

Minutes of the regular meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on January 20, 2011 at 6:00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Director Giles – Chair                      Rodger Hunter  
                  John Morris    Kevin Visscher  
                  Director Hutchins    Director Kent  
                  Roger Wiles    Justin Straker  
                  Chris Wood    Bruce Sampson  
                  Judy Stafford

**ALSO PRESENT:** Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy  
Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary  
Ian Morrison, Director Electoral Area 'F'  
Ernie Elliott – retiring GM, Cowichan Tribes  
Maureen Tommy – incoming GM, Cowichan Tribes

**REGRETS:** Larry George, Bruce Fraser, Pete Keber, Director Walker,  
Dave Polster

**ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Ernie Elliott asked for nominations for the position of Chair.

Nominated were:

Gerry Giles  
Justin Straker

A ballot was issued and counted and Gerry Giles was elected Chair by majority.

**ELECTION OF CO-CHAIR**

Ernie Elliott asked for nominations for Co-Chair. Nominated were:

Justin Straker  
Chris Wood who declined  
Rodger Hunter who declined  
Nominated by acclamation Justin Straker

**It was moved and seconded to destroy the ballots.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented with a change of order with delegations moved up to immediately following approval of minutes and with the addition of Agriculture as NB1 item and an update on the Agricultural sub-committee.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**WELCOME to the DELEGATIONS from the COWICHAN TRIBES**

**Official welcome to Maureen Tommy, General Manager of Cowichan Tribes and Ernie Elliott, retiring General Manager.**

Ernie Elliott shared his thoughts on the importance of taking care of the environment. The river is our artery and veins. Family is heart of tribes – we honour our elders. Help others, share, be truthful and honest, care for others, respect rights of others, take responsibility for your actions, and give thanks and be grateful for what we have were the main focus of his talk.

Maureen Tommy spoke of her pride in being a Cowichan Tribe's member which is largest first nation in BC. Maintain a balance on Mother Earth so we will have balance in our lives and for our future generations. Good to work together with a common vision.

Thank you to Ernie and Maureen from the Chair for joining us and

sharing your thoughts with us.

**ADOPTION  
OF MINUTES**

**It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the December 16, 2010, Environment Commission meeting be adopted as presented.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING  
OUT OF MINUTES**

- B1 Sign In Sheet for public presentations** – will be sent out to the whole of the Commission to sign up. Presentation will be put up on website for commission members to read. Dyan will circulate and update list.
- B2 Discussion on the land presentation.** Decision to present to the Regional Services Committee February 23, 2011 at 6 pm. It will explain fully the recommendations from the commission with an update on the State of Environment Report. Justin, Roger and Chris will work on the presentation. Kate will ascertain there will be enough time provided.
- B3 Combining Economic and Environment Commissions**  
Pros and cons will be discussed at the next meeting with both commissions taking part. Discussion – communications would be key topic on how to make good economic decisions with strong environmental ideas. Combined we become a lot stronger.

**It was moved and seconded that the Environment Commission recommend to the CVRD Board that the Board permit the Economic Development Commission and the Environment Commission to explore the possibility of establishing a joint Environment and Economic Commission and bring forward a report for the Board's consideration on the matter, and further, that this matter be referred to the Economic Development Commission for their comment.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

- B4 Letter to Duncan Christian School** re support for Solar BC Grant – sent on December 17<sup>th</sup>.
- B5 Commission Appointments** – Mayor Tom Walker is a 2011 designate for the Environment Commission. He will replace Director Iannidardo.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- C1** Email dated January 12, 2011 to Kate Lindsay re Mid-Island Biosphere Reserve proposal requesting support to make certain areas on Vancouver Island a Biodiversity Biosphere. Email received and referred to Rob Hutchins to meet and explore more about it. Add to next meeting's agenda.
- C2** Recreation guides from North Cowichan/Island Savings Centre and Lake Cowichan - Chris will look at placing ads in these publications – including KPRC and Ladysmith.

**It was moved and seconded to participate in ads for the Valley Recreation Guides to a maximum of \$1000.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

- C3** Email from Peter Nix – review his email to bring back to Feb. 17 mtg.
- C4** Letter from the Council of Canadians dated January 17, 2011, commending the Environment Commission on their work on the State of Environment Report is referred to CVRD Board.
- C5** Response to News Leader’s article – to be discussed at next mtg.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**CR1 Land committee – Justin Straker**

Sustainable Land Use workshop planned for February 17, 2011 with the focus on land use using an ecological simulation model, showing future probable land effects. Invitees list being formulated. Decision to change date to February 22 or 24 so more directors can possibly attend. Justin will advise as to when speaker is available.

**CR2 Recommendation #2**

The CVRD Environment Commission has reviewed available information and developed recommendations for specific targets. The Environment Commission acknowledges that these targets need to be refined and supported, and that managers need to understand the consequences both of adopting these targets, and of not adopting these targets.

**It was moved and seconded**

**That the CVRD develop and adopt targets for maintenance of ecosystem function and services across the land base.**

- 1. That the CVRD Board direct staff to conduct an analysis and impact statement for adoption of the attached targets, including identifying options for implementation, and report back to the CVRD Board and Environment Commission. This activity should be identified in the 2011 CVRD work plan, with corresponding budget allocated; and**
- 2. That the CVRD Environment Commission and Economic Development Commission form a sub-committee to work together to explore the implications and the consequences of adoption of the attached targets.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

In summary the three recommendation that the commission is making to the CVRD Board are as follows and are detailed in the associated white paper to be provided to the board as a backgrounder:

**Recommendation #1 – Assess Regional Carrying Capacity and Cumulative Effects**

- The CVRD Environment Commission recommends that the CVRD and partner organizations conduct a structured evaluation of regional environmental carrying capacities, and the cumulative effects of human activities on the ecosystem goods and services in the CVRD, including current effects and a range of plausible future effects.

**Recommendation #2 – Set Protective Targets for Land-Based Indicators**

- The CVRD Board direct CVRD staff to conduct an analysis and impact statement for adoption of the attached targets, including identifying options for implementation, and report back to the CVR Board and Environment Commission. This activity should be identified in the 2011 CVRD work plan, with corresponding budget allocated
- The CVRD Environment Commission and Economic Development Cowichan form a sub-committee to work together to explore the implications and consequences of adoption of the attached targets

**Recommendation #3 – Immediate and Mid-Term Actions**

**Immediate**

- Re-zoning to conservation designation of all identified Sensitive Ecosystems
- Develop a conservation/restoration strategy for Garry oak and associated ecosystems to meet targets for conservation and old forest contained in this report
- Undertake small-scale environmental modification projects of CVRD facilities

**Mid-Term**

- **We recommend that the CVRD begin and advance a collaborative process to address land-use and potential opportunities/constraints on public/Crown and private forest lands in the region.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Discussion: This recommendation identifies with the Corporate Strategic Plan #4. That needs to be emphasized. Excellent work done by land committee – thank you from the Chair

**CR3 Communications – Chris Wood**

**It was moved and seconded that the Environment Commission**

- 1. fund and organize a video creation contest amongst high school, junior and middle school students “to post on You Tube and the winner will be the one that receives the most hits, and**
- 2. Invite EDC to see if we can derive common messaging and work together on some of our communications work.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

The plan will be refined and Kevin Visscher will take lead on this project. Communications committee will meet to discuss further. Dyan to make database for schools and grades served. Sponsorships might be available for prizes.

**CR4 Agriculture – Judy Stafford**

- Article in Cowichan Valley Voice January/February 2011 issue as a follow up on the cover crop workshop.

- Food security coalition met for 3 years now. Agricultural sub-committee meet with them this week to discuss issues and what they are doing.
- Island on the Edge –next movie by same producer as ‘Food Security is in our Hands’ is premiering Feb 12 at 2 pm at Christian Reformed Church. All are invited.

**INFORMATION**

- IN1** CGC will be hosting a donor breakfast at Clement Centre on March 3. Will be a review of last year’s activities
- IN2** A recommendation will be going to the Board suggesting implementation of a different level of taxes for people that buy up agricultural land and don’t use it for agricultural purposes to have a higher tax rate.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- NB1** Agriculture – Suggestion that a mentoring program and farm machinery repair course would be beneficial as young people don’t have experience in farming nor access to land. Could possibly take place on a CVRD piece of property with farmers as mentors.

Should we establish an Agricultural Acquisition Fund to allow for purchase of land for agricultural purposes? This would encourage people to produce food. Suggestion was to send it to UBCM for discussion around if governments are allowed to do this.

**NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

**ADJOURNMENT**

**It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

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Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recording Secretary

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_