

**MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
MEETING HELD TUESDAY, 2004-SEPTEMBER-07
IN THE TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX, 238 FRANKLYN STREET.**

Present:	Gail Adrienne Ron Bolin Ron Brown	Allan Hawryzki Pete Law
	<u>Staff</u> Rob Lawrance Fran Grant (Recording Secretary)	Kevin Brydges Graham Savage
Regrets:	Councillor Bill Holdom Councillor Dawn Tyndall	Jackie Churchill Brigid Reynolds

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by acting Chair Allan Hawryzki at 4:15 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes 2004-June-01:

MOVED by R. Bolin, SECONDED by P. Law, that the minutes of 2004-July-06 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. Approval of Agenda and Introduction of Late Items:

Late items:

- Report to Council – new member for ACE (R. Lawrance)
- Report to Council – presentation by the Nanaimo Estuary Coalition (R. Lawrance)
- Hog fuel incineration issues (G. Adrienne)

MOVED by P. Law, SECONDED by R. Bolin, that the Agenda be accepted with the addition of the above three late items.

CARRIED

4. Delegations:

No delegations.

5. Correspondence/Handouts/Notices of Upcoming Events:

R. Lawrance distributed the following items for information:

- Letter from the Nanaimo Tuesday Hikers thanking ACE for the Environmental Award they received.
- Newspaper articles on the ACE Environmental Awards.
- Letter from the Regional District of Nanaimo regarding the proposed amendments to Aquaculture Land Use Regulations in the RDN.

6. Unfinished/Ongoing Business:

- a) Draft Report: Riparian Area Regulation

K. Brydges gave an update on the regulations and noted that:

- The regulations came into effect in July 2004
- A letter was received from the provincial government on possible impacts on city bylaws and regulations.
- The City's lawyer is reviewing the impacts and will advise what changes need to be made to existing bylaws.
- A workshop on the regulations is being held on Friday, Sept. 10 at the Coast Bastion Inn.
- Staff are in the process of reviewing all the material and will report back to ACE.
- The process to adopt the regulations are not sitting well with other municipal governments
- Regulations are also meant to assist smaller municipalities that don't have the expertise to implement their own bylaws.
- Major concern about the lack of public and municipal input in the regulation drafting process.
- May be some potential for liability risk for the City.
- The regulations require 30m on either side of a watercourse be assessed before setbacks are established.
- Staff are also reviewing reports received from other municipalities
- Do not know if the City will have the ability to change setbacks they do not agree with.
- Concerned as to whether a consultant hired by a land owner will have enough local knowledge to make an accurate assessment of a watercourse.

b) Draft Report: Internal Wood-Burning Stoves and Fireplaces

R. Lawrance gave a brief overview of the Report to Council that was sent to Committee members for their review. This issue was referred by Council to ACE in May 2004. The Committee made the following suggestions:

- Would be helpful to show comparable data on emissions from alternative fuels such as oil or natural gas to give a sense of how good or bad wood burning appliances are.
- Outline what amount of emissions start to cause health problems.

MOVED by R. Brown, SECONDED by P. Law, that the report be forwarded to Council with the staff and Committee recommendations incorporated.

CARRIED

c) City Habitat Atlas: Council Presentation and Funding Request

R. Lawrance distributed a report on the number of people who have visited the City's Habitat Atlas internet site. He noted that:

- He will be doing a presentations to Council and Nanaimo Field Naturalists.
- The I.T. Department has put forward a proposal to do some 360° panoramas at a cost of \$975 each.
- Will be asking the Parks Dept. if they would be willing to fund some of this project.

Committee comment:

- The Atlas would be a great educational tool so perhaps look at doing some presentations to school geography classes as well as Malaspina University-College.
- Agree with the idea of the panoramas which would need to be done soon.

MOVED by G. Adrienne, SECONDED by R. Brown, that ACE fund a 360° panorama for the Habitat Atlas.

CARRIED

d) Annual Workplan: Mid Year Review

The Committee agreed to review the work plan at the next meeting.

e) Cosmetic Pesticide Use Survey

R. Lawrance gave a brief updated and suggested that:

- ACE proceed with the work done by the Pesticide Sub-committee.
- He has been talking with John Morgan about working with Malaspina University-College to do the survey.
- The survey would help come up with a strategy on how to proceed with this issue.
- The cost of the survey with a private company would be approximately \$9000. Hoping for more in the \$2000 to \$2500 range with MalU.
- Will set up a meeting with John Morgan and the Pesticide Sub-committee in September.
- Will ask if there is any money in the Community Planning Department's budget to assist with the cost of the survey.

Comments from the Committee:

- Would it be possible to have the survey done later this year but pay for it with the 2005 budget? Not enough money in the budget to do both the panorama and the survey.
- Feel the survey is important as it would tell ACE how much knowledge is out in the community and also the level of concern about pesticide use.

R. Lawrance advised that he will get more information from John Morgan about the survey and report back to ACE at the next meeting.

7. New Business:

- Fall Community Forum: Setting theme and date

A tentative date of November 4 was suggested. R. Lawrance will check into facility availability.

Ideas for theme:

- Bring in speaker to discuss sustainable living.
- Focus on Habitat Atlas and use forum to get input from organizations.
- One-tonne challenge/climate change issues

8. Late Items:

a) Report to Council – new member for ACE

R. Lawrance distributed copies of the report and asked for the Committee's endorsement of Tony MacGregor, representing the Greater Nanaimo Cycling Coalition, for the vacant environment community position on ACE.

MOVED by R. Bolin, SECONDED by G. Adrienne, that ACE endorse Tony MacGregor for the vacant position on the Committee.

CARRIED

- Report to Council – presentation by the Nanaimo Estuary Coalition

R. Lawrance distributed copies of the report requesting a presentation to the Planning, Environment and Development Standing Committee.

K. Brydges advised that a follow-up letter may have been written by senior management to the Coalition. The Committee agreed that they will wait until this is verified before proceeding with the report.

- Hog fuel incineration issues

G. Adrienne asked for information on the proposed hog fuel incinerator at the Coastland company site to answer questions directed to NALT.

K. Brydges and G. Savage noted that:

- Coastland has made their application to the province.
- City has been invited to comment on the application.
- Staff is drafting an information Report to Council.
- If the use meets land use regulations, the City does not have any means of turning the request down.
- The provincial regulations on particulate emissions require industry to meet or exceed its standards.
- Letters for or against the application can be sent to Coastland with copies to the province and City Council (if desired).
- The material in question is already being burned at Harmac in an old technology burner so the new burner would be a big improvement.
- The primary objective for Coastland is to use the energy produced for a hot water bath for the logs which would save money on natural gas consumption.

G. Adrienne thanked K. Brydges and G. Savage for the information, which will assist her in answering inquiries from the public.

9. Next Meeting:

- Sub-committee meetings:
 - Pesticide Sub-committee: Sept. 15 (with John Morgan)
- An extra meeting will be held on 2004-Sept-28
- The next regular ACE meeting is schedule for 2004-Oct.-05.

10. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.