



MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (ACES)
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2012-APR-11 AT 4:30 PM
NANAIMO AQUATIC CENTRE (741 THIRD STREET)

Members Present:	Anne Kerr Diane Brennan, Chair Michele Patterson Sheri DeBoer	Suzanne Andre Ted Perry Wally Wells Michael Schellinck
Members Absent:	Brian Kingsley	Snuneymuxw First Nation
Staff:	Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner	Rebecca Tubbs, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

Chair D. Brennan called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm. She welcomed members to the meeting by introducing herself and having members to introduce themselves to one another.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

The agenda was approved as presented with the following addition:

- a) Nanaimo River Working Group (2012-APR-26) (A. Kerr):
This event is a continuation of last fall's Nanaimo River Symposium, and will be held from 1:00-4:00 pm at VIU (Room 211). Everyone is welcome to attend and can register by contacting Paul Chapman (NALT) at 250-714-1990.
- b) Rumor regarding removal of Fisheries Act habitat provisions (T. Perry):
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 the rumored changes to the *Fisheries Act* habitat provisions.

MOVED and SECONDED that staff prepare a report regarding possible removals of fish habitat protection from federal legislation (what is included in the bill, possible impact, what other councils have done, etc.).

CARRIED.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2012-MAR-14)

MOVED and SECONDED that the 2012-MAR-14 Minutes be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

4. Items Arising from Minutes

- a) Expansion of National Marine Conservation Area Reserve for the Strait of Georgia:
At the last 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 into the Strait of Georgia. 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.

The report was provided to members prior to the meeting for review. It recommends that 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.

MOVED and SECONDED, that staff arrange a meeting with Parks Canada to provide information on NMCA Reserves.

CARRIED.

5. Budget

6. Delegations

7. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices

a) Member Contact Information:

For information – Staff are currently awaiting confirmation of a Snuneymuxw First Nation representative and two environment at-large representatives.

b) Earth Day/NALT Wild Foods Festival (2012-APR-22):

The Wild Foods Festival, hosted by NALT and the City of Nanaimo, will be held from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm at Bowen Park Centre (500 Bowen Road) and will include samplings of local food, guided plant walks, live music, crafts market, community booths, wild kids zone, electronics drop-off and much more. Admission is \$2.00 and food sample tickets are \$1.00. More information available at www.nalt.bc.ca, 250-714-1990 or eatgreensdrinktea@gmail.com.

A tree planting & BBQ event, hosted by Nanaimo Interact and the City of Nanaimo, will be held at the Beban Park Turf Fields. Tree planting will be held from 10:00 am to noon, and the BBQ will be held noon to 2:00 pm. All donations welcome. More information available at 250-756-5200.

c) Chase River Estuary Park Day (2012-APR-28):

This event, hosted by the South End Community Association, begins at 10:00 am and will include guided nature walks, informational displays and presentations, catch-and-release salmon fry for children, plant and bird experts, artists in the park, and a hot dog BBQ by donation. For more information, contact 250-753-5778 or email charlestorjhelm@shaw.ca.

The above correspondence was received as presented.

8. Ongoing Business

9. New Business

a) Bottled Water Sales at City Facilities:

A group recently approached Council requesting that Nanaimo become a “blue community” by removing bottled water from city facilities where municipal water is readily available. The two main concerns are that water is a human right, and that the City should promote the consumption of municipal water.

MOVED and SECONDED that the item be received as information.

CARRIED.

b) Invasive Plant Management Strategy Process:

It is intended that ACES will work with Parks Department staff in developing a strategy to manage invasive plants. R. Lawrance provided members with a draft outline of the upcoming process, noting that this item will be a major part of the year's work plan.

- Identify specific targets
- Select list of priority invasive plants
- Review bylaws and strategies from other communities
- Review staff and volunteer training
- Education and awareness
- Practices on private vs. public land
- Collect information on current process
- Where/how can resources be best utilized?
- Provincial government has a mapping and tracking system that could be better utilized

R. Lawrance would like to form a subcommittee to help work on this item outside of the regularly scheduled ACES meetings (S. DeBoer, M. Schellinck & T. Perry volunteered to participate).

M. Patterson volunteered to approach VIU's Horticulture Department to gauge student interest in providing information and research.

MOVED and SECONDED that the item be received as information.

CARRIED.

c) Draft 2012 Pesticide Awareness Program:

R. Lawrance briefly explained some background of the pesticide bylaw to new members. Some proposed pesticide awareness efforts planned for 2012 include:

- Social media & website updates
- Partnering with other groups (RDN, Team Watersmart, Nanaimo Recycling Exchange, Green Thumb Garden Centre, Community Gardens)
- Public information sessions with Linda Gilkinson

The Committee suggested the following additions:

- Continue to monitor progress of the provincial task force on pesticides
- Continue providing educational materials to retailers
- Continue to provide educational materials to local landscaping companies and professionals.

MOVED and SECONDED that the item be received as information.

CARRIED.

10. Council / Committee Update

a) Council Update:

No report.

b) PNAC Update:

Staff explained that PNAC is currently in the process of restructuring their membership and that ACES representation may be removed. Confirmation will be provided at the next meeting.

11. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 2012-MAY-09 at 4:30 pm at the Nanaimo Museum (100 Museum Way).

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:48 pm.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date