



MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2011-NOV-09 AT 4:30 PM
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM, 455 WALLACE STREET

Present:	Anne Kerr, Chair Charles Thirkill Michael Schellinck Joan Wagner	Wally Wells Shelley Serebrin Jim Kipp Meg Savory
Staff:	Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner	Rebecca Tubbs (Recording Secretary)
Regrets	James Redford	
Guests:	Gail Pasaluko, Parks Department	Mike Barkski, VIU Student Kyle Rasmussen, VIU Student

1. Call to Order

Chair A. Kerr called the meeting to order at 4:34 pm, welcoming G. Pasaluko, K. Rasmussen and M. Barkski.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

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

- a) Bowen Day with Dover Bay (2011-NOV-19) (C. Thirkill):
Back by popular demand! C. Thirkill will meet with over twenty Dover Bay students to remove blackberries and to plant shrubs in Bowen Park. Everyone is welcome to attend. Meet at the duck pond at 10:00 am. Contact C. Thirkill for more information.
- b) Pacific Salmon Foundation Dinner (2011-NOV-26) (C. Thirkill):
The Pacific Salmon Foundation will host its ninth annual charity dinner, dance and auction at Beban Park. Dinner tickets are \$60 each and include a seafood bar, dinner buffet, dessert, and wine. All net proceeds will be directed toward salmon restoration in the local area, which includes the east coast of Vancouver Island between Duncan and Fanny Bay. Tickets are available at Gone Fishin', Wholesale Sports Outdoor Outfitters, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.
- c) Nanaimo River Stewardship Symposium (2011-NOV-19) (A. Kerr):
The Nanaimo River Stewardship - Working Group Session #1 will be held from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm at Vancouver Island University (Building 355). The session will be an opportunity to expand on, consolidate and organize what the symposium generated; translate it into short, medium and long-term actions; and decide who will do what, when and how. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, contact 250-714-1994 or riverteam4@nalt.bc.ca. To learn more about the Working Group, visit www.nalt.bc.ca/web_documents/working_group.pdf.
- d) Fortis BC: Resource Planning Community Stakeholder Workshop (2011-NOV-16) (R. Lawrance):
This workshop will be held from 8:00 am to 11:30 am to offer stakeholders the opportunity to participate in discussions that will help guide their Long Term Resource Plan, strategies and initiatives. To RSVP, or for more information, visit www.fortisbc.com/consultation. R. Lawrance will be attending this workshop.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2011-OCT-12)

A. Kerr requested that the following amendment be made:

- Item 2a) **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 J. Kipp, SECONDED by M. Schellinck, that the 2011-OCT-12 Minutes be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

J. Wagner arrived at 4:37 pm.

4. Items Arising from Minutes

a) Review Green Nanaimo Award Categories:

In continuing with previous Committee discussions, it was suggested that the "Award with Distinction" be changed to the "Merv Wilkinson Award with Distinction", and that the "Youth Award" be changed to the "Jeff Thomas Environmental Youth Award".

MOVED by C. Thirkill, SECONDED by J. Wagner, that it be recommended to Council that the Green Nanaimo's "Award with Distinction" and "Youth Award" be renamed as the "Merv Wilkinson Award with Distinction" and "Jeff Thomas Environmental Youth Award".

CARRIED.

R. Lawrance will proceed with a report to Council regarding the Committee's recommendation.

5. Budget (\$909.06)

6. Delegations

7. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices

S. Serebrin arrived at 4:45 pm.

a) Opportunities in BC's Seafood Economy (2011-NOV-22):

This event will be held from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm at VIU (Building 305, Room 507) and will explore opportunities in BC's seafood economy. This event is free and everyone is welcome to attend. Lunch will be provided.

A related day-long workshop will be held on the 23rd, and will further explore strategies to increase economic, cultural and social values of BC's aquatic food resources. Space is limited for this portion of the event. Register by contacting 250-740-6296 or michele.patterson@viu.ca.

b) Ecological Restoration Information Night (2011-NOV-17):

Curious about restoration and want to get involved? The Ecological Restoration Info Night will be held from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the University of Victoria (Room A104) and will be open to all students. For more information and to RSVP, contact nature@uvic.

8. Ongoing Business

a) Invasive Plant Management Strategy for Nanaimo – Defining a scope of work:

G. Pasluko attended the meeting to discuss with ACES (from a Parks perspective) a scope of work for an invasive plant management strategy for Nanaimo. A strategy for the City should be comprehensive and address invasive management on public and private lands. Parks staff is well-trained, but do not have the resources to deal with the large volumes of physical management that is required.

Parks staff can provide some training and volunteer support, and can offer the tools and waste pick-up needed for removal. The Committee suggested, to help inform community groups about the service, an article regarding volunteering to remove invasive plants from City Parks should be added to the next WasteLine newsletter.

Parks' work load is both complaint- and priority-based. Weeds such as hogweed and knotweed require special precautions and tools, and therefore are higher on staff's priority list. Weeds such as Broom, ivy, etc. do not require such precautions. They are of lower priority and are preferable for volunteer groups to handle.

Some things identified as needing improvement:

- There is currently no mapping system in place to track invasive plants
- Staff are unable to physically handle the large volumes of invasive plants
- Need to attract and coordinate enough volunteers
- Advertising and social media branding
- Some nurseries still selling invasive plants
- Training opportunities (such as IAPP)
- No curbside yard waste pick-up currently offered to homeowners

Some suggestions for volunteering/public awareness:

- Make the plant removals more of a social event
- Use social media such as Facebook and YouTube to advertise and to reach target audience
- Tap into the motivation of youth
- Coordinate events/collaborate with groups such as CIPC, neighbourhood network, Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo Recycling Exchange, Island Composting Corporation, SD68, Regional District of Nanaimo, etc.
- Provide volunteers with complimentary refreshments such as coffee and donuts
- Consider ways of celebrating and recognizing volunteers
- Develop long-term relationships
- Hire a dedicated environmental/stewardship coordinator to focus on the issue

ACTION: R. Lawrance will use the suggestions above to create a scope of work for developing a strategy. To be discussed in December.

A. Kerr thanked G. Pasaluko for attending the meeting. She left at 5:32 pm.

b) Sustainability Action Plan – Update/Next Steps:

R. Lawrance has changed the name of the document to “Setting a Low Carbon Path: A Sustainability Action Plan”, as previously suggested by the Committee.

The next workshop is scheduled for 2011-NOV-22, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the City Hall Board Room. Invitations have been sent to stakeholders. Stantec Consulting Ltd. will facilitate the workshop. A week prior to the workshop, R. Lawrance will send a homework package to stakeholder attendees. The package will ask them to provide some information: backgrounder, what they are working on, stakeholder actions, resource sharing opportunities, next steps, etc.

R. Lawrance would appreciate as many ACES members as possible to attend the workshop and help to take notes to help capture the discussion.

W. Wells noted that this workshop will fit in nicely with the Chamber of Commerce’s proposed “Successful Cities” workshops in January/February 2012. J. Kipp suggested that W. Wells give a short presentation on “Successful Cities” at the stakeholder workshop. W. Wells will send more details about the workshop to ACES members for information.

c) Rotating Chair Schedule:

Jan – J. Wagner
Feb – W. Wells
March – C. Thirkill

Late Item: Consideration of a staggered membership:

J. Wagner mentioned an item from previous meetings regarding the possibility of a staggered membership for ACES (similar to PNAC). Due to the large volume of background information and related content that members are required to learn when joining the committee, she feels that expiry of the committee’s memberships at the same time could result in a loss of continuity.

J. Kipp noted that due to the slow-down around election time, all committee terms expire at the end of March 2012. The main issue with changing the committee terms of reference (TOR) is that committee structure/TOR is a decision that will be left up to the new mayor and council to decide. In addition, Council just completed a major review of all committee TORs at the beginning of the year.

9. New Business

a) Select location for December's Christmas Dinner:

The Committee suggested that the Christmas dinner be held the following day (2011-DEC-15), to ensure enough time for an adequate meeting on 2011-DEC-14. Location to be determined with members via email.

10. Council / Committee Update

- a) 2011-OCT-17 Council Meeting: No report.
- b) 2011-OCT-31 Council Meeting: No report.
- c) PNAC Meeting: No report.

11. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for **2011-DEC-14** in the City Hall Board Room at 4:30 pm. S. Serebrin will act as 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 6:10 pm.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date