



## ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

JULY 9, 2009

6:00 PM – CVRD Board Room  
175 Ingram Street

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### AGENDA

- |    |   | PAGES          |
|----|---|----------------|
| 1. | <b><u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA:</u></b>   | 1              |
| 2. | <b><u>ADOPTION OF MINUTES:</u></b>  |                |
|    | M1 Adoption of minutes of Environment Commission from June 9, 2009  | 2 - 5          |
| 3. | <b><u>NEW BUSINESS:</u></b>   |                |
|    | NB1 Presenters Michelle Vesey, Larry George, Tom Rutherford and Craig Wightman will speak on the Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan – They will give updates on : <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the rule curve</li><li>• the weir</li><li>• hiring of a coordinator to steer this committee</li></ul> | Verbal         |
|    | NB1 Update on the CVRD's Solid Waste Management Plan  | Verbal         |
|    | NB2 Update on the Central Sector Liquid Waste Management Plan   | Verbal         |
| 4. | <b><u>BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:</u></b>  |                |
|    | B1 <b>Sub-committee reports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Environmental Lens Development</li><li>b. Regional sustainability planning</li><li>c. Inventory Mapping/Indicators</li><li>d. Communication Strategy</li></ul>   | Verbal<br>6-12 |
|    | B2 Update from the chair on the Board's Strategic Plan  | Verbal         |
|    | B3 Update from Chair on discussion with Mayor of North Cowichan   | Verbal         |
| 5. | <b><u>CORRESPONDENCE:</u></b>   |                |
| 6. | <b><u>INFORMATION:</u></b>  |                |
|    | IN1 Update on amendment to Economic Development Commission's Bylaw (copy attached)  | 13-14          |
| 7. | <b><u>NEXT MEETING:</u></b> Thursday, August 6, 2009 at 6:00 pm   |                |
| 8. | <b><u>ADJOURNMENT:</u></b>  |                |

**Distribution:**

CVRD Director Gerry Giles (Chair)  
Roger Wiles  
Peter Keber  
Chris Wood  
Ernie Elliot, Cowichan Tribes  
CVRD Director Phil Kent  
CVRD Director Rob Hutchins  
CVRD Director Loren Duncan

Rodger Hunter (Vice-Chair)  
Francis Hugo  
Bruce Sampson  
Bruce Fraser  
Justin Straker  
Judy Stafford  
John Wilson  
Mike Kelly, EDC

**As Well As Full Agenda:**

Director T. Walker  
Warren Jones, Administrator  
Brian Dennison, General Manager, Engineering and Environment Services  
Kate Miller, CVRD Environmental Manager

**Full Agenda as Hard Copy**

Director M. Marcotte  
Director I. Morrison

**Agenda Cover Only:**

Director G. Seymour  
Director K. Kuhn  
Director M. Dorey  
Director B. Harrison  
Director K. Cossey

Director T. McGonigle  
Director D. Haywood  
Director L. Iannidinardo  
Tom Anderson, Manager, Development Services

Minutes of the regular meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on June 9, 2009 at 6:05 pm.

**PRESENT:** Director Giles, Chair                      Rodger Hunter, Vice-Chair  
                 Roger Wiles                                      John Wilson  
                 Justin Straker                                      Mike Kelly  
                 Peter Keber    Director Kent  
                 Director Duncan                                  Director Hutchins  
                 Brian Dennison

**ALSO**                      Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy  
**PRESENT:** Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary  
                 Director Iannidinardo  
                 Director Kuhn

**ABSENT:** Bruce Sampson                      Chris Wood  
                 Judy Stafford                                  Francis Hugo  
                 Bruce Fraser

**APPROVAL  
OF AGENDA**

**It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as amended with the change of the presentation of the delegation to the first item.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ADOPTION  
OF MINUTES**

**It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the May 14, 2009 Environment Commission meeting be adopted as presented.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**DELEGATIONS**

- D1 Cowichan Green Community Association (CGCA) – Emily Bullen re Seeds for Change Environment Conference on June 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>.**
- The focus of the conference is 'How the Cowichan can be more Sustainable' and 'Keeping it Simple' will be the theme. An overview of all the speaker's credentials and presentations was given.
  - We are invited to the AGM for the CGCA on June 25 and they are asking for more volunteer board members.
  - They would like to carry on the speaker's series – to keep it fresh.
  - Plan to be the lead on initiating a 'resilience model' for towns and looking to be the second transition town in Canada, after Peterborough.

**BUSINESS**

**ARISING OUT OF  
MINUTES      B1**

**Sub-Committee Reports**

- a. Environmental Lens Development – Chair Chris Wood.**  
Gerry Giles spoke for Chris Wood in his absence. They have met two times to develop a practical tool which will involve staff and member municipalities in its development, to pose

questions to prompt people to examine what they do and how they make decisions. Will seek some response from members of the commission and then from staff if willing.

Discussion. Should staff have a more detailed lens than the politicians would need? It will be for all decisions – land use, purchasing, building, transit, etc. Plan for it to be a welcome addition to decision making and a tool to make ‘mindful’ decisions.

**ACTION:** Chair will discuss with Mayor of North Cowichan if invitation is necessary for their staff and council participation. No letter is needed for Ladysmith or Duncan states Director Hutchins and Director Kent.

**b. Regional Sustainability Planning Chair Phil Kent**

Group has met once. There is a need for long term land use planning and a tool kit around sustainable planning. What are tipping points for sustainable water, agriculture, food production? How can we move forward? We need to educate members of the board and member governments on long term planning for sustainability. What are the outcomes of action vs. inaction? Possibility to try UBC ‘Quest’ model – it looks at real data inputted – where should growth happen and what does it look like – what are effects? CRD would like to include Cowichan Valley in a visual tool in this model.

**ACTION:** Chair will bring the work of this committee up at a strategic planning session for board and staff June 11/09.

**c. Inventory Mapping/Indicators – Chair Justin Straker**

“State of the Environment” report. Sub-committee plans to identify inventory in CVRD, gaps in the data, prioritize what is missing, and make a gap analysis. There is a lot of information out there, how do we acquire or use it? Would like to hire a GIS staff person, have to refine focus of report, and will try to give this table a draft RFP to discuss next meeting. Other organizations are currently working on State of Region reports – we will look at collaboration.

**d. Communication strategy – Chair Justin Straker**

Three topics were discussed:

1. Role for external website – ‘12 things’ – populate the ‘12 big ideas’ to give more information within each. Turn the existing calendar into an environmental events calendar, and provide a central hub for other organizations in the area to have info on it. Our webmaster Zachariah could give ideas on how to add to our website content. Recommendation to use some of our budget for Zachariah’s consultancy fee to further develop website.

2. Role for internal website – discussion forum to be used.
3. External speakers program – get more info from commission. CGC does already have a speaker's series and we should respect there efforts parallel to us. It would be more effective to support what already exists. We could speak on education in our community – how to connect with what commission is doing.

Discussion on the sub-committees reports: Bruce Sampson offered through his group 'Board of the Sustainable Cities' to put on a workshop to staff, commission, board and member governments to ground them with knowledge on how to build sustainable cities.

**ACTION:** Regional Sustainable Strategy sub-committee will lead this enquiry to organize and develop this workshop and will report back at next meeting.

Discussion on the work of all three committees ensued. There is a need to provide opportunities on how changes mean savings of dollars, changes in health, in the environmental aspect. "Going green is the colour of money saved".

**NEW BUSINESS** n/a

**CORRESPONDENCE** n/a

## **INFORMATION**

- IN1 Ipsos Reid Survey: web link <http://cvrd.bc.ca/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=886>  
Discussion on the results of survey. Extremely similar data to the results of the Environmental Commission survey last fall which validates that survey as well. Community is very interested in water quality and quantity and water conservation. Taking input from this poll would help us plan and become more proactive.

Discussion ensued. We will start to see 'Amenity migration' – moving here because of environmental concerns and for what we have to offer. Affordable living, opportunities for outdoor recreation, affordable housing, and air and water quality are what will draw people to the Cowichan Valley.

- IN2 Transition Town talk on Thursday, June 18 from 7 – 9 pm, in the Somenos Room of the Island Savings Centre
- IN3 Ladysmith City Hall's vegetable gardens have incredible food growing in them. Instead of flowers they have planted vegetables and herbs and given lots of fresh vegetables to food bank and to local residents.
- IN4 An invitation will be extended to the Cowichan Roundtable members to come to a commission meeting to give some background of their stewardship of the Cowichan River and to discuss the difficulty experienced this year in trying to maintain the rule curve. All agreed.

**NEXT MEETING      Thursday, July 9, 2009 at 6 pm**

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

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

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

## **DRAFT CVRD-Environment Commission Environmental Lens 'Version 0.2'**

Communication document for consultation purposes only.

- revised after June 18/09 meeting

### The future in focus: "...an environmental lens"

The idea of an environmental 'lens' has prompted some debate. Lenses bend light or filter out certain of its harmful wavelengths. Lenses help us see the world differently. An 'environmental lens' therefore, should help bring the environment, and our real or potential impact on it, into better focus.

A lens may also be a tiny pinhole or open wide. Because the environment supports everything else we do, and all we do affects the environment, our lens must be as wide as possible.

A third important point is this: that old saw about there being 'no such thing as a free lunch,' is an absolute law of nature.\* In the environment nothing ever gets 'thrown away' and apart from sunlight nothing new ever arrives on the planet. That doesn't mean we can't make choices that affect the environment. It does mean we need to be aware of the impacts of our choices, so that in sum they remain within nature's 'budget.'

At present we are demanding more than nature can provide, both on a world scale and here in the Cowichan. To secure our future, the CVRD Board charged the Environment Commission with developing a strategy to bring our demands on nature back into balance.

The Commission identified, citizens overwhelmingly endorsed and the Board ultimately adopted four principles for doing this:

- 1. Sustainable Use:** we can't use more than the planet provides;
- 2. Bio-dependence:** we all depend on the larger web of life;
- 3. Inter-dependence:** individual well-being depends on others;
- 4. Individual Responsibility:** each of our actions matters.

Subsequently, the CVRD Board directed the Commission to work with CVRD staff to create "a variety of environmental lenses," as a practical means for it and staff to take environmental impacts into account in decisions that come before them.

The members of your committee are acutely aware that professional municipal staff know their own operating constraints far better than we do. We are also aware that many are already reviewing their operations' environmental impacts.

We offer this document therefore as a step forward; not as a finished text. We invite the views of everyone in the CVRD and member municipalities, as we work to develop tools that will help each of us recognize when our decisions are leading us toward, or farther away from the goal of a secure and prosperous future.

*Decisions that help deliver durable prosperity, resilient in the face of climate change and growing population will meet sustainable criteria in the following key areas of CVRD authority or influence:*

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\* Scientists have a longer way of putting it in the First and Second Laws of Thermodynamics

1. **Lens: A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY:**

Ensure that economic development in the region is sustainable in the resources it requires for viability

2. **Lens: HEALTHY NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS:**

Ensure land uses conserve healthy natural ecosystems

3. **Lens: ABUNDANT LOCAL FOOD:**

Enhance agricultural self-sufficiency of our region

4. **Lens: GOOD WATER SUPPLY**

Ensure that the quantity and quality of the region's water is maintained for the present and the future

5. **Lens: LOWER CARBON FOOTPRINT**

Reduce regional GHG emissions in line with or ahead of goals set by senior government

6. **Lens: TIMELY, EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION**

Public and Private transportation options in the region are efficient, convenient, economical and have the lowest possible ecological impact

7. **Lens: SOUND WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Waste from domestic and industrial sources is minimized and residues are managed to avoid contamination of air, land and water, or loss of recoverable materials and energy

Ecosystems in focus: “..into *all* decision-making”

One way to determine whether a proposed action is environmentally sound is to consider its impact on our objective in each of these key dimensions. Here is where we believe a good ‘lens’ can help bring things into focus. Examples are:

1. **LENS: A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY**

**Objective:** Ensure that economic development in the region is sustainable in the resources it requires for viability.

**Soundness Indicator:** the decision to promote or support an economic venture for the region takes into consideration the sustainability of supply of any environmental resources needed to ensure a viable business.

**Example Decision:** a commercial development is seeking tax holiday support for establishing in the region

**Choice:** Application is assessed for its demand on natural resources to ensure that it will not run out of critical feed-stocks or compete inappropriately with already established enterprises that use the same land, water, transport, waste management or air-shed resources

**Action:** Requests for support from new or locating enterprises are evaluated for the sustainability of their entire footprint of resource needs, waste management requirements, transportation uses and demands on air, water, land or agricultural values



## **2. LENS: HEALTHY NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS**

**Objective:** Ensure land uses conserve healthy natural ecosystems

**Soundness Indicator:** the decision minimizes net negative impacts on natural ecosystems or achieves positive ecosystem benefits

**Example Decision:** subdivision development proposal

**Choice:** Design considerations ensure that critical natural ecosystems, including waterways, vegetation cover and biodiversity, are maintained in healthy, functioning condition

**Action:** Board approves design following negotiations specific to the natural features of the site, ensuring that ecosystems are preserved and necessary disturbances effectively restored or mitigated.

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## **3. LENS: ABUNDANT LOCAL FOOD**

**Objective:** Enhance agricultural self-sufficiency of our region

**Soundness Indicator:** the decision supports continuing development of a locally self-sufficient food supply for the Cowichan region

**Example Decision:** A request for a zoning change that would eliminate livestock husbandry as an approved use of the land

**Choice:** Zoning application is denied, or negotiated to provide alternatives that maintain or enhance regional food productivity

**Action:** Zoning change applications are systematically screened for their impact on agricultural productivity before they are brought to the Board for decision

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## **4. LENS: GOOD WATER SUPPLY**

**Objective:** Ensure that the quantity and quality of the region's water is maintained for the present and the future

**Soundness Indicator:** the decision ensures that streams, aquifers, lakes and wetlands are maintained in health and abundance, and that waterways continue to function without destructive change

**Example Decision:** Permit is sought for a business that plans both to process water and to release effluent to a local river.

**Choice:** Application is approved, after demonstrating design and plant choices that minimize water use and employ effective waste treatment on-site in an engineered wetland.

**Action:** Activities seeking approval that have water considerations are carefully researched in advance of being brought to the Board for decision and include a monitoring system to assess actual results

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## **5. LENS: LOWER CARBON FOOTPRINT**

**Objective:** Reduce regional GHG emissions in line with or ahead of goals set by senior government.

**Soundness Indicator:** the decision reduces the carbon footprint of Board operations

**Example decision:** vehicle purchase, operations and maintenance

**Choice:** vehicles are selected from among those in their class that have the lowest lifetime cost and use of fossil fuels.

**Action:** research determines lifetime costs and fuel usage for all vehicle purchases before Board permission is sought

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## 6. LENS: TIMELY, EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION

**Objective:** Public and Private Transportation options in the region are efficient, convenient, economical and have the lowest possible ecological impact

**Soundness Indicator:** the decision ensures that any implications for transportation make a positive contribution to the region's livability and reduce its carbon footprint

**Example Decision:** A connector road is proposed to link two previously isolated subdivisions

**Choice:** Application is evaluated on the basis of construction and maintenance cost, convenience to residents, avoidance of congestion, length of resulting commuting routes, impact on land use pattern and impact on agricultural land or water sources

**Action:** Road development projects are fully evaluated for their full array of benefits and impacts before decisions are brought to the Board for approval

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## 7. LENS: SOUND WASTE MANAGEMENT

**Objective:** Waste from domestic and industrial sources is minimized and irreducible residues are managed to avoid contamination of air, land and water, or loss of recoverable materials and energy

**Soundness Indicator:** the decision prevents waste from accumulating in the region, protects and preserves agricultural land or water sources, and considers avenues to recycle materials or recover energy

**Example Decision:** A business seeks approval for a new operation that involves a waste stream that may include toxic materials or biomass associated with negative impacts on stream water quality

**Choice:** Applicant is required to resubmit his request with additional data addressing its waste management plan

**Action:** Waste management implications of all development proposals are assessed before approval decisions are brought to the Board and a monitoring program is established.

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Every action counts: "usable by the CVRD and its member municipality staff"

Whether we are citizens, leaders or service providers, these lenses and their associated 'soundness indicators' should remind us that whatever is placed before us, there is no 'free lunch.' Where these criteria are *not* met, we are choosing to incur an ecological liability that will need to be addressed or carry inevitable costs.

Like eyeglasses, a lens needs to be used to be effective. We ask every member of the CVRD leadership and staff to consider whether these 'lenses,' or something similar, would help bring the environment to mind in all decision-making.

For comparison, we attach two models of documents that other communities have developed for a similar purpose.

One is from Kamloops and includes principles similar to the criteria we propose. It forms the basis for more detailed sustainability checklists deployed by that city's operating departments (an example of such an operational checklist is also attached).

The other is a simple four-column 'checklist' developed in Olympia, WA. It invites users to consider the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) implied in any action, in each of four dimensions of sustainability. Scoring is on a 'traffic-light' system of red (clear no) through amber (ambiguous) to green (clear yes).

A sub-committee of the CVRD Environment Commission will be in touch soon to seek comment from managers and any other interested individuals under the Board's mandate.

### **Kamloops Nine Principles**

1. Create a Diverse and Complete Community
2. Reinforce the Neighbourhood Heart
3. Protect the Distinctive Character
4. Protect Housing Choice Availability
5. Design for Safety and Security
6. Encourage Environmental Stewardship
7. Create Value by Design
8. Provide for Adaptability
9. Utilize Smarter and Cost-Effective Infrastructure and Green Buildings

**TABLE 1: KAMLOOPS DEVELOPMENT CHECKLIST: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY SECTION**

Features		Point Value	Points Earned	Supporting Concepts and Documents
<b>Green Building Certification</b>				
f.1	The development is LEED/Built Green certified	5		
f.2	The development reached LEED/Built Green silver.	15		
f.3	The development reached LEED/Built Green gold	20		
f.4	The development reached LEED/Built Green platinum	25		
<b>Environmental Stewardship</b>				
f.5	Greenspace (e.g. landscaped areas that have shrubs, trees and/or grass) for the development is provided	1		
f.6	Trees are added to the landscaped areas	1		
f.7	Significant environmental features are maintained and/or enhanced	1		
<b>On-Site Stormwater Management</b>				
f.8	Rain gardens, detention ponds and other on-site stormwater management features are incorporated into landscaped areas.	5		
f.9	Green Roof installed to a minimum of 50% of the total roof area.	5		
f.10	Green Street used in development	2		
<b>Water Efficiency</b>				
f.11	Water efficient landscaping used	2		
f.12	Non-potable water system installed and used for irrigation	2		
f.13	Innovative wastewater technologies used (e.g. low consumption fixtures, grey water systems, stormwater irrigation).	2		
<b>Good Neighbour Features</b>				
f.14	Noise mitigation building design and features used in development.	1		
f.15	Sign and building light pollution minimized	1		
<b>Construction Management</b>				
f.16	Majority of materials from regional sources	2		
f.17	Renewable resources used in construction	1		
f.18	Durable and long-lasting construction materials used	1		
<b>Energy Conservation</b>				
f.19	Integration of solar power into building design and construction, including the use of design to orient buildings to maximize interior solar accessibility.	1		
f.20	Power Smart and CFC-reducing HVAC systems used in the building	1		
<b>Site Development</b>				
f.21	Development connects well with surroundings and integrates into the existing character and function of the neighbourhood.	2		
f.22	Wildlife habitat on or adjacent to the site has been protected, enhanced, and/or restored.	1		
f.23	Open space exceeds minimum zoning requirements on site (e.g. use of clustering, reduced lot coverage, etc.	1		
f.24	Heritage features have been preserved and/or enhanced (in conjunction with the Canadian Historic Places Standards and Guidelines).	2		
<b>Innovation in Design</b>				
f.25	Development adds other unique or innovative features not covered by the above checklist. Provide details.	5		
<b>Total Points Earned</b>				
<b>(Minimum Base Points Required = 35)</b>				
Environmental Sustainability Minimum Achieved?		Y/N?		

# DRAFT Sustainability Action Map

Leadership Required  
Manageable Risks  
Value Delivered

Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Natural: How does this decision impact environmental health, climate change, or protect, enhance or restore ecosystem function?	Individual: How does this decision directly impact the well-being of citizens and employees?	Community: How does this decision impact relationships, effective government, social justice, and overall livability?	Economy: How does this decision impact the local economy and enhancing a green economy, what are its costs, both now and over the long-term?
S:	S:	S:	S:
W:	W:	W:	W:
O:	O:	O:	O:
T:	T:	T:	T:

SWOT: S=Strengths W=Weaknesses O=Opportunities T=Threats

It was moved and seconded:

2. That the CVRD write to the Province to request a modification to provincial legislation to allow the transfer of liability for sidewalk snow and leaf removal to be assigned to the homeowners within Electoral Areas of the Cowichan Valley.

09-314

**It was moved and seconded that this matter be referred back to the Engineering & Environmental Services Committee.**

Opposed: Directors Cossey, Morrison, Dorey, Harrison,  
Iannidinardo, Duncan and Giles

**MOTION CARRIED**

It was moved and seconded:

3. That Board Resolution No. 07-773 of October 24, 2007, to grant approval in principle for takeover of a sanitary sewer system for a proposed 50 lot subdivision within the Cowichan Bay Sewer System Service Area, be rescinded.

09-315

**It was moved and seconded that this matter be referred back to the Engineering & Environmental Services Committee.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

CR4

The report and recommendation of the Economic Development Commission meeting of May 14, 2009 listing one item was considered.

09-316

**It was moved and seconded:**

1. That the Board direct staff to prepare an amendment to the Economic Development Commission Establishment Bylaw No. 2497, Section 3 - Membership incorporating the following concept:
  1. The Commission shall consist of 13 members.
  2. Two Commission members shall be Directors from the Cowichan Valley Regional District.
  3. Eleven members shall be drawn from community groups, organizations or sectors concerned with economic development and growth within the Cowichan Valley Regional District.
  4. All members shall be appointed by Board resolution.

5. Of the eleven members from the community, one member shall be appointed by the CVRD Board representing regional First Nations communities and one member shall be appointed annually by the Environment Commission.

Opposed: Director Marcotte

**MOTION CARRIED**

CR5

The report and recommendations from the Parks Committee meeting of June 10, 2009 listing four items were considered.

09-317

It was moved and seconded:

1. That the CVRD provide a letter supporting the Ditidaht First Nation proposal for construction of the section of Runners Trail through the Nitinaht Valley.
2. That the application from the Ceevacs RoadRunners to hold a half marathon event on the Cowichan Valley Trail between Renfrew Road and the Kinsol Trestle on Sunday, November 1, 2009, be approved subject to the following conditions:
  1. Proof of a minimum \$2 million liability insurance coverage be provided by the organizers which covers the event and also includes the CVRD as an additional insured;
  2. A Course Marshall Plan is submitted prior to the event for CVRD review and approval;
  3. Confirmation that there will be appropriate flag persons at all road crossings along sections of the Cowichan Valley Trail Corridor used for the event;
  4. Confirmation that there will be notices of the event posted along the trail in advance of, and during the day of the event advising other trail users of the race, with such notice wording and locations pre-approved by the Regional District.
  5. Agreement by the organizers that the Renfrew Road to Kinsol Trestle may not be available for the November 1, 2009 event if rehabilitation work has commenced on the structure at that time, and that alternatively, the portion of the Cowichan Valley Trail from Renfrew Road south for approximately 4 kilometres would be available as an alternate route for the event.

And that the Regional District has no objection to the use of "Kinsol" in the naming of the event.