. Lawrance provided members with copies of the draft plan to-date, a summary sheet, and background information on the document/process to new members in attendance. The plan is currently being reviewed on a managerial level, to consider possible cost implications that come with some of the proposed actions. Once the review is completed, it will be presented to Council along with a staff report for approval. The plan will come back to ACES once it has been approved by Council. Implementation will be carried out by ACES and City staff, but also the community at-large.

R. Lawrance welcomed members to review the plan for their own information and to feel free to direct any questions they may have in regards to the plan to him.

b) Invasive Plant Management Strategy – Background Presentation:

As per the ACES workplan, the Committee will soon begin work on an invasive plant management strategy in conjunction with Planning and Parks Department staff. A strategy will look at invasive plant management in a comprehensive manner, identify issues and priorities for identifying, mapping, removing and disposing of priority invasive plants on public and private lands. R. Lawrance introduced a PowerPoint presentation that provided background information on current invasive plants in Nanaimo and management strategies used to date. A strategy process was presented to committee members for review and comment..

Staff will send the PowerPoint presentation to members via email after the meeting, as well as background information on the City's pesticide bylaw.

c) Review Workplan Implementation:

R. Lawrance reviewed workplan implementation to-date with the Committee by noting progress to-date on the following items:

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|--|--------------------|
| • Climate Action / Sustainability Action Plan | Under staff review |
| • Invasive Plant Management Strategy | Underway |
| • Promoting City Environmental Programs / Policies | Ongoing |
| • Pesticide Education | Ongoing |
| • Watercourse Riparian Health | Underway |

S. Serebrin arrived at 5:55 pm.

It was moved and seconded that the item be received as information. The motion was carried.

M. Patterson excused herself from the meeting at 6:06 pm.

9. New Business

a) Payment to Museum for Use of Meeting Space:

It was moved and seconded that \$75.00 be paid to the Nanaimo Museum for the use of meeting facilities. The motion was carried.

10. Council / Committee Update

a) Council Update:

D. Brennan noted that the City's Strategic Plan process is being wrapped up in June and that there has been a lot of community push to continue to seawall to Departure Bay. What does ACES think of the idea? The discussion may come up again in the next year or so.

b) PNAC Update:

At the last meeting, staff explained that PNAC was currently in the process of restructuring their membership and that ACES representation may be removed. The restructuring has since taken place and as per Council approval and ACES will no longer be represented on PNAC.

11. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for **2012-JUN-13 at 4:30 pm at the Nanaimo Museum.**

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 pm.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date