Minutes of the regular meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on October 20, 2011 at 6:05 pm.

PRESENT:	Director Giles	Alternate Director Duckworth
	Director Walker	Director Kent
	Roger Wiles	Pete Keber
	Rodger Hunter	Bruce Fraser
	Judy Stafford	Chris Wood
	Janna Jorgensen	Kevin Visscher
	Bruce Fraser	John Morris

ALSO Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy Div PRESENT: Warren Jones, CAO, CVRD Jacob Ellis, Manager, Corporate Planning Tom Anderson, Gen. Manager, Planning & Development Brian Dennison, Gen. Manager, Engineering/Environment Directors Duncan and Morrison Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary

**REGRETS:** Justin Straker, Dave Polster

APPROVAL

ADOPTION

**OF MINUTES** 

OF AGENDA

Chair introduced and welcomed the new member of the Environment Commission, Janna Jorgensen.

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented.

## **MOTION CARRIED**

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

## **MOTION CARRIED**

**DELEGATIONS Corporate Plan and Commission Work Plan Discussion** - with Jacob Ellis, Warren Jones, Tom Anderson, and Brian Dennison. Discussion on which of the Corporate Strategic Plan initiatives would be of particular interest to the Environment Commission. These were:

a) Initiate a Regional Sustainability planning process;

- b) Update background technical studies to inform the planning process;
- c) Recommendations to the Agricultural Land Commission;
- d) Develop a long-term land use strategy/policy for forestry lands;

e) Continue working towards full implementation of the Solid Waste Management Plan;

f) Update the South and Central Sectors Liquid Waste Management Plans;

g) Develop liquid waste management plans for all areas of the Regional District;

h) Develop regional watershed management strategies;

i) Develop water planning policies to guide community planning;

j) Identify and map areas of high conservation value to protect sensitive areas;

k) Develop an air shed protection strategy;

	<ul> <li>I) Promote the development of a regional multi-modal transportation plan;</li> <li>m) Develop an environmental education plan with a focus on water, biodiversity and climate change;</li> <li>n) Develop a regional energy strategy to identify regional sources of green energy; and</li> <li>o) Develop a comprehensive external communications plan</li> </ul>	
	ACTION: Jacob Ellis will compile a list from this meeting's discussion of items that he, Warren Jones, Brian Dennison and Tom Anderson feel would be of merit and be of interest to the Environment Commission to have input on.	
8:05 pm	Jacob Ellis, Warren Jones, Tom Anderson and Brian Dennison left the meeting.	
BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES	meeting.	
B1	Motion regarding the work of the Green Team and surplus funding was accepted by the Regional Board on October 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2011.	
B2	Location for Environment Commission meetings – tabled to 2012 when new members join.	
В3	Building Sustainable Communities Conference in Kelowna – February, 2012. Judy Stafford, Peter Keber, Roger Wiles have requested to go to this conference. New members might also be interested. Web site for info is: <a href="http://www.freshoutlookfoundation.org/events/bsc/2012/2012-building-sustainable-communities-conference">http://www.freshoutlookfoundation.org/events/bsc/2012/2012-building-sustainable-communities-conference</a> Funding to be set aside from the current EC budget to attend and register in the early bird period.	
В4	<b>Update on the joint EDC/EC meeting</b> – Phil Kent stated that there is value to holding a joint meeting to discuss the definition of sustainability. It will be postponed until at least December. Kate Miller will schedule a date with Chair's approvals.	
REPORTS		
R1	Land Committee – no report	
R2	<b>Communications Committee</b> – Video Contest – Kate Miller explained the criteria of the contest, with a deadline of December 1, 2011, and prizewinners to be announced before Christmas. Plan to have a public screening at end of contest.	
	It was moved and seconded to approve the plan for the video contest as presented by Kate Miller, with the subject being the environment of the Cowichan Valley, and with a budget of \$5000.	
	MOTION CARRIED	
	Information will be given regarding the video contest to the CVPD Board of	

Information will be given regarding the video contest to the CVRD Board of Directors and heads of the local governments.

- Water Committee Bruce Fraser explained his paper regarding a proposal to the Commission for stimulating development of a collaborative watershed governance mechanism along the lines of the Cowichan Stewardship Round Table, Cowichan Watershed Board and Technical Committee. The Watershed Board agreed to work on this issue.
- Agriculture Judy Stafford explained that partnerships are available to support more research on irrigation, to help create a tool to learn what happens with water used in irrigation, and how to best use our water resources. The project involves mapping agricultural lands and irrigation methods in the CVRD. The project is larger in scope than just the CVRD; partners include the Province of BC's Ministry of Agriculture, Nanaimo Regional District, CAVI, and CVRD Economic Development. Necessary funds (\$20,000) are required for the CVRD to participate in this initiative on behalf of the Environment Commission Agricultural Committee. Judy Stafford requests that the Environment Commission contribute dollars (\$10,000) as one of the partners, which will help with the project and with the engagement of the farmers. The other local partners identified are the CVRD Agricultural Commission (2012 supplemental request \$10,000) and the Cowichan Watershed Board (unknown contribution). Additional program funds are also requested to support the work of the Environment Commission Agricultural Subcommittee, to communicate program and program objectives to the agricultural community (\$8,000).

A handout titled "BC Irrigation Scheduling Calculator" from the Waterbucket website was distributed as background material.

It was moved and seconded to contribute \$18,000 for the research into best agricultural practices and the subsequent communication strategy, subject to the money being available in 2011.

Motion tabled until further information is available at next meeting

## CORRESPONDENCE

Email from Director lannidinardo dated October 14, 2011, regarding overlighting at CVRD facilities. Director Giles will ask the manager of the Water Management Division to explain why the lighting is so strong overnight at pump stations and other facilities, and if we could reduce light pollution and also reduce energy by having facilities' lighting be more environmentally cautious, be less intrusive, or be motion sensitive.

ACTION: Kate Miller will bring a report on LEED standards on lighting to the next meeting as an example of new policy direction with regards to lighting and dark sky issues.

## C2

**R3** 

R4

Email from Rosemary Quinlan, dated October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011, regarding air quality. It will be referred to the Town of Lake Cowichan.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be closed to the public **RESOLVE INTO** in accordance with the Community Charter, Part 4, Division 3, **CLOSED SESSION** Sections 90 {(1) (a)}. 9:00 pm **MOTION CARRIED** It was moved and seconded that the Committee rise without report. **RISE FROM CLOSED SESSION MOTION CARRIED** 9:10 pm The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm. **ADJOURNMENT** NEXT MEETING November 17th, 2011 Chair **Recording Secretary** 

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