

**MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT  
MEETING HELD TUESDAY, 2007-APR-03  
IN THE TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX, 238 FRANKLYN STREET**

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**Present:** Joy Cameron, Chair  
Caroline Read  
Steve Earle  
Chris Zamora  
Staff:  
Rob Lawrance  
Cindy Hall (Recording Secretary)  
**Regrets:** Scott Northrup  
**Guests:** Pam Shaw, Coordinator, Nanaimo River Estuary Management Committee

Ron Brown  
Charles Thirkill  
Pete Law  
Odete Pinho  
Kevin Brydges  
Geraldine Manson

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 4:16 p.m. by Chair J. Cameron.

**2. Adoption of Minutes:**

MOVED by R. Brown, SECONDED by S. Earle, that the Minutes of 2007-Mar-13 be adopted as presented. CARRIED

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

R. Lawrance deferred '7(b) Floral Emblem Process' to the next agenda.

MOVED by C. Thirkill, SECONDED by S. Earle, that the Agenda be approved as amended. CARRIED.

**4. Budget:**

Interpretation Project	\$4000
ACE Regular Budget	\$2588.27
<b>Total Remaining</b>	<b>\$6588.27</b>

**5. Delegations:**

Pam Shaw, Coordinator, Nanaimo River Estuary Management Committee (NEMC) gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the NEMC. Some of her comments were:

- The Committee is guided by the *Nanaimo River Estuary Management Plan* which was adopted in 2006.
- Their mandate is to find a balance between the social and economic benefits the Estuary provides, with the environmental need to stabilize the ecological functions of the Estuary and to complete habitat restoration and monitoring.
- The Committee is made up of representatives from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ministry of Environment, Snuneymuxw First Nation, Environment Canada, City of Nanaimo, The Nature Trust of BC, Nanaimo Port Authority, Nanaimo River Estuary Log Storage Association and Nanaimo Community Estuary Coalition.
- Some projects completed by the Committee are the wheelchair accessible access off Raines Road, and dyke relocation and riparian planting of Holdom Creek which will protect adjacent farmland from flooding.
- Will receive funding in the summer for an eel grass restoration project. Eel grass has been depleted because of log storage, and it is a necessity for the fish habitat in the Estuary.

- Stressed the Committee is trying to balance the uses in the Estuary - they are not trying to stop log storage.
- The Committee is being asked by the Province to comment on log storage leases is a tremendous opportunity for the Committee.
- Have had good media coverage - more to come.
- Education is key - hope to bring more school groups down to the Estuary.

Ms. Shaw was thanked for her presentation.

#### **6. Introduction of New Member:**

Odete Pinho, who will be representing the RDN on ACE, was welcomed to the Committee and introductions were made.

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

An Information Bulletin dated 2007-Mar-26 from the Building Policy Branch of the Office of Housing and Construction Standards regarding the BC Green Building Code: Sustainability and Buildings was distributed for the Committee's information.

#### **8. Ongoing Business:**

Environmental Indicators - Copies of the City of Nanaimo's *Progress Nanaimo 2006 Indicator Summary Report* were distributed and R. Lawrance highlighted the following:

- In 2006, 86% of all neighbourhood areas were within 500 m of a park or trail.
- From January 1999 to December 2004, more than 99.5% of Nanaimo's air quality measurements were classified as "good" according to the Air Quality Index.
- Have not been able to do as good a job monitoring the occurrence of fish in Nanaimo's creeks and rivers due to lack of resources, so no new data is available.
- A vast majority of the ESA's located in the Nanaimo area now have some level of protection. Only sites smaller than ½ hectare may not have been accounted for.
- Alternate transportation is a rising issue.
- There has not been a substantive increase in public transit ridership since 2003.

Rob noted that the RDN recently produced environmental indicators and asked Odete Pinho to comment on that document.

Ms. Pinho advised that the RDN produced a report on indicators in 2006 entitled *Prospering Today, Protecting Tomorrow: The State of Sustainability of the Regional District of Nanaimo*. She noted that Councillor Bill Holdom was the Chair of the committee that oversaw the process. The intention of the report was to be a snapshot in time on how we are doing environmentally. The next step will be a public workshop in May. She distributed an excerpt from the Report on the 27 indicators that determine the region's environmental capital, and noted that the Report in its entirety can be viewed on the RDN website.

Rob added that part of the workshop in May will be to confirm that the indicators are reasonable and can be sustained over time. Also, they are another source of indicators that can be tied to the City's Official Community Plan.

P. Law advised that when he brought the matter of indicators up at the last meeting, he was thinking more in terms of certain criteria and parameters that the City could put in place for water, land and air to monitor on a regular and consistent basis.

C. Thirkill commented that this is another example of downloading to the local government. R. Lawrance suggested that partnerships be explored in order to mitigate the costs but still get the job done, e.g. Mal-U, and will report further on this issue at a future meeting.

**9. New Business:**

City Sustainability Committee - R. Lawrance advised the City is implementing a Sustainability Committee, primarily made up of senior City staff, to look at how to implement the City's sustainability plans such as the Climate Change Plan and the Green Building policies. He advised that ACE will act as a resource to the Sustainability Committee in order to provide research and background information on the tasks they undertake.

**10. Next Committee Meeting:**

The next regular meeting date is Tuesday, 2007-May-01.

**11. Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.