



**MINUTES**  
**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT**  
**MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 2009-MAR-10 AT 4:30 PM**  
**BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL, 455 WALLACE STREET**

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**Present:** Jim Kipp, Chair  
Charles Thirkill  
Margaret Henigman  
Meg Savory  
Wally Wells  
Joan Wagner  
Gillian Butler (alternate for Anne Kerr)  
Angelique Nash-Thurmeier

**Staff:** Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner  
Rebecca Tubbs (Recording Secretary)

**Regrets:** Elizabeth Demattia  
Jeff Thomas

**Guests:** Dale Lindsay, Manager, Current Planning

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**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Councillor Jim Kipp, at 4:37 p.m. at the City Hall Board Room.

Councillor J. Kipp and R. Lawrance introduced themselves to the committee. The committee then introduced themselves and shared their involvement and interest in environmental issues.

**2. Approval of Agenda and Late Items:**

a) Appointment of Chair:

- J. Kipp began by saying Council members will no longer act as committee Chairs.
  - ACE could either appoint a permanent Chair for the year or have a rotating Chair each month.
- The Committee agreed that a rotating Chair would be an interesting experience for all members.
- A schedule will be made up and members will be notified before April's meeting.

b) Chickens, Rabbits, other Small Animals on Single-Family Lots (C. Thirkill):

- Vancouver recently passed a bylaw to allow chickens on single-family lots.
- J. Kipp added that the City of Nanaimo is trying to ban roosters.
- It would be valuable to create a permit system with an educational program.
- ACE may want to assist with a recommendation to Council on this issue.

c) Bill C41 (C. Thirkill):

- If this Bill is passed, the Federal government will decide what rivers need protecting and what rivers do not.
- Each river will be classified for its best use.
- This Bill is nestled within the federal budget and will be approved when the federal budget is approved.
  - The process will be done behind closed doors.
- The City should make recommendations to the Province, which will present them to the Federal Government through the UBCM.
  - Jean Crowder and James Lunney are Nanaimo's federal representatives and can be contacted directly by individual committee members.
- C. Thirkill will follow up on this and report back his findings at the next meeting.

### 3. Adoption of Minutes:

MOVED by C. Thirkill, SECONDED by M. Henigman, that the Minutes of the 2008-Dec-02 meeting be adopted. CARRIED.

### 4. Budget: (\$3,500)

Any additional funds for projects will require a specific request from Council.

### 5. Delegation:

#### a) Review of Development Approval Process and how environmental issues are addressed (D. Lindsay):

- How things work from the current planning side regarding environmental issues:
  - Current planning is responsible for the review of all development applications.
  - Environmental policies and regulations are contained in the the OCP and zoning bylaw.
  - Nanaimo identified watercourses and set riparian setbacks 15 years ago.
  - Most development in or around water courses requires Council's approval.
- The Official Community Plan (OCP) has development permit areas for Steep Slopes, Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs), and Watercourses.
  - Anyone coming in to develop a site on land with any of these has to obtain a development permit.
- Typically there are signs posted and fencing is required along riparian setbacks in order to protect watercourses or wetlands and to make residents aware of setbacks in these areas.
- In 2006, the province introduced Riparian Area Regulations. As a result, any 'development' within a stream protection and enhancement area (SPEA) requires a third party review and provincial 'approval' prior to local government approval.

#### A. Nash-Thurmeier asked:

- How has compliance been with regarding these setbacks and guidelines?

#### D. Lindsay replied:

- The problem for compliance comes not from developers but from residents, when these areas are not clearly marked.

#### M. Henigman noted that:

- The follow-ups that qualified professionals should be doing with their clients have not been getting done.

#### D. Lindsay noted that:

- In response to questions regarding storm water management, our policy is that post-development flows should maintain pre-development flows and that developments are required to stay out of Flood Plains.
- Hawthorne Heights and Oliver Woods are recent examples of good storm water management plans that partially redirect flows back into local ground water tables.

#### R. Lawrance said that:

- We will be taking a more serious look at how climate change affects the city in the coming year.

*D. Lindsay continued:*

- In response to the question regarding DCCs: Through DCCs (Development Cost Charges), all developments must contribute to pay for infrastructure required for growth.
- Council is able to reduce DCCs for certain developments.
  - Current Council policy is to reduce DCCs for affordable housing by 50%.
- Bill 27 made significant changes to Local Government Act.
  - Now we are able to reduce DCCs for “green development”.
- What is a “green development” and how much should the DCCs be reduced.

*C. Thirkill asked:*

- Why is there currently no full-time environmental coordinator working for the City of Nanaimo?
  - M. Henigman added that there are many communities that are smaller than Nanaimo that employ an environmental coordinator.

*D. Lindsay replied:*

- The environmental coordinator had very specific tasks related to reviewing development applications. The province, through the RAR, has changed the process for a portion of those tasks so the position has been reduced to a half-time position.

R. Lawrance thanked D. Lindsay for speaking with the Committee. Contact information for D. Lindsay will be e-mailed to members should they have any more questions.

**6. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices:**

- a) ACE orientation binders for new members
- b) Cosmetic Pesticide Use – March 11, 2009. 7:00-8:00 p.m., VIU Building 355, Rm. 203
- c) Bullfrog Management – March 18, 2009. 7:00-8:00 p.m., VIU Building 355, Rm. 203
- d) Urban Development and the Environment on Vancouver Island – invite & registration form

**7. Ongoing Business:**

None.

**8. New Business:**

- a) Review draft work plan:

WORK PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2009		
<i>Project / Issue</i>	<i>Purpose / Definition</i>	<i>Expected Outcomes</i>
<b>NEW</b>		
Revise Committee Terms of Reference	Council adopted a resolution to set the terms of appointments at one year pending a review of the City's Committee structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise structure of Committee following direction from Council.</li> <li>• Remove reserved seats for the RDN and Department of Fisheries and Oceans.</li> </ul>

City Habitat Atlas Update	Mapping tool on City webpage that provides information on the City's natural habitat and environmental programs. The Atlas is located at: <a href="http://enviro.nanaimo.ca/">http://enviro.nanaimo.ca/</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Info. Tech. Dept. to upgrade the Atlas mapping program and text.</li> <li>• Seek input from committee members on updates.</li> </ul>
Invasive Species Management	Bullfrogs ( <i>Rana catesbeiana</i> ) were introduced to western North America in the early part of the 20th century when they were imported to stock frog farms. Wild populations of bullfrogs had become established from California to BC by the early 1940's. In BC, bullfrogs are found mainly in the southwest corner of the province, where frog farms occurred historically. However, bullfrog populations have expanded rapidly because of people moving bullfrogs and because bullfrogs take advantage of human-modified habitats. Bullfrogs are a threat to native biodiversity; especially native amphibians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct review on strategies utilized to date and define a course of action for the City to adopt on how to best manage for American Bullfrogs found in City water bodies.</li> </ul>
Wood Burning Stoves / Inserts	Local residents with older wood stoves that produce an excessive amount of residential wood smoke are negatively contributing to the local environment, air quality and can impact local residents' health. An incentive to encourage homeowners to purchase more efficient woodstoves and "change-out" older models is being supported by the Province.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reapply for funding to the Ministry of Environment for the Provincial Woodstove Change-out Program.</li> <li>• Continue to identify community partners from woodstove retail sector, homeowners, and community organizations.</li> <li>• Work with Building Inspections and Bylaw Services in defining how the City will contribute to the program.</li> </ul>
Low Speed Vehicles (LSVs)	LSVs, also referred to as Neighbourhood Zero Emission Vehicles (NZEV), are electric vehicles that are permitted to travel to a maximum speed of 40 km/h. Changes in the Motor Vehicle Act are allowing this type of vehicle to be considered on local streets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with staff to review the status of LSVs in British Columbia and provide recommendations on whether Council should create a bylaw to allow LSVs on local roads with speed limits no greater than 40 km/h.</li> </ul>
Cosmetic Pesticide Use	<p>The term pesticide is very broad and can be described as material which is used to prevent, destroy, repel, attract or reduce organisms solely for "cosmetic" or aesthetic purposes (e.g., Weed 'n Feed™), but which can potentially cause indiscriminate harm to other organisms outside of its intended use. Council passed the following recommendations in September 2008:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish a homeowner education program on the alternatives to pesticides beginning in March 2009 and refer the request for \$25,000 for the implementation of the program to the next round of the Financial Plan for consideration.</li> <li>2. Participate in the Plant Health BC Accreditation Program and contribute funding (up to \$2,000) plus in-kind support toward the development of a horticultural industry outreach/education program coordinated through the Institute of Sustainable Horticulture at Kwantlen Polytechnic University.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to implement Council recommendations. Monitor progress.</li> <li>• Build partnerships with the Regional District of Nanaimo in establishing a district wide program.</li> <li>• All work done researching and developing a Bylaw should be done in collaboration with Bylaw Services and Parks, Rec. &amp; Culture.</li> </ul>

Changes to the work plan included the following:

***Invasive Bullfrog Management:***

- Change BULLFROG to SPECIES.

Suggested additions to the work plan included the following:

***Urban Agriculture:*** (as opposed to food security which will be addressed by SPAC)

- May be able to invite John Horn to a meeting to discuss SPAC's strategy.

***Sustainability Initiatives; For the City, Within the City:***

- Example: Promote that the city has lowered its power bill by 5% by having motion lights in all of the washroom facilities (education and inspiration).
- The city does have a green building policy.
- The city has a departmental staff sustainability committee (senior management level).
- The position of Energy Manager has been filled at the City. Their sole focus is energy efficiency, street lighting, etc.

***Climate Change:***

- Why aren't we using the Water Balance Model?
  - We should be setting targets and working out innovative ways of reaching them, instead of just relying on old science
- Make the focus about the effects it is having on Nanaimo.
- There should be more encouragement for the public to reducing climate change. i.e. Community Green Building Program.

***Land Regeneration / Renovation of Developed Lands Within the City:***

- "Brown field restoration"
  - Are their incentives/innovative approaches that Nanaimo could adopt?

R. Lawrance will redraft the work plan and send to committee members to be reviewed before the next Council meeting is held.

b) Green Nanaimo Awards:

- R. Lawrance discussed the awards program and went through the categories.
- Hoping to have the ceremony mid-May.
- Awards could be displayed to the public, and names of past winners engraved on plaques.

c) PNAC Appointment:

- R. Lawrance asked if anyone would like to be appointed to PNAC.
- S. Serebrin is interested but is not a member of ACE.
- J. Wagner has offered to be the interim PNAC representative.

MOVED by A. Nash-Thurmeier, SECONDED by C. Thirkill, that J. Wagner be nominated as the interim PNAC representative. CARRIED.

d) Discuss switching meeting days with SPAC committee (from the first Tuesday to the second Wednesday of every month):

- The committee has agreed that they would meet at 4:15 p.m., on the second Wednesday of each month.

**9. Next Meeting:**

The next regular scheduled meeting will be held 2009-April-08 at 4:15 p.m. in the City Hall Board Room.

**10. Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Chair

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Date

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