



MINUTES

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2011-DEC-14 AT 4:30 PM
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM, 455 WALLACE STREET**

Present:	Anne Kerr Charles Thirkill Meg Savory Joan Wagner	Wally Wells Shelley Serebrin, Chair Jim Kipp
Staff:	Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner	Rebecca Tubbs (Recording Secretary)
Regrets	James Redford	Michael Schellinck
Guests:	Jim Routledge	

1. Call to Order

Chair S. Serebrin called the meeting to order at 4:40 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

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

a) BC Special Committee on Pesticides – Online Questionnaire (A. Kerr):

The BC Special Committee on Pesticides has posted an online questionnaire online regarding the use and sale of pesticides (www.leg.bc.ca/pesticidescommittee/questionnaire.asp). Responses are due by 2011-DEC-16.

b) Hanelt Stream Signage - Funding Request (C. Thirkill):

Hanelt Creek, which flows out of the marsh west of Northfield Road, was recently named in honor of Robert Hanelt, a local Fisheries Biologist who passed away from cancer in March, 2004. The sign is not currently identified with signage. C. Thirkill requested that the Committee cover the cost of at least two signs to be installed along the creek. The City's Sign Department has provided a quote of \$150-\$200 for the production and installation of each sign. Details regarding specific sign location, design, specification, etc. can be open to discussion with ACES as work proceeds.

Because work on the signs would not begin until 2012, a budget carry-over must take place to secure the current funding for 2012.

MOVED by A. Kerr, SECONDED by S. Serebrin, that up to \$400 be put toward the production and installation of two signs for Hanelt Creek, pending approval of carry-over of funds from 2011 to 2012.
CARRIED.

ACTION: Funding carry-over to be requested from Finance Department. Draft signs to be brought back to future meeting for review by ACES.

c) Fortis BC Workshop (2011-NOV-06) – Debrief (R. Lawrance):

R. Lawrance attended the workshop, along with other local government reps and energy managers from various community groups. The workshop was based on discussion about long-term planning for the area. Topics of discussion included district energy possibilities. A presentation was made, which R. Lawrance will forward on to members for more information.

ACTION: R. Lawrance to forward workshop presentation to ACES members for information.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2011-NOV-09)

A. Kerr requested that the following correction be made to the amendment contained in the 2011-NOV-09 minutes:

Nanaimo River Symposium / UBCM – Debrief:

*J. Kipp reported that the **Nanaimo River Symposium was a success and, inspired by the good discussion there, raised the possibilities of community ownership of Nanaimo's watershed with the B.C. Minister and Deputy Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations at the recent Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) meeting.** He also provided some handouts from the UBCM regarding watersheds, energy efficient buildings, rainwater management, etc.*

MOVED by C. Thirkill, SECONDED by J. Wagner, that the 2011-NOV-09 Minutes be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

J. Kipp arrived at 4:49 pm.

4. Items Arising from Minutes

5. Budget (\$839.11)

6. Delegations

7. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices

a) Green Solutions Forum (2012-MAR-17&18):

The Green Solutions Forum will take place 2012-MAR-17&18 at Beban Park. The City will have a booth set up at this forum and will have staff available to provide information to the public.

b) Greening Your Business, Greater Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce (2012-JAN-18):

The Chamber of Commerce is holding a forum to gauge a level of activity and interest in developing green business in Nanaimo. The event will showcase a few examples of local businesses who have shown innovation in their product, advertising, business plan, etc. Also in attendance will be BC Hydro and Fortis BC to talk about programs available to business to improve their energy use. Everyone is welcome to attend.

8. Ongoing Business

b) Sustainability Action Plan – Community Stakeholder Workshop Debrief/Next Steps:

The Community Stakeholder Workshop, held 2011-NOV-22 and hosted by Stantec, was well-attended (27 attendees) with a broad community representation. The workshop focused on actions from the draft action plan, but also on additional actions that could be added by the community. There was some initial priority setting, but R. Lawrance realized that different means of measure have to be included (cost, staff time etc.). As well, there need to be some initiatives created that raise broad community awareness on an ongoing basis. Some priority actions included:

- transit-oriented development (working where possible on the Transportation Master Plan);
- rebates for energy audits and retrofits (looking at incentives and working with the Building Inspections Department);
- district energy pre-feasibility study (interest from some groups to look at onsite district energy and enhancing the scope of particular areas of the city that might take advantage of this); and
- electric vehicle infrastructure and bylaw.

The ACES subcommittee met on 2011-DEC-12 to review the community recommendations and to make some of their own recommendations. R. Lawrance is now looking at the recommendations that came from the community groups and the ACES subcommittee. He expects to present the draft plan to Council in February or March 2012.

One of the recommendations from BC Hydro was to look at BC Hydro funding opportunities to hire a community energy manager who could focus on implementing the plan once it's adopted. BC Hydro would provide 50% of the funding for such a position, and the City would have to fund the other 50%. The energy manager would then have to meet some of BC Hydro's goals on an annual basis. R. Lawrance expects that this will be included as a recommendation in the final report.

J. Routledge attended the workshop and said it was a very good networking event and that the priorities highlighted seemed to create interest amongst the attendees. One of his ideas is to

promote electric vehicle charging capabilities as a requirement in new homes. He has approached the Homebuilder's Association, asking them to support and justify the recommendation, and to seek support. The requirement is currently included in the City of Vancouver's building code for new residential construction.

R. Lawrance explained that there may be a need to create another strategy for the action plan that focuses on community engagement.

A. Kerr hoped that there would have been more feedback collected from the workshop attendees so that their actions could be added to the plan. This may not have happened because many of the actions were city-oriented and not community-oriented. "Protect Natural Areas" does not portray what she feels the point of the conversation was, and needs to include reference to protecting and enhancing natural space as a way to absorb carbon.

S. Serebrin highlighted the importance of the City showing support and ongoing consultation with community groups, for instance, providing meeting space.

R. Lawrance will be meeting with various city staff for feedback, and will present a draft action plan back to ACES at a future meeting. He would like the Action Plan to go to Council in March.

ACTION: R. Lawrance to present draft action plan to ACES at future meeting. R. Lawrance to invite City Planner Sheila Herrera as a delegation at the January meeting to report on the conference.

a) Invasive Plant Management Strategy for Nanaimo – Review notes/scope of work:

At the last meeting, ACES had a broad discussion regarding an invasive plant management strategy for Nanaimo. With that information, R. Lawrance created a framework for the strategy. In reviewing the draft framework, it was noted that:

- there may be the need to hire a consultant for some of the work;
- management efforts should be targeted to specific sites, not specific invasive plant species; and
- there is a need to work with community partners (such as SD#68).

c) 2011 Work Plan Review – Discuss projects for 2012:

R. Lawrance reviewed the 2011 work plan with the Committee and requested suggestions for the 2012 work plan. Suggestions for the 2012 workplan included:

- *holding a pesticide drop-off event;*
- *focusing on watercourse riparian health;*
- *reviewing the work plan on a quarterly basis;*
- *reviewing bylaw 4500 (where does our existing bylaw fail to maintain the health of our watercourses?);*
- *arranging for more environmental community engagement opportunities;*
- *supporting Earth Day & Rivers Day 2012;*
- *advising Council how to support community groups such as NALT, Homebuilders Association, etc. (to be reviewed quarterly);*
- *including "Invasive Plant Management" as a work plan item (part of it will become the strategy);*
- *making Air Quality an ongoing task (remove from work plan);*
- *looking at regulatory options for wood burning;*
- *broadening the scope of sustainability (have only addressed GHG emissions to-date);*
- *providing education regarding air and water quality/protection; and*
- *looking into opportunities for temporary green signage.*

ACTION: R. Lawrance use ACES recommendations to create a draft 2012 work plan and will present it back to ACES at the January meeting for finalization and approval.

J. Kipp suggested sending the draft Sustainability Action Plan with an information report to council as soon as possible to update them on the progress. He also noted that the Regional Growth Strategy has been adopted and is now available online at www.shapingourfuture.ca.

9. New Business

None.

10. Council / Committee Update

- a) 2011-NOV-14 Council Meeting: No report.
- b) 2011-NOV-28 Council Meeting: No report.
- c) PNAC Meeting: No report.

11. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for **2012-JAN-11** in the City Hall Board Room at 4:30 pm. J. Wagner will act as Chair. A. Kerr will act as alternate Chair.

Christmas dinner to follow at Asteras Greek Taverna (347 Wesley Street) on 2011-DEC-15 at 5:00 pm.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date