



**MINUTES**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY  
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2011-SEP-21 AT 5:00 PM  
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM, 455 WALLACE STREET**

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<b>Present:</b>	Meg Savory Charles Thirkill, Chair Shelley Serebrin Anne Kerr	Lee Mason (on behalf of Wally Wells) Joan Wagner Jim Kipp James Redford
<b>Staff:</b>	Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner	Rebecca Tubbs (Recording Secretary)
<b>Regrets</b>	Michael Schellinck	
<b>Guests:</b>	Lisa Bhopalsingh, Planner, RDN	Gordon Foy, Traffic/Trans Engineer, CON Amir Fruend, Transportation Planner, CON

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**1. Call to Order**

Chair C. Thirkill called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

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

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

a) Creating a Green Award in honor of Merv Wilkinson:

S. Serebrin suggested that a Green Nanaimo Award be created after the legendary eco-forester Merv Wilkinson who recently passed away.

MOVED by A. Kerr, SECONDED by S. Serebrin, that ACES recommend to Council that a Green Nanaimo Award be created in honor of the late Merv Wilkinson.

CARRIED.

b) Creating a Green Award in honor of Jeff Thomas – Update:

J. Kipp has discussed this idea with the Mayor and will be bringing it to Council. He will report back at the next meeting.

c) Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities (2011-SEP-29):

This event is being held in Victoria on 2011-SEP-29 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at VIU. The event will be a community dialogue session with a number of stakeholders and municipalities in attendance to discuss the forest land industry and how forest lands are being managed.

d) Zero Emissions Vehicles Added to City Fleet:

Two electric vehicles (Nissan Leafs) have been added to the City fleet. There are currently two charge stations in Nanaimo; the City Annex parking lot and Public Works yard. The installation of four public charge stations is being explored; two at Beban Park and two at the Conference Centre.

**3. Adoption of Minutes (2011-JUL-13)**

MOVED by J. Wagner, SECONDED by S. Serebrin, that the 2011-JUL-13 Minutes be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

**4. Items Arising from Minutes**

a) Report to Council Re: CIPC Funding Request:

Council approved CIPC's funding request of \$2,000 toward a coordinated invasive plant management program for 2011-2012. The funding will come from the Parks Department.

M. Savory arrived at 5:05 pm.

- b) Update on Council's basis for selecting a minimum lot size of 500 m<sup>2</sup>:  
Council selected the minimum lot size of 500 m<sup>2</sup> as a compromise after hearing concerns raised during the public open houses and consultation with neighbourhood groups. Staff also wanted room to allow for smaller lot size on a lane (450 m<sup>2</sup>) and to allow 10% lot size variability.

## 5. Budget (\$1,076.96)

## 6. Delegations

- a) Regional Growth Strategy (L. Bhopalsingh, Regional District of Nanaimo):  
C. Thirkill welcomed L. Bhopalsingh, Senior Planner at the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN), to the meeting. She began her Powerpoint presentation (see attached) on the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). Items of discussion included the role of the RDN, the role of the RGS, proposed changes, the consultation strategy as well as next steps.

The RDN is a federation of municipalities and electoral areas. It contains four municipalities and seven electoral areas. The RGS is a broad strategic plan and shared vision for sustainable growth and development over the next 25+ years.

Proposed changes for the RGS include:

- UCB (urban containment boundary) changed to GCB (growth containment boundary);
- RGS Growth Centres expanded to include Urban Centres & Rural Village Centres;
- mapping changes; and
- the inclusion of goals to address climate change, economic development, food security and affordable housing.

Public consultation included gathering feedback via outreach to community groups and online surveys. The next step and final opportunity for public input prior to adoption will be during the public hearings:

- October 5, 2011, 7:00 PM at Beban Park Lounge (2300 Bowen Road)
- October 6, 2011, 7:00 PM at Qualicum Beach Civic Centre (747 Jones Street)

For more information, contact Lisa via email at lbhopalsingh@rdn.bc.ca or visit the website at [www.sharingourfuture.ca](http://www.sharingourfuture.ca).

ACTION: Slides to be distributed to ACES members via email after the meeting.

- b) Transportation Master Plan (G. Foy, City Engineering Department):  
C. Thirkill welcomed G. Foy, Traffic/Transportation Engineer at the City of Nanaimo, to the meeting. G. Foy began his Powerpoint presentation (see attached) on the City of Nanaimo's transportation master plan. Items of discussion included historic planning/current context, reasons for Nanaimo to create a transportation master plan, key inputs into the planning process, existing conditions, typical components and scope, preliminary schedule and the next steps in the process.

J. Kipp excused himself from the meeting.

Next steps include identifying key issues (summer 2012), developing strategies to deal with those key issues, prioritize the issues and then create the plan.

R. Lawrance commented on the importance of working with the transportation advisory committee and having the transportation master plan build on the work of ACES's Sustainability Action Plan.

C. Thirkill questioned why the City does not encourage the construction of more roundabouts within the City. G. Foy explained that roundabouts are only possible in intersections major enough to warrant them and that it can be difficult to retrofit old intersections when the surrounding land has been developed. The City tries to encourage the development of roundabouts when possible. He envisions them becoming more common as time goes on, especially as traffic lights come to the end of their working lives.

ACTION: Slides to be distributed to ACES members via email after the meeting.

## 7. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices

- a) Nanaimo River Symposium (2011-SEP-23,24,25):  
The Nanaimo River Symposium, being held by NALT on 2011-SEP 23, 24 & 25, is a multi-stakeholder initiative to develop strategies and actions that will protect the values of the Nanaimo River Watershed for the future. A poster and registration form were circulated to Committee for information.
- b) Sustainability and Biosphere Reserve Opportunities for the RDN/CVRD Area (2011-SEP-22):  
Neil Dawe, president of the Qualicum Institute and former Canadian Wildlife Service employee, will be a keynote speaker presenting on "Conservation, Sustainability & the Mid-Island" on 2011-SEP-22 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at VIU. This event is hosted by the Mid-island Sustainability and Stewardship Initiative (MISSI) and open to the public. Donations are appreciated.
- c) Nanaimo Rivers Day 2011 (2011-SEP-25):  
Nanaimo Rivers Day will be held on Sunday, 2011-SEP-25 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at Maffeo Sutton Park and will include Millstone Channel tours, a salmon bbq, cake and refreshments, education booths, live music and children's entertainment. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- d) Chicago Urban Farming Ordinance:  
Chicago has increased the allowable size of urban gardens to accommodate commercial farms. It is an interesting comparison of a large urban City such as Chicago with Nanaimo's allotment (about a fifth of the lot size: 5,400 ft<sup>2</sup>). It was suggested that this idea be reviewed when a food strategy is created.
- e) Campbell River's Draft Agricultural Plan:  
The plan was provided for information based on the recent popularity of local food production and food security. R. Lawrance suggested that ACES discuss the issue of local food production, where we are now, where we plan to go, etc. at a future meeting.

## 8. Ongoing Business

- a) Sustainability Action Plan – Update/Next Steps:  
So far, R. Lawrance has received some good feedback on the Sustainability Action Plan. He would like to invite ACES members to a special working-group meeting on Monday, 2011-SEP-26 at 4:30 pm in the City Annex Conference Room, to discuss whether anything more needs to be added. Next steps in the process include:
  - Special ACES Working Group meeting to be set up for review and comment of SAP:  
2011-SEP-26, 4:30 PM @ City Annex Conference Room
  - ACES Working Group comments presented back to ACES:  
2011-OCT-12 (regularly scheduled ACES meeting)
  - Make arrangements for followup stakeholder meeting:  
2011-OCT-12 (regularly scheduled ACES meeting)
    - Consider inviting Ron McDonald from Stantec to facilitate (prioritize/clarify actions, set up timeline, etc.
    - A. Kerr suggested that a more refined draft be created before the stakeholders are invited back – needs more community input

J. Redford, G. Foy and A. Freund excused themselves from the meeting.

b) Invasive Species Strategy – Update:

A representative from CIPC will be attending the next ACES meeting to provide information on invasive species. In addition, Parks Department staff will be attending to discuss ideas for the 2012 work plan as well as pesticide education/awareness.

c) 2011 Work Plan Status: Deferred until next meeting.d) Pesticide Awareness and Education – Next Steps:

J. Wagner is interested in sponsoring a speaker to give a presentation on pesticide-free gardening. Perhaps hold the session at a nursery?

**9. New Business**a) Woodstove Changeout Program – Update/Funding Announcement:

The Province has funding available for next year. R. Lawrance will be discussing with RDN staff the idea of the RDN applying for the 2012 funding to hold a regional program and hopes that they will submit the proposal to the Province this week. It will be a good opportunity to partner with the RDN for education delivery – not only to promote the changeout program, but to review burning practices, etc. At the next meeting, R. Lawrance will provide an update and results of past programs, patterns, etc.

**10. Council / Committee Update**

- a) 2011-AUG-08 Council Meeting: No report.
- b) 2011-AUG-22 Council Meeting: No report.
- c) 2011-SEP-12 Council Meeting: No report.
- d) PNAC Meeting: No report.

**11. Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for **2011-OCT-12** in the City Hall Board Room at 4:30 pm. J. Redford will act as Chair.

**12. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.

APPROVED:

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Chair

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Date