



MINUTES

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2011-OCT-12 AT 4:30 PM
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM, 455 WALLACE STREET**

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

1. Call to Order

Chair J. Redford called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

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

- a) 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.
- b) Federal Government Habitat Stewardship for Species-at-Risk:
The federal government is offering funding for habitat stewardship for species-at-risk. R. Lawrance distributed the grant information to interested members.
- c) Land Manager Practice Manual for Garry Oak Ecosystems:
R. Lawrance has obtained a copy of the Garry Oak Ecosystems manual for land owners; a manual designed to educate land owners that own land containing Garry Oak ecosystems. The manual is available online for free.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2011-SEP-21)

MOVED by M. Savory, SECONDED by A. Kerr, that the 2011-SEP-21 Minutes be adopted as presented. CARRIED.

4. Items Arising from Minutes

- a) Green Awards (Jeff Thomas, Merv Wilkinson) – Status:
Council has asked that ACES write a report containing their recommendations to rename Green Nanaimo Awards in honor of Mr. Thomas and Mr. Wilkinson. Before a report is written, the members will need to review current award categories to decide which categories should be renamed for the purpose.

ACTION: To be discussed at next meeting.
- b) Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities (2011-SEP-29) Debrief:
R. Lawrance was unable to attend this event, a provincial conversation regarding management of Crown and private forest land.

5. Budget (\$1,076.96)**6. Delegations****a) Invasive Plants (Rachelle McElroy, Coordinator, Coastal Invasive Plant Committee (CIPC)):**

R. McElroy, Coordinator of CIPC, attended the meeting to give a presentation to ACES regarding invasive plants on the south coast. She began her Powerpoint presentation on invasive plants, with items of discussion including CIPC's mandate, risks of invasive plants (coastal waterways, infrastructure), local examples of invasive plants, early detection and rapid response theory, the cost of doing nothing, guiding principles of CIPC's strategy, regulatory and non-regulatory options for local government, CIPC partnerships, CIPC services for local government, and summary and conclusions.

CIPC uses a database program to identify invasive plant sites. The database allows land managers, land owners and contractors to go online and record sites containing invasive plants. Anyone can report a site using the "visitor" feature. Those who have received identification training (IAPP) are provided with a password login.

There are about 1,700 sites in the region that have been identified to contain broom, with five of those sites located in Nanaimo. As is evident, the feature is only as good as the amount of information that people put into it.

CIPC's management strategy is to put an emphasis on prevention, recognize financial limitations, focus on high-value sites, focus on plants with the highest ecological/economic/health threat, address local issues and coordinate management efforts.

Other municipalities are coordinating their efforts in the following ways:

- Regulatory: for example, create a bylaw for noxious weeds, and create a top ten priority list of invasive plants.
- Non-Regulatory: for example, create a webpage illustrating the City's vision, hire a consultant, hold open houses, provide lots of information, etc.
- Incentive: for example, create a financial incentive to land owners by offering to pay for a portion of costs accrued by clearing invasive plants.

C. Thirkill agrees that it is important to have a strategy or policy in place, but noted that sometimes the solution is not that complicated. He knows how easy it can be, as he has been organizing student and volunteer classes for 15 years. He feels the real solution would be to create a high school training program for grades 10-12. Educate the students to recognize the invasive plants and they will do the work.

R. Lawrance said that the Parks Department recognizes the Volunteers in Parks (VIP) program can improve. Specifically in retaining, training and celebrating volunteers working on invasive plant management projects. Parks Department staff will be invited to help offer additional ideas and support, identify issues, priorities, possible solutions, etc.

R. McElroy thanked ACES for inviting her to the meeting and left at 5:50 pm.

ACTION: Discussion to continue at next meeting.

b) Invasive Plant Management Strategy (Gail Pasaluko, Megan Davis, Parks Department):
Deferred until next meeting.**7. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices****8. Ongoing Business****a) Sustainability Action Plan – Update/Next Steps:**

The ACES working group met twice since the last regular ACES meeting to provide comment and to review the draft plan (2011-SEP-26 & 2011-OCT-06). It was suggested that the title be changed because "sustainability action plan" is too broad and because the current plan

emphasizes GHG emissions and energy specifically. It was suggested that the plan could be titled something such as "Sustainability Action Plan for Meeting Emissions Targets".

ACTION: Next Steps:

1. *R. Lawrance will send the draft plan to ACES members to review and send comments back to him within one week.*
2. *On Monday, 2011-OCT-24, the ACES SAP working group will meet at 4:30 pm in City Annex Conference Room to review the input submitted by ACES members and to put together an info package for stakeholders.*
The info package will be sent out to stakeholders 3-4 weeks prior to the stakeholder meeting (date to be determined, sometime after November 19 election), and will contain specific instruction/background info, etc. requesting that they submit a list of actions to R. Lawrance at least two weeks prior to the stakeholder meeting.
The two weeks will give R. Lawrance enough time to collect stakeholder feedback and to prepare it for the actual stakeholder meeting (date yet to be determined, sometime after November 19 election).
3. *Stakeholder meeting to take place in late November (after the election). R. Lawrance suggested that Ron McDonald, Stantec Consulting, be invited back to help facilitate the stakeholder meeting.*

b) 2011 Work Plan – Review status:

ACES reviewed the 2011 work plan. Items still requiring discussion include:

- reviewing opportunities to improve public awareness on riparian areas;
- updating watercourse brochures/city website; and
- identifying (if any) adjustments that could be made to how staff inform the public/development applications about riparian area regulation.

ACTION: To be discussed at future meeting.

d) Woodstove Changeout Program – Update:

The Regional District of Nanaimo is applying for provincial funding to create a regional woodstove changeout program. More information will be provided as available.

ACTION: Information only.

9. New Business

10. Council / Committee Update

- b) 2011-OCT-03 Council Meeting: No report.
- c) PNAC Meeting: No report.

11. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for **2011-NOV-09** in the City Hall Board Room at 4:30 pm.

A. Kerr will act as Chair.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date