

**MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
ORIENTATION MEETING HELD TUESDAY, 2006-JUNE-06
IN THE TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX, 238 FRANKLYN STREET**

Present: Ron Brown
Steve Earle
Councillor Bill Holdom

Christina Thomas
Charles Thirkill
Chris Zamora

Staff
Rob Lawrance
Paul Thorkelsson
Fran Grant (Recording Secretary)

Kevin Brydges

Regrets: Scott Northrup

Pete Law

Guests: Elke Wind

Mike Geselbracht

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair B. Holdom at 4:20 p.m.

2. Adoption of Minutes from 2006-May-02:

MOVED by R. Brown, SECONDED by S Earle, that the minutes of 2006-May-02 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. Budget:

R. Lawrance gave a brief budget update noting that there is \$3,529.85 remaining in the 2006 budget. The \$500 sponsorship for the Sustainability Workshop has been deducted.

4. Delegations:

a) Mike Geselbracht - The Cowichan "O.U.R. Ecovillage"

M. Geselbracht gave a presentation on the O.U.R. Ecovillage and the creation of its residential comprehensive development zone.

M. Geselbracht gave the following answers to questions from the Committee:

- To water proof the cob, the finishing plaster helps but the structure also need a good overhang on the roof.
- The O.U.R. Ecovillage group is trying to improve the acceptance of these buildings by working with the local building department to establish an acceptable code for this type of structure.
- People will live in this community year round when it is completed.
- They are in the process of building an art studio which will be used to generate income.
- There will be nine residences and they will use a constructed wetland septic system. Currently using "organic" composting toilets.
- Cost of three and a half month course was \$4000. this included room and board. Students were from different parts of the world.

- All building materials come from the local area. Concrete is not used because it takes too much energy to produce and also produces green house gases.
- There are examples of cob structures in England that are hundreds of years old.
- There are eco villages in some parts of the world that are home to over 1000 people.
- Public tours of the village are given every second Saturday.

The Committee expressed an interest in looking into the comprehensive development zone. R. Lawrance will look for information and report back to ACE.

The Chair thanked M. Geselbracht for his informative presentation.

b) Elke Wind - Conserving amphibian populations in the City of Nanaimo

E. Wind gave a presentation on amphibians in Nanaimo.

E. Wind gave the following answers to questions from the Committee:

- One of the most important steps that the City can take is to map the location of these vernal ponds and look at their connectivity.
- No one has done any survey of vernal ponds in this area.
- Survey can be done at any time of the year. If it is done in the summer, it needs to identify ponds that stay wet until early August for amphibian survival.
- Fish are a major predator of amphibians.
- Having a definition for vernal ponds is very important.
- Frogs are important predators e.g. natural mosquito control

R. Lawrance advised that a copy of the presentation can be e-mailed to Committee members. He will report back to ACE on what options the Committee has on dealing with this issue.

The Chair thanked E. wind for her informative presentation.

5. **Correspondence, Handouts, Notices:**

- a) Sustainability Purchasing Workshop - June 27th, Vancouver, B.C.
- b) Bowen Park Side Channel Project Open House - June 15, 1:00 – 7:30 p.m.

R. Lawrance circulated information on these to events for information.

6. **Ongoing Business**

- a) Water Conservation Plumbing Regulation - Revised Report

P. Thorkelsson, Manager of Building Inspection, gave a brief update on the request to Council to have the City of Nanaimo added to Section 3 of the Water conservation Plumbing Regulation. He noted that:

- To implement this bylaw, the City has to get approval from the province.
- The Regional District of Nanaimo has already gone this route.
- New products on the market have proven to be very effective.
- Adequate notice will be given to suppliers and builders before the regulations come into effect.
- Would inform the Nanaimo Home Builders Assoc.

P. Thorkelsson gave the following answers to questions from the Committee:

- There is no new code requirement that water pipes in homes have to be ¾".

- Shower heads and other fixtures are included in these regulations.

It was agreed that the following would be added to the report's recommendation:
"contact the Nanaimo Chapter of the Canadian Home Builders Association and notify them of the City's intention to be included under this regulation".

MOVED by S. Earle, SECONDED by C. Zamora, that ACE accept the report as revised.

CARRIED

b) Review of Green Building Strategy - Council Action Report

R. Lawrance noted that:

- The report was adopted by council and is now City policy.
- The LEED standard will be used in the new Oliver Road recreation centre
- Will be organizing a training work shop for City staff and certify staff in LEED building standards.

B. Holdom advised that:

- Council had decided to have an architect to do the certification of the building using LEED standards because of the high cost getting the official certification.
- In light of new information that the cost of the LEED certification given to Council (\$40,000) is well above the correct cost (\$5000), he will bring the error to Council's attention and report back to ACE.

7. New Business:

a) Nanaimo Estuary Management Committee (NEMC)- Update on Activities

R. Lawrance noted that:

- The plan has been completed and the NEMC has been formed with representatives from:

> Department of Fisheries and Oceans	> City of Nanaimo
> Snuneymuxw First Nation	> Industry (i.e. Coastland)
> Nature Trust of B.C.	> B.C. Parks
- The NEMC coordinator is Pam Shaw.
- Project outline information was distributed.
- The NEMC decided that the Management Plan does need formal adoption. Status report will be sent to Council.
- An Estuary Day has been planned to coincide with Rivers Day.
- Will keep ACE updated on this issue.

8. Late Item:

Urban Forest – C. Thirkill asked if this issue can be followed-up by ACE.

R. Lawrance noted that

- The Parks Dept. will be going to Council for funding in the fall.
- Hopes that ACE will be asked to give input into the plan.
- Not sure if this issue will become part of the OCP 10 year review.

Comments from the Committee:

- Would like to see ACE take a role in an urban forest plan for Nanaimo.
- Would like to keep this issue on the agenda as a standing item.

9. Next Committee Meeting:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 2006-Jul-04

10. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

File: 0360-20-E02

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