



**MINUTES**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (ACES)**  
**MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2013-FEB-13 AT 4:30 PM**  
**BOARD ROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE (411 DUNSMUIR STREET)**

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<b>Members Present:</b>	Diane Brennan, Chair Anne Kerr Ted Perry Calvin Tant	Chad Dalrymple Wally Wells Sheri DeBoer Shelley Serebrin
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Suzanne Andre Jan Hastings	Glenda Hunter Snuneymuxw First Nation Rep
<b>Staff:</b>	Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner	Rebecca Tubbs, Recording Secretary

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**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items**

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

- a) Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society's (NS3) Conversation & Art Program:  
For information. This program allows sixth grade students to work on local beach conservation and pollution projects, learn about local beach ecology, and compete in a "conservation & art" challenge. The program is inter-disciplinary, hands-on, connects students with local scientists and VIU student mentors, and promotes local conversation. For more information, contact [nanaimoscience.ed@gmail.com](mailto:nanaimoscience.ed@gmail.com).
- b) Partner's in a Cleaner Community – Volunteer Litter Pick Up:  
For information. This program invites registered non-profit groups to participate in a program that helps them raise funds and gain recognition while making our city a cleaner, more attractive community. Approved groups will be offered opportunities to pick up litter along community streets. For more information, contact 250-758-5222 or [gary.franssen@nanaimo.ca](mailto:gary.franssen@nanaimo.ca).

**3. Adoption of Minutes (2013-JAN-09)**

It was moved and seconded that the 2013-JAN-09 Minutes be adopted as presented. The motion was carried.

**4. Items Arising from Minutes**

- a) Presentation by Margaret Catley-Carlson (2013-FEB-04) – Debrief:  
For information. The presentation was focused on the importance of fresh water, the myth of an abundance of fresh water, improper water management, recharging aquifers, etc.

**5. Delegations**

None.

## 6. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices

### a) 2013 Woodstove Changeout Program:

For information. Once again, the City has partnered with the RDN to hold the 2013 Woodstove Changeout Program. Through the program, 43 rebates worth \$250 are available to Nanaimo residents who upgrade their old woodstoves or add inserts to open fireplaces. As well, workshops have been scheduled throughout the community to demonstrate clean burning techniques.

The correspondence was received as presented.

## 7. Ongoing Business

### a) Work Plan 2013 – To be approved:

Based on comments provided at the last meeting, staff updated the work plan and presented it to members for approval. After reviewing the revised plan, members suggested the following change:

that the “Purpose” for “Climate Action / Sustainability Action Plan” be revised to read as follows: *“The Community Sustainability Action Plan (CSAP) was adopted by Council in December 2012. The City’s Official Community Plan (planNanaimo) has identified sustainability as its guiding principle. The goals that make up the OCP reflect the sustainable approach the community wishes to strive toward.”*

It was moved and seconded that the 2013 work plan be approved. The motion was carried.

### b) Riparian Setback Variance Policy – Discussion:

A workshop will be held 2013-MAR-20 to review and discuss the current riparian setback variance process coordinated by the Planning & Design Department. Invitations have been sent to ACES members, DPRC members, members of the development and environment community, City staff and Council. The workshop is not about reviewing the Riparian Area Regulations or changes to the *Fisheries Act*; but about how the City’s policies and processes can work with the federal and provincial regulations. Once issues have been identified, the next step will be to identify possible solutions for consideration. Staff asked members to send suggestions for the following:

- Information to be sent to attendees prior to the workshop
- Topics to see covered during the workshop
- Suggestions of a facilitator

Some suggestions provided at the meeting:

- Provide information (from B. Merilees) regarding the number of 2012 variance applications
- Provide the specific questions raised by ACES at their 2012-NOV-14 meeting
- Provide reasoning for the City’s current setback standard, why are they different in some areas, etc.

Suggestions can be forwarded to R. Lawrance after the meeting. The workshop is only one part of the review process. Once complete, the Planning & Design Department will draft a set of proposals for consideration and present them to participants for feedback at a later date.

S. Serebrin arrived at 5:24 pm.

c) Green Nanaimo Awards – Update:

R. Lawrance introduced the awards. An updated brochure and timeline was provided to members for approval. The following changes were suggested:

- Highlight the “sponsored by” section on the back
- Replace photo for Environmental Awareness category
- Add section called “Selection Process”
- Change the use of “Mervyn” to “Merve” in the brochure text
- Remove “no post humous awards” from the eligibility requirements

It was moved and seconded that the brochure be approved with the above noted changes. The motion was carried.

d) National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) Reserve – Meeting with Chamber of Commerce:

W. Wells reported that Parks Canada met with the Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce and invited guests on 2013-FEB-08, to inform Chamber members about the NMCA process and to answer questions about the proposed NMCA Reserve and how it would be managed.

Prior to the meeting, the Chamber expressed concern about the lack of consultation with business. They believed a meeting would help clarify what an NMCA Reserve would accomplish, and how the business community might be impacted. After attending and hearing the discussion for a second time, there seems to be more confusion on the issue.

The discussion covered a number of specific issues including reasoning behind the shape of the proposed boundary, and how specific uses (such as outfalls, log storage) would be restricted in the future. Given continued pressures from the federal level to get off septic systems and to tie into sewage treatment systems (and at the same time limit the location and number of outfalls within the NMCA), this sends a mixed and confusing message on the local level.

It was revealed that a “world class” economic impact study would be completed on the proposed NMCA, which hasn’t been completed or even considered up until now. There is no clue as to what the terms of reference or budget will be. As well, there are few examples of this type of impact study being done in Canada, so international expertise may be required.

e) Community Sustainability Action Plan (CSAP):

This item has been added as a longstanding agenda item in order to keep updated on progress with the CSAP.

- Realtor Energy Efficiency Program - Update:

Staff is working with a local realtor to develop a Realtor Energy Efficiency Program (REEP) with funding that has been applied for through BC Hydro. BC Hydro has expressed an interest in working with the City and local realtors to develop a program in which realtors promote energy efficiency when selling homes. Promotion ideas include information packages, an EnerGuide rating to be displayed with home listings, various incentives, and (over the long-term), the creation of an energy efficiency credit as part of realtor certification. Staff is currently working to hire a consultant and develop a Terms of Reference.

- Electric Vehicle Charging Stations:

The Province has agreed to pay 60% of the cost for purchase and installation of electric vehicle charging stations if the City would contact local businesses and institutions interested in participating. The City helped to facilitate the installation of eight charging stations over six sites: School District #68 Office, Country Club Mall, Vancouver Island Health Authority, Vancouver Island University, Univeristy Village Shopping Centre, and the Nanaimo Port Authority Office.

Late Item: World Water Day (2013-MAR-22):

2013-MAR-22 is World Water Day. Staff will look into events that are planned and will provide more information to members at the next meeting.

**8. New Business**

None.

**9. Council Update**

None.

**10. Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting is 2013-MAR-13 at 4:30 pm in the Service and Resource Centre (411 Dunsmuir Street).

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

APPROVED:

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Chair

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Date