



MINUTES

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

Present:	Wally Wells, Chair Jim Kipp Joan Wagner James Redford	Charles Thirkill Susan Fisher (on behalf of Anne Kerr) Shelley Serebrin
Staff:	Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner	Rebecca Tubbs (Recording Secretary)
Regrets:	Anne Kerr Jeff Thomas	Michael Schellinck Michele Patterson Meg Savory

1. Call to Order

Chair W. Wells called the meeting to order at 4:39 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

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

a) Pesticide Drop-off Event - Followup:

R. Lawrance reported that the Nanaimo Recycling Exchange is still exploring ideas for ways to hold a pesticide drop-off event, but noted that it will not be held in conjunction with Earth Day. Aside from financial restraints, staff wonders if the drop off event should be handled on a regional level rather than by the City.

It was noted that the issue regarding the disposal of hazardous products will continue to grow as fluorescent light bulbs are phased in. The Product Care Program (PCP) needs to be expanded to deal with the disposal of these types of products. J. Kipp will mention this issue at a Council meeting and ask that it be deferred it back to ACES.

ACTION: J. Kipp will mention to Council ACES concerns surrounding the Product Care Program (PCP) and ask that it be deferred back to ACES for more exploration. At the next meeting, M. Schellinck will provide an update from the NRE regarding the possibility of a pesticide drop-off event.

b) Climate Change Workshop – Followup:

R. Lawrance would like to receive the Community Energy and Emissions Study (CEES) from Stantec Consulting before hosting a second workshop (possibly in April). Prior to a second workshop, he would like to sit down with ACES members who attended the first workshop to review the notes that were taken and create a final summation of recommendations.

ACTION: R. Lawrance to email members with a list of possible dates to review notes. Committee to discuss the possibility of a second workshop (in April) at the next ACES meeting.

c) Spring Break Project:

C. Thirkill will be working with high school students over spring break to remove invasive plants from Bowen Park and replace them with native species.

d) Friends of Harewood Plains Meeting:

The Friends of Harewood Plains will meet 2011-MAR-30 at the Chase River Fire Hall. The group will discuss their plans for the next year which include the reduction of ATV use and the removal of scotch broom.

C. Thirkill will be guiding nature walks this spring/summer, all beginning at 10:00 am in Bowen Park.

- Piper's Lagoon (April 23)
- Neck Point (May 7)
- Westwood Lake (May 14)
- Harewood Plains (May 21)
- Jack Point (May 28)
- Harewood Plains (June 11)

e) Burning Bylaw:

The Fire Department recently revised the backyard burning bylaw to include a ban on cooking fires. It is hoped that this would reduce the amount of people abusing the bylaw by burning waste fires and then claiming that they are being used for cooking. Council has sent the bylaw back to staff for more review.

A delegation to Council noted their concerns regarding wood burning. R. Lawrance noted that ACES' 2011 Work Plan includes a recommendation to explore regulatory options for woodstoves.

f) Lantzville Council Meeting – Local Food / Urban Agriculture:

This item relates to complaints lodged against a small scale farm in a residential area of Lantzville. Residents at the Lantzville Council meeting showed strong support for urban agriculture, but only to a limit. There were many concerns from neighbours which included pesticide use, soil storage, and the sale of farm produce from the property. Lantzville City Council has addressed the situation by granting the owner of the property a temporary permit of use. This temporary permit can be in effect for up to three years and could therefore delay a bylaw revision until that time. R. Lawrance suggested that issues surrounding food security and urban agriculture be added as part of the overall Sustainability Action Plan.

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

MOVED by J. Wagner, SECONDED by J. Kipp, that the 2011-FEB-09 Minutes be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

4. Items Arising from Minutes

a) Feedback from D. Stewart RE: Requirement for Native Planting in Zoning Bylaw

(S. Fisher on behalf of A. Kerr):

Part 17.1.2 (e) of the new Zoning Bylaw currently reads that Landscaping 1 Treatment Areas require a "landscape garden". A. Kerr recommended that a requirement be added for "native plant species suitable to the site conditions". S. Fisher reported that D. Lovick of NALT will be contacting D. Stewart next week regarding the recommendations.

5. Budget (\$2,319.67)

6. Delegations

7. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices

- a) 2011 Work Plan (adopted): For information.

8. Ongoing Business

a) Cosmetic Pesticide Bylaw Implementation/Education:

R. Lawrance outlined some of the events/efforts that will be taking place over the next few weeks to help promote awareness of the upcoming cosmetic pesticide bylaw:

- The Horticultural Society Q&A Session: The Society is hosting a public Q&A tonight regarding the cosmetic pesticide bylaw and has invited R. Lawrance and G. Pasaluko to help answer questions.
- Spring Garden Festival at Beban Park: The City of Nanaimo has secured a booth at the event (2011-MAR-11 to 2011-MAR-13) and will be displaying information about the cosmetic pesticide bylaw and other Parks programs/operations.

- Green Solutions Tradeshaw at Beban Park: The City of Nanaimo, in conjunction with the RDN, has secured a booth at the event (next weekend) and will be displaying information about various city programs, including the cosmetic pesticide bylaw as well as programs offered by the RDN.
- Earth Day Event at Bowen Park: This event, being held in conjunction with NALT's Wild Food Event on 2011-APR-16. The Parks Department will provide horticultural demonstrations and displays. The event will include a variety of guest speakers, information booths, garden tours, Q&A sessions, etc., to help promote pesticide alternatives.
- "Ask a Gardener" E-mail Contact: R. Lawrance will be exploring the idea of creating an e-mail that could serve as a Q&A function for residents to ask gardening questions. Answers will be provided by Parks staff. Committee members suggested that the questions and answers be incorporated into some sort of blog (similar to the Budget Forum) so that answers are available to the general public.

ACTION: R. Lawrance to explore the feasibility of a Q&A e-mail contact with the IT and Parks Department. R. Lawrance to write a staff report in conjunction with the Parks Department to provide an update to Council on the pesticide use bylaw.

b) Community Energy and Emissions Study:

R. Lawrance distributed part of Stantec's draft CEES report to members for information. The purpose of the report is to identify factors that the community and the corporation can work on together to lower emissions throughout the City over time. The report contains the first draft of recommendations for actions (measures). Stantec has asked staff to review the draft document to make sure they are on track with measures; a set of scenarios that will form the bulk of the report. Do the measures identified here resonate with what was identified at the first climate change workshop in December?

ACTION: For information only. If members feel there are any points missing, send comments to R. Lawrance no later than 2011-MAR-23.

c) Sustainable Design Guidelines:

The draft guidelines are currently being reviewed by the City's Design Advisory Panel (DAP) and an external group of developers and architects. R. Lawrance is exploring the idea of hiring an architect to a complete technical review of the whole document. It is hoped that the document be presented to PNAC in April.

ACTION: Members to send comments to R. Lawrance NO LATER THAN 2011-MAR-18.

9. New Business

a) Idling Bylaw:

Council has been receiving complaints regarding idling vehicles at 24-hour restaurants and the bus depot. The bus depot has since been asked to refrain from idling and has complied. J. Kipp has requested more information from the Bylaw Department regarding this issue.

R. Lawrance noted that the Transportation Committee has been looking to create a transportation plan for the City and may be able to address the issue of idling. He suggested that ACES look into providing input on the sustainability elements contained within the transportation plan.

ACTION: R. Lawrance to invite a member of the Transportation Committee to a future meeting to discuss the sustainability issues around transportation, and opportunities for ACES to provide input into a transportation plan.

b) Cell Tower Issues:

Council has been receiving complaints and concerns from residents in Hammond Bay surrounding the proposed cell tower in Hammond Bay. Health and environmental impacts have become a concern for residents and parents of the children who attend an elementary school nearby the proposed site. There is no conclusive evidence to say whether or not cell towers pose a health risk to people or animals.

ACTION: For information. If any ACES members have information regarding the health effects of cell towers, please send them to Council.

10. Council / Committee Update

- a) 2011-FEB-14 Council Meeting: No report.
- b) 2011-FEB-28 Council Meeting: No report.
- c) PNAC Meeting: M. Savory not in attendance.

11. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for **2011-APR-05** in the City Annex Training Room at 4:30 pm. M. Savory will act as Chair.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date