



## ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

JANUARY 14, 2010

6:00 PM – CVRD Board Room  
175 Ingram Street

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### AGENDA

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1. Welcome to New Members
2. CVRD Board Appointments
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7. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**  
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B1 Sub-committee reports
  - a. Regional Sustainability Planning
  - b. State of the Environment Report
  - c. Communication Strategy
8. **NEW BUSINESS:**  
NB1 Water Centric Planning 8-13  
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NB3 2010 Environment Commission work plan  
NB4 2010 meeting date schedule
9. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
10. **INFORMATION:**

11. NEXT MEETING:

12. ADJOURNMENT:

**Distribution:**

CVRD Director Gerry Giles (Chair)  
Roger Wiles  
Peter Keber  
Chris Wood  
Larry George, 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  
Mike Kelly, EDC

As Well As Full Agenda:

Director T. Walker  
Warren Jones, CAO, CVRD  
Brian Dennison, General Manager, Engineering and Environment Services  
Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy Division

Full Agenda as Hard Copy

Director M. Marcotte  
Director I. Morrison  
Director L. Duncan

Agenda Cover Only:

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

Minutes of the regular meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on December 10, 2009 at 6:10 pm.

**PRESENT:** Rodger Hunter, Vice-Chair    Director Kent  
                 Director Duncan                   Director Hutchins  
                 Roger Wiles                           Bruce Sampson  
                 Judy Stafford                          Pete Keber  
                 Francis Hugo                          Bruce Fraser  
                 Director Hutchins                   Mike Kelly  
                 Chris Wood                               Larry George

**ALSO**

**PRESENT:** Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy  
                 Brian Dennison, Manager, Engineering and Environment  
                 Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary

**ABSENT:**    Director Giles, Judy Stafford, Justin Straker

**APPROVAL  
OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be amended with the addition of NB4 – Carbon Neutral Fund and that item NB2 – Water Centric be deleted, and further that the agenda, as amended, be approved.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ADOPTION  
OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the November 5, 2009 Environment Commission meeting be adopted as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**GUEST SPEAKER**

**Cowichan Carbon Busters – Peter Nix** Explained what his group has done, where they are going, and how they can plan to get there. Asked for help with his mobile Climate Action trailer – needs funds to get it going. Public gets it that action is needed *now*. Hand-outs were given out on a Climate Action team, and information on the trailer. Discussion on how we can get the public engaged. The regional government has funding to? put energy reduction into future OCP's and have it as a requirement in their planning and zoning of subdivisions. Question: Should costs be reduced on government fees if it is for something that is environmentally sound? (Reducing emissions, lessening energy use).

**ACTION:** Director Kent, Director Duncan, Bruce Sampson and Rodger Hunter volunteered to meet with Peter Nix to flesh out his ideas and see if this commission can help aid in an action plan. Suggestion to ask for a Grant-in-Aid for getting his climate action trailer off the ground. The sub-committee will work on that with him.

**B BUSINESS ARISING  
OUT OF MINUTES****B1 Sub-Committee Reports**

- a. **Environmental Lens Development** – This issue has not moved forward very quickly.

**It was moved and seconded**

That the Environment Commission requests that the Regional Board require all CVRD departments to implement the Environmental Lens Review for all operations and capital initiatives by April 30, 2010.

**Motion Carried**

**It was moved and seconded**

That the Environment Commission requests that the Regional Board require that the format for staff reports include environmental implications.

**Motion Carried**

**It was moved and seconded**

That the Board encourage the member municipalities and member governments and their directors to apply an environmental lens to their capital projects and programs.

**Motion Denied**

**ACTION:** Request that the Chair of the Environment Commission find a process to communicate the actions and recommendations of the Environment Commission to member municipalities.

- b. **Regional Sustainability Planning** – group has held 2 meetings – one on what does sustainability mean vs a growth strategy and second on how we can develop a process to communicate with the community around the issues re 12 big ideas. They envision 4 logical groupings of the 12 things:
1. Natural resources – #'s 5,6 8,
  2. Activities that influence our #'s 1, 9 10
  3. Optimize benefits for environment #'s 2, 3,4,
  4. Document ideas for change #'s 11, 12
- Need a simple framework and a shared language. 'Natural step' principles.

Next step to come back with recommendations on the 4 sections of 12 big ideas in order to give feedback to the Board on barriers, opportunities, and resolutions



**It was moved and seconded**

That the Environment Commission fully supports the development of an Integrated Sustainability Plan (ISP) and supports budget funding for this plan.

**Motion Carried**

**It was moved and seconded**

That CVRD and all member municipalities engage in a Regional Growth Management Strategy.

**Motion Carried**

**and**

That the proposal on the integrated community sustainable regional management plan is tabled until a clear understanding is brought forward by the sub-committee.

**Motion denied**

That the Environment Commission will work to clarify to the Board what exactly a sustainability plan entails.

**Motion Carried**

8:10 pm

Chris Wood and Director Hutchins left the meeting.

- c. **State of Environment Report** – The consultants have led workshop gathering information. Data is difficult to collect. Summary report coming out and recommendations on next steps.
- d. **Communication Strategy** -
  - i. Advertising – Request to use the last of the commission money on additional work on the State of Environment report.
  - ii. Webpages – Environmental Assistant showed the web pages as they have been developed to the Commission. Discussion took place and commission agrees to look at the pages and comment and finish the last 4 pages. **ACTION:** Dyan to send out the http sites and instructions on their use. Commission members will then read the information and make suggestions and/or additions as well as meet to complete the missing pages.

**B2 Budget Update –**

Manager, Regional Environmental Policy Division, reported on process of the budget procedure at the CVRD and presented the CVRD 2010 requisition review and items requested for the Environmental Department.

**It was moved and seconded**

That the Board provide budget approval on the Corporate Services 2010 Requisition Budget Review additional recommended supplemental for items:

1. Environmental Analyst Position;
5. Corporate Planning and Community Climate Change Mitigation Plan;
8. Outreach program for the Environment Commission; and
10. Identify and map areas of high conservation value.

**Motion Carried****NEW BUSINESS**

- NB1 Lead the Way** – Manager, Regional Environmental Policy Division, presented the CVRD Environmental Framework database. It shows what departments are doing – what large projects, initiatives, planning projects, and more are in the planning, implementation, or finished stages and what they give to us – ie – water planning, strategic planning, public safety hazard mitigation. Discussion
- NB2 Water Centric Planning** - tabled till January meeting
- NB3 Call for New Member process** – we have two vacancies and applications are arriving. Interview process in January and Chair will appoint two directors to be part of the interview and decision making.
- NB4** The Board made a motion in February, 2008 that CVRD examine tax shifting.....carbon neutral reserve fund. We might be able to have a fund here in CVRD. We should encourage the board to create the fund and consider putting a portion of offsets into a reserve fund. City of Duncan is working on it now and can show it to commission.

**ACTION:** It will be part of the January agenda item.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- C1** none

**INFORMATION**

- IN1** Brian Dennison collected comments from participants of Climate Change Workshop and they were distributed. Prevailing comment was a *need for action*.
- IN2** The Chair sent a message and said that change is slowly being felt in this organization. Awareness is increasing and we are building a good foundation and are working towards change. Thank you to the Environment Commission for their work and role modelling, and commitment to the environment.

**NEXT MEETING** Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 6 pm.

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

**MOTION CARRIED**



# ⚙ THE COWICHAN FOOD CHARTER ⚙



*Food security exists when ALL members of our community have access to enough nutritious, safe, ecologically sustainable, and culturally appropriate food at all times.*

## THE VISION

Our food system will be economically viable and ecologically sustainable; our community will grow, harvest, process, preserve, and distribute food to all of its members while minimizing waste. A thriving local food culture that celebrates eating locally and eating together will support us in living healthier, happier, and richer lives - connected to the land, to growers, and to each other.

### We support this vision by proclaiming that:

- ⚙ We have a collective obligation to ensure that everyone has access to sufficient, high-quality food;
- ⚙ For Cowichan to thrive, local farmers and food producers must earn a good and fair living;
- ⚙ Food security requires cooperation and communication among the community, farmers, and all levels of local government.

### In Cowichan's food-secure future:

1. There will be no more chronic hunger, and no more malnourished children;
2. Farmers will be better connected to consumers through farm markets, Community Supported Agriculture, and school and work lunch programs;
3. Farmers' roles as environmental stewards will be protected and financially supported;
4. Agricultural resources including water, land, and the knowledge of farmers will be protected;
5. Regulations will strengthen the capacity of local farmers to produce and reach their markets;
6. A "Buy Local" campaign that promotes local food production and consumption will be expanded;
7. Traditional teachings about food preservation, seed saving, eating seasonally, and eating locally will be encouraged and supported;
8. Institutional buyers such as hospitals and universities will have the flexibility and incentive to buy more local products;
9. Ongoing research will ensure long-term food security in the face of a changing climate.

THEREFORE, I/WE THE UNDERSIGNED declare my/our commitment to promote and support these values in moving toward a food-secure Cowichan that honours social justice, ecosystem health, and community wellbeing.

Name/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_





## Convening for Action in British Columbia



## Shared Responsibility Underpins a Regional Team Approach to Creating Our Future in British Columbia

The Province has enabled local government by providing law and policy tools to help achieve *water sustainability* and *settlement change in balance with ecology*

### Convening for Action in BC:

Visualize What We Want Our Regions to Look Like in 50 years

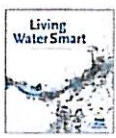
#### *The Mission is to Create a Legacy*

- 1. Influence choices by individuals and organizations*
- 2. Use the term "sustainability" as a lens for considering approaches that influence choices*




## Shared Responsibility Underpins a Regional Team Approach to Creating Our Future in British Columbia

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**A Call to Action**



**Living Water Smart, BC's Water Plan**  
and the **Green Communities Initiative**  
provide a vision of what the regions of our province  
can look like if local governments.....

- ☐ prepare communities for climate change,
- ☐ choose to live water smart, and
- ☐ strive to build greener communities

The Province of British Columbia has put in place a policy framework that enables local governments to commit to doing business differently: *This is what we want our communities to look like in 50 years, and this is what we will do starting now to ensure it happens.*

### Call to Action

"The program goals for **Living Water Smart**, **BC's Water Plan** and the companion **Green Communities Initiative** constitute a 'call to action' on the part of British Columbians to manage *settlement change in balance with ecology*," states **Tim Pringle, Director of Special Programs** for the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia.

Living Water Smart contains a key message – green development makes sense. Fostering new approaches to development will lead to more green spaces, more water and fish in streams, improved community vitality, reduced demand for water, and reduced expenditure on infrastructure.

"Achieving the vision for settlement change in balance with ecology will require a 'regional team approach' that is founded on the notion of shared responsibility," states **Kim Stephens, Program Coordinator** for the Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia.

### Moving from Awareness to Action

"Unlike other regions of North America, we do not have an adversarial or prescriptive regulatory system. Our bottom-up way of doing business in BC does enable us to coalesce around a shared vision," observes Kim Stephens.

"It can sometimes take years for all parties to agree to take action to resolve an infrastructure issue; but once there is broad consensus on the need for action, my professional experience is that we typically align efforts around the right action."

"When people like each other and there is agreement on what needs to be done, changes in planning or engineering practice tend to happen quickly. In addition to patience and perseverance, creating a forum that releases the passion and energy of the champions is essential," concludes Kim Stephens.



### Balance Settlement Change with Ecology for two reasons.....





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### How Government Works in British Columbia

"The relationship between the provincial and local levels of government in British Columbia has evolved differently than in other provinces, with a history of recognizing and appreciating local autonomy," explains **Dr. Laura Tate**, Manager, Growth Strategies – Vancouver Island (Ministry of Community & Rural Development). Laura Tate is the principal author of *A Guide to Green Choices*, released in 2008.

#### Local Autonomy

"As a result, BC local government is among the most autonomous in Canada, and the BC provincial government is perhaps the least prescriptive province," continues Laura Tate.

"Historically, the Province has enabled local government by providing policy and legal tools in response to requests from local government. Local governments can choose to act, or not."

"In general, the enabling approach means the onus is on local government to take the initiative because the Province recognizes that communities are in the best position to develop solutions which meet their own unique needs and local conditions."

#### Driver for Action

"This enabling philosophy has become a driver for a *regional team approach* to achieving water sustainability outcomes through implementation of green infrastructure policies and practices," reports **John Finnie**, Chair of Convening for Action on Vancouver Island, known by the acronym CAVI. John Finnie is with the Regional District of Nanaimo and is General Manager, Regional and Community Utilities.



### Regional Team Approach Explained

"A 'regional team approach' is founded on partnerships and collaboration; and seeks to align local actions with provincial and regional goals. Vancouver Island is demonstrating the *regional team approach*," explains John Finnie.

"On Vancouver Island, a convergence of interests has created an opportunity for all the players to set their sights on the *common good*, challenge the old barriers of jurisdictional interests, and make water sustainability real," explains John Finnie.

"CAVI has brought together those who plan and regulate land use (local government), those who build (developers), those who provide the legislative framework (the Province), those who advocate conservation of resources (stewardship sector), and those who provide research (university and college). We will also be reaching out to those who grow food (agricultural sector)."

"Major breakthroughs happen when decision makers in government work with grass-roots visionaries in the community to create desired outcomes," concludes John Finnie.

**The 'regional team approach' is founded on partnerships and collaboration; and seeks to align actions at three scales – provincial, regional and local.**



*"Everyone needs to agree on expectations and how all the players will work together, and after that each community can reach its goals in its own way."*

Eric Bonham  
CAVI Leadership Team



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### Shared Responsibility Explained

The Green Infrastructure Partnership is contributing to curriculum development for the educationally-based CAVI program; and is represented by **Susan Rutherford, Staff Counsel** with West Coast Environmental Law. Susan Rutherford has provided the law and policy content for the 2008 and 2009 Vancouver Island Learning Lunch Seminar Series.

"Shared responsibility can work at different levels.



Senior government, regional government, municipalities, the development community and their consultants ....all of us have an impact on the land, on the water, and on the way things look," states Susan Rutherford.

"Policy and legal tools can help developers, regulators and designers collaborate to implement green infrastructure solutions and ensure responsible outcomes. Each party in the process has a responsibility."

### Responsibility Matrix

"Building on the experience we have gained on Vancouver Island through the CAVI program, the Green Infrastructure Partnership is in the process of framing a **Responsibility Matrix** that regulators, developers and designers will be able to use as a decision support tool."

"For the first part of the matrix, think in terms of three columns: GOAL, PARTY and TOOL. Our focus is on the linkages – that is, how people interact and/or collaborate to achieve community development sustainability goals."

"For the second part of the matrix, again think in terms of three columns that elaborate on the first part: DESIRED OR REQUIRED OUTCOMES, RELEVANT STAFF OR OTHER ACTORS and INSTRUMENTS FOR ACTION. Under desired outcomes, we will be defining a series of objectives and/or situations – for example, ensuring that the minimum topsoil requirement is achieved and maintained over time."

"Each party in any process has a responsibility," reiterates Susan Rutherford.

### Responsibility Matrix

Goal	Party	Tool
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Objectives</li><li>▪ Situations</li><li>▪ Responsibilities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Regional staff and elected representatives</li><li>▪ Municipal staff and elected representatives</li><li>▪ Private actors (developers, builders, homeowners, stewardship groups, universities and colleges, etc.)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Law</li><li>▪ Bylaw</li><li>▪ Policy</li><li>▪ Procedure</li><li>▪ Incentive</li><li>▪ Penalty</li><li>▪ Security</li><li>▪ Budget</li></ul>
Desired or Required Outcomes	Relevant Staff or Other Actors	Instruments for Action



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### Imagine

"Our purpose in developing the Responsibility Matrix is to encourage players with different perspectives to talk candidly with each other about green infrastructure or other sustainability goal implementation," continues Susan Rutherford.

"If someone says something is not working – that barriers prevent success - then our challenge for them is: *Think about what would make it work, and what are you going to do to make that alignment of goals happen?* Our theme is 'imagine'."

"What we have in mind when we say 'imagine' is that players would imagine a legal tool or procedure that would ensure that barriers are removed or other parties in the process more effectively fulfil their piece of the sustainable development puzzle."

"Imagine what we could each do differently – for example, consider how the City of Courtenay imagined that things would be better if they could get their inspectors on-board with inspecting for topsoil and/or other green infrastructure features".

### Outcome-Oriented

"There are solutions to be found if all parties in the community development process, i.e., staff within local and regional governments as well as private and other actors external to government but no less involved in the development process, simply talk to each other about how they could all work together more effectively, using law reform or other process changes as tools."

"Once we know what we want our watersheds and neighbourhoods to look like, the next step is to decide *what the tools are that will get us there*. All of us ....whether we are regulators, developers or designers ....need to understand and care about the goal if we are to know our role in relation to it and to create the future that we all want."

"What this underlines is that we are all interconnected – our actions influence whether others will succeed, and our own achievement of goals is influenced by how we're supported. We are all working at this together...and we all have a role to play," concludes Susan Rutherford.

### Application of Responsibility Matrix

Desired Outcome	Relevant Actors	Instruments for Action
Onsite Rainwater Management	1. Regional Government	1. Living Water Smart policy direction; Regional liquid resource management plan
	2. Municipal Government	2. Regional targets translated to site level action using Water Balance Mode tool and Land Use Planning, site standards; linkage made between watershed plan and development practices/neighbourhood plan; Official Community Plan direction; visible political leadership on issue
	3. Developer	3. Bylaws require a) onsite rainwater management facilities b) security for performance c) regular inspection and reporting re: maintenance (e.g. on business license renewal); departments charged and funded to inspect
	4. Builder	4. Communication, contractual provisions, occupancy permit



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### Alignment with Living Water Smart Vision

"Living Water Smart and the Green Communities Initiative must be viewed as an integrated package. Living Water Smart presents the vision, and the Green Communities Initiative provides enabling tools to achieve the vision. The solutions and commitments go beyond what government does. Living Water Smart supports planning that is as much about land as water," states Tim Pringle of the Real Estate Foundation.



Together with the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Community of Community & Rural Development, the Real Estate Foundation works to advance green value approaches to managing the built environment. Commencing in 2007, the three agencies have co-funded **Convening for Action on Vancouver Island** under the umbrella of the Water Sustainability Action Plan.

### Regional Approach versus Regional Team Approach

"Through CAVI, we are promoting a *regional team approach*. The term 'regional approach' has been part our vocabulary for a generation or more, but it has never resonated the way 'regional team approach' has resonated this past year."

"It is revealing that inserting the word **team** could have such a profound impact on how practitioners view their world. Inclusion of the team word implies there is personal commitment – that is why the *regional team approach* is fundamentally different than a *regional approach*."

"The team concept also resonates with the notion that it is important to build local government talent to cope with demanding issues pertaining to settlement change," concludes Tim Pringle.

### Provincial Context for Regional Team Approach

"By choosing to live water smart, communities will be more prepared for climate change and their quality of life will be enhanced. If we can show how to get the water part right, then other parts are more likely to follow," summarizes **Lynn Kriwoken** of the BC Ministry of Environment.



Lynn Kriwoken is Director of the Water Stewardship Division, and is the Province's lead person for development and delivery of Living Water Smart.

"At the end of the day, planners and engineers and other disciplines must come together to determine the issues and solutions."

"This is why we constantly emphasize that Living Water Smart is about motivating and inspiring everyone to embrace **shared responsibility**. Influencing behaviour and attitudes is at the heart of moving from awareness to action."

### Shared Responsibility

*"While legislative reform is a foundation piece, collaboration takes place outside the legislative framework. At the end of the day, planners and engineers and other disciplines must come together to determine the issues and solutions. No statute alone will help them do that."*

Lynn Kriwoken, Director  
Water Stewardship Division  
Ministry of Environment  
(September 2009)



Local Government - Greenhouse Gas Inventory Template

<b>Table 1 - General Data Collection</b>	<b>BC Hydro (kWh)</b>	<b>BC Hydro (\$)</b>	<b>Terasen (GJ)</b>	<b>Propane</b>	<b>Gasoline (L) Final</b>	<b>Heating Oil (L) Final</b>	<b>Diesel B5 (L) Final</b>	<b>Total GHG (tCO2e)</b>
<b>Main Facilities</b>	11,392,603		19,560	81,964.31	32,423		9,481	1477.4
Municipal Hall								0.0
Parks								0.0
Parks Fleet								0.0
Public Works Yard								0.0
Public Works Fleet								0.0
Engineering								0.0
Lands								0.0
Police (optional)								0.0
Fire								0.0
Water								0.0
Sewer								0.0
<b>Recreation</b>								0.0
Recreation Centre #1								0.0
Recreation Centre #2								0.0
Library								0.0
Golf Course								0.0
<b>Totals</b>	11,392,603	0	19,560	81,964	32,423	0	9,481	1,477
<b>Total GHG (tCO2e)</b>	251		998	126.22504	78	0	25	1,477
percentage contribution	17%		68%	9%	5%		2%	

<b>GHG Emission Factors</b>	<b>tCO2e</b>	<b>per</b>
Hydro Electricity	0.000022	Litre
Terasen Gas	0.051	GJ
Gasoline	0.00241	Litre
Heating Oil	0.00284	Litre
Diesel (5% Bio)	0.00262	Litre
Propane	0.00154	Litre

Carbon pricing 2007  
 2009 \$ 36,934.69  
 world \$ 66,482.45

0.00393

BC Government - Greenhouse Gas Assessment Guide - Version 1 February 20, 2009  
 BC Government - Draft Guidance: Carbon Neutral Local Government (7/21/2009)