



MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2012-MAR-14 AT 4:30 PM
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM (455 WALLACE STREET)

Members Present:	Charles Thirkill, Chair Wally Wells Susan Fisher (on behalf of Anne Kerr)	Joan Wagner Shelley Serebrin Diane Brennan Meg Savory
Members Absent:	James Redford Anne Kerr	Michael Schellinck
Staff:	Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner	Rebecca Tubbs, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

Chair C. Thirkill called the meeting to order at 4:38 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

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

- a) World Water Day, Vancouver Island University (2012-MAR-22) (R. Lawrance):
This event will include presentations regarding water and the future.
- b) City of Victoria Gardening Newsletter (J. Wagner):
The City of Victoria produces a seasonal newsletter that showcases the City's gardening efforts, workshops, events, etc. and is prepared by the City's horticulturist. R. Lawrance will pass the newsletter on the PR&C staff for information.
- c) Changes to Fisheries Act (C. Thirkill):
A rumor is being spread regarding a proposed change to the Fisheries Act that could seriously affect stream habitat in that fish habitat would no longer pose as an obstacle to development.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2012-FEB-08)

MOVED and SECONDED that the 2012-FEB-08 Minutes be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

4. Items Arising from Minutes

5. Budget

6. Delegations

- a) Proposal to expand the National Marine Conservation Area by Mr. Laurie Gourlay, Mid-Island Sustainability and Stewardship Initiative (MISSI):
Mr. Gourlay attended the meeting to speak to the proposal to expand the proposed National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) to extend around Gabriola Island and into the Nanaimo Estuary. Although this proposal has not yet been presented to Council, he asked the Committee to support the expansion.

S. Serebrin arrived at 4:48 pm.

A discussion ensued, but the Committee did not feel comfortable passing a motion due to lack of adequate information. One concern rests with the loss of local control if the federal government becomes more involved in managing the waters surrounding Nanaimo.

MOVED and SECONDED that the Committee receive the delegation as presented.

CARRIED.

MOVED and SECONDED that R. Lawrance prepare a report for ACES that canvasses the issues surrounding the proposal to extend the national marine conservation area and any other information that may be relevant to the Committee.

CARRIED.

The Committee thanked Mr. Gourlay for attending the meeting. He excused himself from the meeting at 5:10 pm.

7. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices

- a) 2012 Work Plan - Adopted:
Staff handed out copies of the adopted 2012 work plan to members for information.
- b) Environmental Day of Gathering (2012-MAR-16):
High school students will be converging downtown for an Environmental Day of Gathering from 9:15 am to 11:00 am. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- c) Coastal Douglas Fir Stewardship Workshop (2012-MAR-27):
The workshop will take place from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre. Information was provided to members via email prior to the meeting.
- d) Green Solutions Trade Show & Speaker's Forum (2012-MAR-17&18):
This event will take place all day at Beban Park Social Centre. City staff will attend the event and host an informational booth showcasing both the City and RDN's energy efforts.
- e) Earth Hour – Citywide from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm (2012-MAR-31):
The City of Nanaimo will be participating in Earth Hour by participating in lighting reduction initiatives, turning off the Diana Krall Plaza screen, and promoting Earth Hour online at the City's website, Facebook and Twitter.
- f) Corporate Strategic Plan:
A corporate strategic plan defines the business of the organization, clarifies its preferred future and identifies strategic priorities. It is used to inform decision-making and guide actions to respond to the needs and interests of the community. The City is initiating the creation of its own Corporate Strategic Plan and is inviting the public to provide input. A number of community consultation workshops will be held in various locations across the city – special workshops will be held for special focus groups including community, business, youth and seniors.

8. Ongoing Business

- a) Sustainability Action Plan – Community Engagement on Climate Change:
Implementation of the Sustainability Action Plan will need to be undertaken by groups and organizations other than the City of Nanaimo. R. Lawrance, J. Wagner and S. Serebrin met with Capital Regional District's (CRD) Sara Webb to discuss programs and opportunities that can be offered to facilitate community action. Some comments and advice provided by the CRD included:
 - Take advantage of local organizations and events (piggybacking)
 - Integrate messaging on climate action with partner organization
 - Provide background information and education support to catalyze action
 - Enable and empower citizens to get things done
- b) Ecosystems & Species at Risk Workshop:
R. Lawrance and W. Wells attended this workshop, which included presentations from Environment Canada, Ministry of Environment and the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team (GOERT) regarding endangered species regulations and provincial implementation of the Federal *Species at Risk Act*.

9. New Business

- a) Departure Creek Stewardship Activities – Report back on projects and opportunities:
The Departure Bay Neighbourhood Association hosted a discussion regarding Departure Creek stewardship activities and highlighted recent activities on the creek, including water quality testing, fish stocking, restoration work, the installation of interpretive signs, etc.
- b) City Green Solutions – Home Energy Efficiency Initiatives (tentative date 2012-MAR-19):
City Green Solutions, a non-profit organization based in Victoria that provides advice to homeowners on energy efficiency upgrades, has requested to give a presentation on changes to the Federal EnerGuide Program and a new Energy Star for New Homes Program. City staff, advisory committees, and neighbourhood association representatives will be invited to discuss the programs, raise awareness on energy efficiency, and provide incentives for implementing the programs. R. Lawrance requested that some members of ACES attend this workshop. Members interested in attending should contact R. Lawrance ASAP after the meeting.
- c) Meeting Room Accessibility:
Because the Board Room is not easily accessible by wheelchair, committee meetings need to be moved to a wheelchair accessible facility until the new annex building is completed. Staff will look into room options/availability and send details to members prior to the next meeting.

[The next meeting will be held at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre (741 Third Street)]

10. Council / Committee Update

- a) Council Update: No report.
- b) PNAC Update: No report.

11. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 2012-APR-11 at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre (741 Third Street) at 4:30 pm.

D. Brennan will act as Chair.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 pm.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date