

**MINUTES**  
**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT**  
**TUESDAY, 2007-JUN-05, TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX**

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<b>Present:</b>	Joy Cameron, Chair	Ron Brown
	Steve Earle	Charles Thirkill
	Chris Zamora	Pete Law
	<u>Staff:</u>	
	Rob Lawrance	
	Cindy Hall (Recording Secretary)	
<b>Regrets:</b>	Scott Northrup	Geraldine Manson
	Caroline Read	

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 4:25 p.m.

**2. Adoption of Minutes:**

MOVED by C. Thirkill, SECONDED by R. Brown, that the Minutes of 2007-May-01 be adopted as presented. CARRIED

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

MOVED by C. Thirkill, SECONDED by R. Brown, that the Agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Meeting re Restoration of Garry Oak Ecosystems - C. Thirkill
  - Pesticide Use - S. Earle
  - ACE Forum Topic - R. Lawrance
- CARRIED.

**4. Budget:**

There is \$2,059.87 remaining in ACE's regular budget.

**5. Delegations:**

- a) As B. Holdom was unable to attend the meeting and give a report on the RDN's 'Creating our Sustainable Future' Workshop held on May 5th, R. Lawrance advised:
- RDN formed a Sustainability Committee 2-3 years ago to look at where they were with regards to sustainability and to come up with monitoring criteria.
  - A consultant was hired to gather data on various criteria, a public meeting was held in April 2004 to come up with characteristics of a sustainable region, and a lengthy document was then produced on suggested indicators.
  - The report basically states that in regards to the environment, there is a lot of work that needs to be done in improving our knowledge about the state of our environment.
  - The recent workshop was a follow-up to the workshop held in 2004.
  - The RDN's next step will be to compile all of the suggestions they received at the workshop on how to improve the region's sustainability.

Rob will report further to ACE regarding the results of the forum after he hears from the RDN.

In response to questions, Rob read out the environmental indicators from the report and noted that the RDN is now prioritizing what its next steps will be with respect to an action workplan.

C. Thirkill noted that Kelowna has had an advanced 'State of the Environment' report since 2003 which can be found online.

Rob noted that the RDN Sustainability Report can also be found online on the RDN's website.

P. Law advised of the 'Gaining Ground' conference he recently attended at which he heard a different perspective, i.e. green value, regarding land assessment. Since Hurricane Katrina, banks and the assessment industry have changed the way they assess land. Environmental impact is now being considered rather than simply dollars and cents. Pete will send the website link for the workshop to Rob.

Rob also advised that the City's Sustainability Committee is presently reviewing the City's Climate Change Plan that was initiated by ACE. He will report further when specific recommendations are made by the Sustainability Committee.

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

- a) An invitation from UBCM to the 'Local Government and the Environment Conference' to be held in Richmond on June 27 & 28 was circulated. Committee members should contact Rob if they are interested in attending.

## **7. Ongoing Business:**

- a) Floral Emblem Process - C. Thirkill brought to the Committee's attention three recent letters to the editor that expressed concern about Harewood Plains. ATV's and off-road vehicles are still getting in and destroying some of the Lotus pinnatus wildflowers that grow there. He reiterated that this flower would be an ideal floral emblem for Nanaimo as it is the only city in Canada that has this flower within its boundaries. He noted that Kelowna chose the Okanagan Sunflower as it only grows in the Okanagan Valley.

When asked about the protection aspect of choosing a floral emblem, R. Lawrance commented that he was not sure whether the expectation is realistic that this would solve the problems in Harewood Plains.

It was also noted that the *Species at Risk Act* only applies to federal lands.

Discussion then ensued around the Harewood Plains property within the City of Nanaimo:

- The property is privately owned. Its value is increasing.
- It is within a development permit area for environmentally sensitive areas.
- It is also partially within the steep slope zone which would enable the owner to do a density transfer if it was ever developed.
- It has been flagged in the Parks Master Plan as a future park site.
- The City has done as much as it can. As the Harewood Plains property is private property, a developer would have to submit a development application to the City before they could get involved and consider whether park space is created prior to issuing a development permit.

MOVED by C. Thirkill, SECONDED by S. Earle that the Environmental Planner prepare a Report to Council recommending that Council consider creating a civic floral emblem and that Lotus pinnatus be considered for adoption as that emblem. CARRIED.

C. Thirkill will contact the Friends of Harewood Plains and suggest that they look into whether any federal funds are available from Environment Canada to assist with protecting Harewood Plains.

J. Cameron will find out what happens to funds received from developers in lieu of parks; i.e. does it go into the City's general revenue account, or is there a parks acquisition fund.

The topic of 'parks acquisition' will be put on the next ACE agenda.

- b) Turn it Off BC - May 16 - R. Lawrance reported that there was a one percent decrease in power used across B.C. on that day. If that much power was reduced everyday for a year, the 80GW saved would be enough to power 8,000 houses for a year.
- c) Yard Waste / Organic Waste Pick-up - R. Lawrance advised that he had contacted Gary Franssen, the City's Sanitation Manager, with Joy Cameron's query. Gary advised that there is no yard and garden waste collection service provided by the City as there is no composting facility capable of handling the volume of material that would be expected. Also, a large portion of potential clients have advised that they are unwilling to pay for such service. There are however two private sector companies that do provide this service.

With regard to organic waste, Gary advised that the City and RDN are working on a pilot project for pick-up of household (kitchen) organic waste, but not yard and garden waste.

As the Committee has further questions for Gary Franssen regarding yard/garden waste, organic waste, what other jurisdictions are doing, and whether any of our garbage is going to Cache Creek, he will be invited to a future ACE meeting to discuss these issues.

## **8. New Business:**

- a) BC Hydro Turn it Off Challenge Workshop - May 25 - J. Cameron reported that she and R. Lawrance attended this workshop, the purpose of which was to get municipalities thinking about reducing hydro. A binder from the workshop was circulated. BC Hydro is encouraging the reduction of hydro usage in order to defer the need to build more dams, and to enable a possible cost reduction to the user.  
  
Joy and Rob have prepared a workplan for consideration by the City's Sustainability Committee. They will bring the plan to a future ACE meeting for discussion.
- b) Restoration of Garry Oak Ecosystems Workshop - C. Thirkill advised that he will be attending a workshop on June 16th in Duncan on this topic, and will report back to ACE.
- c) Pesticide Use - S. Earle enquired whether the City had considered banning the cosmetic use of pesticides. R. Lawrance advised that ACE had previously done some work on this, and he will send the information to Steve. The item will be placed on the next agenda.

- d) ACE Forum - R. Lawrance suggested having the Urban Forest Plan as the topic for this year's ACE Forum. This item will also be placed on the next agenda to begin planning for the event.
- e) Toxic Smoke from Woodstoves - Deferred to a fall meeting agenda.

**9. Next Committee Meeting:**

The next regular meeting date is Tuesday, 2007-Jul-03.

**10. Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

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