



## ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

OCTOBER 20, 2011  
6:00 PM – CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street

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### AGENDA

- |  | <u>Pages</u> |
|--|--------------|
| 1. <b><u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA:</u></b>   | 1 - 2        |
| 2. <b><u>ADOPTION OF MINUTES:</u></b><br>M1 Adoption of minutes of Environment Commission from<br>September 15, 2011   | 3 - 5        |
| 3. <b><u>DELEGATION</u></b> – Work Plan Discussion - with Jacob Ellis, Warren<br>Jones, Tom Anderson, and Brian Dennison   | Verbal       |
| 4. <b><u>BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES:</u></b><br>B1 Motion to the Board re the work of the Green Team<br>B2 Location for Environment Commission meetings<br>B3 Sustainability Conference Participants – Three members have<br>indicated they would like to attend<br>B4 Update on the joint EDC/EC meeting |              |
| 5. <b><u>CORRESPONDENCE</u></b> – Email regarding light pollution at CVRD facilities   |              |
| 6. <b><u>SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS</u></b><br>R1 Land Committee - David Polster<br>R2 Communications - Chris Wood<br>R3 Water – Report from Bruce Fraser re Shawnigan Watershed<br>Roundtable<br>R4 Agriculture – Judy Stafford  | 6-7          |
| 7. <b><u>INFORMATION</u></b> – none  |              |
| 8. <b><u>NEW BUSINESS</u></b><br>NB1 Appointment of new member to the Economic Development<br>Committee  |              |
| 9. <b><u>ADJOURNMENT:</u></b>  |              |
| 10. <b><u>NEXT MEETING:</u></b> November 17, 2011  |              |

**Distribution:**

CVRD Director Gerry Giles (Co-Chair)	Peter Keber
CVRD Director Rob Hutchins	Judy Stafford
CVRD Director Tom Walker	Justin Straker (Co-Chair)
CVRD Director Phil Kent	Kevin Visscher
Bruce Fraser	Larry George, Cowichan Tribes
Rodger Hunter	Chris Wood
Dave Polster	Roger Wiles

**As Well As:**

Warren Jones, CAO, CVRD  
Director Morrison  
Director Duncan  
Director Kuhn  
Brian Dennison, General Manager, Engineering and Environment Services  
Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy Division

**Agenda Cover Only:**

Director G. Seymour	Director T. McGonigle
Director M. Marcotte	Director B. Harrison
Director D. Haywood	Director K. Cossey
Director M. Dorey	Director L. Iannidinardo
Tom Anderson, General Manager, Planning and Development Services	

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Director Giles	Director Hutchins
	Director Walker	Roger Wiles
	Dave Polster	Rodger Hunter
	Bruce Fraser	Judy Stafford
	Pete Keber	Chris Wood

**REGRETS:** John Morris, Justin Straker, Director Kent, Kevin Visscher  
Jacob Ellis

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved with the addition of NB3 – Smart Meters.

The discussion on the Environment Commission Work plan was postponed until a future meeting.

**It was moved and seconded that the Environment Commission endorse the work of the CVRD Green Team and recommend to the Board of the CVRD to develop a work plan such that:**

- a) low-flow toilets be installed in all CVRD buildings;  
b) planting of annuals be replaced with planting of food plants; and  
c) fossil fuel heating/cooling units be replaced with heat pumps or others non-fossil fuel devices.

**And further, that surplus funds, if any, from the 2011 Environment Commission budget be used to help fund these initiatives.**

**It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the June 16, 2011, Environment Commission meeting be adopted as presented.**

A brief update was given re the August meeting/B-B-Q with the Environment Commission.

## Update on the joint Economic Development/Environment Commission planning meeting

The meeting did not materialize. It is believed that there is not an appetite at this time to have joint meetings or to plan joint work plans. To be discussed at the next meeting.

**B2**

**2011 Commission Budget Update** - How do we use the budget?

Ideas brought forward – should a part time staff person be hired to do the commission work? Should we support other groups doing projects that are within our goals? Attendance at the Kelowna 'Building Sustainable Communities' conference would be of great value to members. Discussion.

**Action:** Dyan to send out info on the Sustainability Conference in Kelowna – Feb 2012 – to ask who would like to attend if any? Website is <http://www.freshoutlookfoundation.org/content/building-sustainable-comunities-conference>

**CORRESPONDENCE  
REPORTS**

None

**R1**

**Land Committee** – Dave Polster. There is a connection between how water and land are managed. We need to learn where to focus targets to most effectively protect our watersheds. Look at groundwater and aquifer depletions. Analysis needs to be done.

**R2**

**Communications Committee** – plan to go ahead with our plans to engage students to produce videos on environmental change. It will be advertised as a competition to go out to all youth. Judy Stafford has a link to someone to help who has connections with film industry. Budget of \$5000 was agreed upon at prior meeting.

**Action:** Kate Miller will send out a prospectus of this project.

**R3**

**Water Committee** – The Cowichan Roundtable is a very valuable group. It would be good to initiate other roundtables – for the Chemainus and Shawnigan areas.

**It was moved and seconded to help facilitate the establishment of a Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable as a precursor to setting up a Shawnigan Watershed Management Plan.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Discussion ensued.

**Action:** Bruce Fraser will develop a method and budget for the above and bring to the next meeting.

**R4**

**Agriculture** – Judy Stafford

Water affects everything – irrigation for agriculture is very important. Question: how much does Agriculture use, is it used properly, how do we assess this, can we education on how to manage it – ie. drip irrigation? If we contribute there are many other groups that will also contribute. Water quality and conservation ties in with land use and water use. Water balance workshop will take place in November- it is already planned by the Regional Environmental Policy Division.

## **ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION MINUTES SEPTEMBER 15, 2011**

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**Action:** Judy will clarify for October meeting what partnerships are available and how much is necessary to participate.

### **INFORMATION**

Draft letter from Bob McDonald to Cindy Bertram re revisions to the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR). It has been read by numerous other committees and is supported by them. Invitation to commission members to write a letter of support to Cindy Bertram if you choose.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **NB1**

Review of the Tri-Regional Waste Study prior to October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting

#### **NB2**

Appointment of a new Environment Commission representative to the Economic Development Committee – Tabled as no volunteer stepped forward. New members' applications have been received. Rodger Hunter, Gerry Giles, and Roger Wiles will shortlist and conduct interviews.

#### **NB3**

Smart Meters – tabled to next meeting

#### **NB4**

Location of Environment Commission meetings - Agenda item for Oct.

#### **NB5**

Director Giles reported on meeting with Ministry of Forestry and with their staff, re overall plan of Private Managed Forest Lands that is conquerable or better than that on Crown Land, as over 50% of our forests are PMFL. We need to have an overall plan to protect the environment.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

### **NEXT MEETING**

October 20th, 2011

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

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

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

# **Governance of the Shawnigan Watershed**

**A proposal to the Cowichan Environment Commission for stimulating development of a collaborative watershed governance mechanism along the lines of the Cowichan Round Table, Technical Committee and Water Board.**

**Submitted by Bruce Fraser, Commission Member, October 2011**

## **Objective**

Establish a Shawnigan Watershed Board or equivalent basin governance structure, based on the Cowichan model, to provide for long-term collaborative management of watershed integrity and health.

## **Strategy**

Introduce experience with the Cowichan model to Shawnigan residents as a potential option for dealing with accumulating watershed issues

## **Initiative**

The CVRD Environment Commission sponsors a program of public information and discussion to enable Shawnigan Watershed residents, water users and land users to consider the Cowichan Round Table and Water Board model as a collaborative means of addressing long-term health of the watershed.

## **Suggested Process**

Contract to research and write the "Cowichan Round Table/Water Board Story" and Commission to publish the brochure for postal circulation in Shawnigan (approx 3200 households)

Article to be prepared at the same time for publication in the Shawnigan Focus community newspaper (mailed direct to 3200 households)

Identification and Assembly of an Agency/Cowichan Tribes/Water Board team that can provide first hand experience with the model

CVRD staff to prepare a summary of Shawnigan Watershed issues and current watershed status research and remediation efforts (and where appropriate those linked locally with Cobble Hill)

Public meeting(s), hosted by the Commission, to introduce members of the Cowichan Round Table and the Water Board team for a discussion of their experience and its potential applicability to the Shawnigan Watershed status and issues

Opportunity for Shawnigan Watershed residents, water and land users to comment on the basin round table idea and assembly of suggestions for input to a workshop

Commission sponsored workshop to consider ways and means of inaugurating a Shawnigan Roundtable and suggestions for its terms of reference, launching membership and local leadership

Hold a founding meeting of interested parties to establish a round table or equivalent according to the suggestions arising from the workshop

Establish a follow-up liaison between a Shawnigan Watershed organization and the Cowichan equivalent, particularly to support the inaugural leadership

Assign a CVRD staff member with the responsibility of ensuring that the Shawnigan group is monitored and effectively supported