



**MINUTES**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT**  
**MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2009-NOV-10 AT 4:15 PM**  
**CITY HALL BOARD ROOM, 455 WALLACE STREET**

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<b>Present:</b>	Jim Kipp, Chair (arrived at 4:36 pm) Shelley Serebrin (arrived at 5:04 pm) Ann Kerr Meg Savory, Designate Chair	Wally Wells Charles Thirkill Margaret Henigman
<b>Staff:</b>	Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner	Rebecca Tubbs (Recording Secretary)
<b>Regrets:</b>	Jeff Thomas	Elizabeth Demattia Joan Wagner

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**1. Call to Order**

Designate Chair M. Savory called the meeting to order at 4:18 p.m. in the City Hall Board Room.

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

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

- a) Pacific Salmon Foundation Dinner – Annual Fundraiser:  
C. Thirkill explained to the Committee that the Pacific Salmon Foundation's annual fundraising dinner will be held 2009-Nov-28 at 5:30 pm at the Beban Social Centre. There will be a silent auction as well. Tickets are \$50. Interested members can contact C. Thirkill for tickets or more information.

**3. Adoption of Minutes (2009-Oct-14)**

MOVED by W. Wells, SECONDED by S. Serebrin, that the minutes from 2009-Oct-14 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

**4. Items Arising from Minutes**

- a) Environmental Survey by Ipsos Reid:  
R. Lawrance reported that there is no comprehensive data report available, but he has received a copy of the raw data. It is available to any member who is interested. It would have been useful if respondents' elaborations on some questions were also recorded.
- b) Pesticide Reduction Education Program – Budget (A. Kerr):  
At the September meeting, C. Zimmer, Nanaimo Recycling Exchange, asked if ACE would be interested in creating a pesticide drop-off event in conjunction with the NRE. However, she subsequently noted that the requirement to ship these wastes to Alberta, through Aerosmith Environmental, is an expensive proposition. C. Zimmer wondered if some of the funds earmarked for the Cosmetic Pesticides Education Program could be directed to paying for this removal service. Otherwise, the NRE may not have sufficient funds to deal with the additional pesticide disposal demand created by the public's increased awareness and action. This dilemma was noted, but it is unlikely that the funds can be re-allocated without going back to Council. R. Lawrance asked C. Zimmer to create a cost estimate for removal service. He will be meeting with the RDN this week to discuss their pesticide programs and may be able to get some help from them regarding funding.

J. Kipp arrived at 4:36 pm.

**5. Budget: (\$2,665.56)**

R. Lawrance explained that the Committee still has a significant portion of their budget remaining. J. Kipp added the Committee may use funds to send a member to a conference or event. S. Serebrin has submitted a proposal to attend the following two workshops:

- The Human Hive: Creating Intelligent Livable Cities, cost: \$195  
Thursday, 2009-Nov-19, 9-5 pm.
- Global Sustainability, cost: \$125  
Friday, 2009-Nov-27 or 2009-Mar-13, 9-5 pm.

MOVED by C. Thirkill, SECONDED by W. Wells, that the Committee cover the cost of travel and registration for S. Serebrin to attend the above workshops.

CARRIED.

**6. Delegation****7. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices**

- a) Letters to Mayor Ruttan and J. Kipp RE: Urban Use of Pesticides:  
For information only.
- b) "From Our Atlantic Woods: Non-Timber Forest Product Directory", and "Non-Timber Forest Products" publications (J. Kipp):  
J. Kipp provided the publications to R. Lawrance for information. They focus on the benefits of Canada's non-timber forest products.

J. Kipp noted that Council recently adopted an Economic Development Strategy Review, "2010 and Beyond". Because there is no budget available to create a new strategy, an update of the existing strategy will be done.

Involving a "green economic" component to the Strategy was discussed. ACE would prefer if the consultant that is chosen already understands how a green economy is developed. W. Wells will begin research on green business development and keep an eye on the process schedule. R. Lawrance will include in the upcoming work plan a request to Council to provide input into the Economic Development Strategy Review.

MOVED by W. Wells, SECONDED by A. Kerr. that W. Wells draft a letter requesting that a green business component be added to the City's Strategy at a later date.

CARRIED.

**8. Ongoing Business**

- a) Cosmetic Pesticide Education Program - Follow-up:
- Block parties:  
R. Lawrance noted that those interested in block parties can pick up an information kit at Beban Park. He will find out whether or not this Committee can include information in those kits.
  - Leisure Guide pricing:  
R. Lawrance reported that the price for a one-page ad in the spring/summer edition of the Leisure Guide is \$840. Content should be ready for submission by January. The final deadline for content is March. J. Kipp suggested including a one-page ad in residents' water bills.

R. Lawrance has been working with a design consultant (Capewell Designs) to develop an advertising campaign. He will check at the upcoming RDN meeting to see if they have any material to contribute. The Leisure Guide ad will outline the strategy, education program, where to go for info, and bylaw information.

- Eco-logos (A. Kerr):

A. Kerr noted that Environment Canada has an eco-logo that is used to identify environmentally friendly products. It is important to determine who certifies a product. M. Henigman noted that the Policy Alternatives or Suzuki Foundation may have already researched these logos.

A. Kerr will look into whether there are any credible logos in the market that inform people of safe pesticide alternatives.

b) Pesticide Bylaw Review - Update:

The bylaw has been reviewed by the Bylaw Department and is now being reviewed by a lawyer. The Bylaw and Parks Department had a couple of suggestions for the bylaw. These suggestions included a definition change to "Certified Pesticide Applicator" and the addition of a notice to be displayed on residents' lawns.

S. Serebrin arrived at 5:04.

C. Thirkill suggested that it be made a requirement for certified applicators to record the date and location of their pesticide application. This could be achieved by adding a reporting requirement to their license. J. Kipp suggested using the City's mapping system to record this information.

R. Lawrance will research the feasibility of this suggestion with the I.T. Department.

## 9. New Business

a) Environmental Educators Workshop Report (A. Kerr):

A. Kerr's workshop notes were distributed to members via e-mail prior to the meeting. She provided some items to the Committee, i.e. reusable bags, pins, key chains, etc. She mentioned that many people found it helpful to network, share ideas, and find support. An e-mail network was established to help provide information to practitioners in the field. If any members are interested in being added to the mailing list, please let A. Kerr know. S. Serebrin and R. Lawrance would like to be added to the list. Associated content can be distributed to members as it relates to topic.

R. Lawrance noted that it is helpful to learn which approaches are being taken elsewhere, and which approaches have been successful. A. Kerr noted that Nanaimo seems to be just as advanced as other communities, except on the communication / social networking aspect. A. Kerr noted that zactv.com from Comox Valley has been using social networks to reach out and encompass new audiences.

W. Wells noted that he has received a copy of the RDN's presentation on recycling targets. He will forward the presentation to R. Lawrance that addresses recycling in Nanaimo.

b) Air Quality In Your Neighbourhood Forum – debrief and discussion:

The "Air Quality In Your Neighbourhood" Forum was held 2009-Nov-03 from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm at the Princess Royal Family Centre (260 Irwin Street).

Earle Plain, MOE, and Christine Bender, VIHA, were in attendance to present the results of the air quality monitoring study. R. Lawrance was also in attendance to highlight some of the City's upcoming education programs such as Burn-It-Smart workshops.

R. Lawrance reported that although the turnout was small, it was a good chance to hear the neighbourhood residents' issues regarding wood burning in the City. A. Kerr will be providing information for the upcoming workshops at an upcoming neighbourhood meeting (Departure Bay). There were many questions in regards to what the City can and cannot do in regards to controlling wood smoke. In regards to any policy or bylaw developed in the future, R. Lawrance noted that a primary source of heat should not be restricted before more attention is given toward wood smoke coming from stoves in garages and sheds. Another idea suggested was restricting the installation of wood burning appliances in new construction. The Committee will have to review bylaw models from other communities and discuss the topic further in the new year.

S. Serebrin asked what the best way to deal with someone burning garbage is. A. Kerr mentioned that there were people at the forum with the same concerns. R. Lawrance explained that residents

with complaints can call the Bylaw Department. The complaints are recorded, which can be helpful for future educational programs. Bylaw staff cannot enter the home and check what is being burned.

There are two upcoming "Burn-It-Smart" workshops:

- 2009-Nov-26, Firehall # 4 (1425 Cranberry Ave), 6:30 pm
- 2009-Nov-27, Kin Hut Activity Centre (2370 Departure Bay Road), 2:00 pm

## 10. Council Update

### a) 2009-Oct-26 (A. Kerr):

A. Kerr noted that there have been many requests to Council for changes in watercourse setbacks. She wonders why variances are being given to the 15 meter setback that is established in the bylaw.

M. Henigman noted that the City of Nanaimo was the only local government on Vancouver Island that chose to accept pre-determined stream enhancement setbacks (SPEAS). These pre-determined setbacks were 15 meters, in most cases. Other communities chose to ensure setbacks were determined on a site-by-site basis. Determined setbacks on a site-by-site basis can range from 5 to 30 meters. For example, one area of the watercourse can be granted a 5-meter setback and, while another site downstream can be a more sensitive area of the watercourse with a 30 meter setback, as long as the average is no less than what the bylaw specifies.

Whether it is in the City of Nanaimo or any other local government, the land owner has the right to approach the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and request a variance for something less than what is defined.

### b) 2009-Nov-09 (M. Savory):

M. Savory reported that NALT asked for support from Council for restoration funding from the federal Eco-Action Program for Departure Creek and received approval.

Aside from NALT's request, she noted that many items on the agenda related to development applications dealing with urban densification. After reading all the applications, she noticed a real effort on the City's part to densify and consider environmental factors. Her only concern was that the amount of paper for the agenda and handouts was extensive (92 pages in length).

## 11. Next Meeting

The Committee, joined by G. Palasuko from Parks, will meet for a nature walk through Bowen Park on Friday, 2009-Nov-1

The next meeting is scheduled for 2009-Dec-09 at the City Hall Board Room. The Committee will then proceed to Asteras Greek Restaurant (347 Wesley Street) for dinner. Spouses or significant others are welcome to come at their own cost. A menu will be circulated before the meeting.

## 12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Chair

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Date