



C·V·R·D

ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

DECEMBER 16, 2010
6:00 PM – CVRD Board Room
175 Ingram Street

AGENDA

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** 1-2
2. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**
 - M1 Adoption of minutes of Environment Commission from November 18, 2010 3-6
3. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES:**
 - B1 Environment Commission 2011-2012 appointments
 - B2 Sign in Sheet for public presentations
 - B3 Lands Committee workshop plan 7-18
4. **DELEGATIONS**
5. **REPORT OF CHAIRPERSON**
 - RC1 Verbal
6. **CORRESPONDENCE**
 - C1 Ten responses from the community received by email re advertorials 19-28
7. **INFORMATION**
 - Report from the representative of the Economic Development Commission
8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - CR1 Communications - Chris Wood Verbal
 - CR2 Agriculture – Judy Stafford Verbal
 - CR3 Water – Rodger Hunter Verbal
9. **STAFF REPORTS**
10. **NEXT MEETING:**
11. **ADJOURNMENT:**

**ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA**

DECEMBER 16, 2010

Distribution:

CVRD Director Gerry Giles (Chair)
Roger Wiles
Peter Keber
Chris Wood
Dave Polster
CVRD Director Phil Kent
CVRD Director Rob Hutchins
CVRD Director Lori Iannidinardo

Rodger Hunter (Co-Chair)
Kevin Visscher
Bruce Sampson
Bruce Fraser
Justin Straker
Judy Stafford
Larry George, Cowichan Tribes

As Well As Full Agenda:

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 I. Morrison
Director L. Duncan
Director K. Kuhn

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 T. Walker
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 November 18, 2010 at 6:03 pm.

PRESENT: Rodger Hunter - Chair Director Kent
 Bruce Fraser Kevin Visscher
 Roger Wiles Dave Polster
 Justin Straker Pete Keber
 Judy Stafford Chris Wood

ALSO Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy
PRESENT: Jacob Ellis, Manager, Corporate Planning
 Kate Lindsay, Sr. Environmental Analyst
 Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Larry George, Brian Dennison, Director Iannidinardo,
 Director Hutchins, Director Giles, Bruce Sampson, John
 Morris

**APPROVAL
OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented with the addition of CR3 land sub-committee report and CR4 agricultural sub-committee report.

MOTION CARRIED

**ADOPTION
OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the October 21, 2010, Environment Commission meeting be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

**BUSINESS ARISING
OUT OF MINUTES**

- B1** Land Committee workshop proposal – requested funding for a workshop to be discussed under CR3.
- B2** Updated 2010 Budget was discussed.
- Three quotes for reprinting of 100 copies of the State of Environment Report were received and the lowest quote is for \$2224 plus taxes. Agreed to go ahead with the order.
 - Water conservation workshop has taken place – costs not in.
 - Staff notes that a budget should be prepared by subcommittees and purchase orders need to be prepared prior to any upcoming workshops for financial tracking within the E&E department. Email on this issue will be sent out for clarity.
- B3** **Environment Commission member expiration terms**
All members (except one to date) have chosen to be reappointed for two years, and three members must let recording secretary know if they choose one year term.

Manager reiterated that there is a commitment of participating as it is a working committee and members must be willing to take on some outside tasks.

DELEGATIONS

- D1** Jacob Ellis, Manager, Corporate Planning presented the Environmental Lens Initiative of the CVRD. The object of the lens is to achieve sustainable practices within the CVRD by weaving the Environmental Lens into all decision making. Highlights included:
- Ongoing \$300,000 Regional Sustainability Planning Process.
 - Implement a sustainability checklist review
 - Implement a Cowichan Regional Area Agricultural Plan
 - Develop a plan to ensure the CVRD complies with the BC Climate Action Charter by 2012
 - Implement a 'green' subdivision servicing bylaw
 - Develop a 'green team' corporate employee engagement plan
 - Establish an 'Eco Depot' in South Cowichan to promote recycling and responsible waste management.

Discussion ensued on the seven lens:

- Lens 1 – A Sustainable Economy
- Lens 2 – Healthy Natural Ecosystems
- Lens 3 – Abundant Local food
- Lens 4 – Good Water Supply
- Lens 5 – Lower Carbon Footprint
- Lens 6 – Timely , Efficient Transportation
- Lens 7 – Managing our Waste

Jacob Ellis also gave an overview on the CVRD Corporate Strategic Plan. It is made up of six main goals:

- Goal 1 – Sustainable Land Use
- Goal 2 - Healthy Environment
- Goal 3 – Service Excellence
- Goal 4 – Viable Economy
- Goal 5 – Safe and Healthy Community
- Goal 6 – Sustainable Infrastructure

It will provide long term direction for the CVRD, organizational focus, better budgeting and improved decision making.

'The Sustainability Checklist for Rezoning and Development Permit Applications' handout was given out - to be discussed by the Commission at another meeting.

It was moved and seconded to invite a senior member of the CVRD planning staff to give feedback on how useful the Sustainability Checklist is and how the public are finding it.

MOTION CARRIED

- D2 Bruce Fraser** – explained the issues that the task force on Species at Risk wishes to address. They are preparing legislation to identify Species at Risk. Need to focus on causes, not symptoms – eco-system decay in other words. There are 80 recovery strategies underway in BC. What is our carrying capacity – what restoration needs to be done? Discussion ensued.

**REPORT OF THE
CHAIRPERSON**

Signup sheet for presentations on SoE within the Community
Presentations to date: City of Duncan, North Cowichan, Lake Cowichan and Ladysmith have had presentations. Commission to email secretary to update list of dates of presentations and to whom, plus recommended groups to speak to. Suggestion to add a line to our current ads to ask people to contact us if they would like a speaker. Chris Wood will incorporate that into the next add.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Peter Nix – requesting speakers for an upcoming conference.
- Several responses from our ad campaign have come in and been circulated to members via email.

INFORMATION

- \$55K to continue air quality testing. Update on provincial funding for continuation of wood stove replacement program.
- CBC interviewed Kate Miller re air quality in the CVRD.
- Planning presentations for 2011. This will be an agenda item for next meeting.

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

CR1 Communications – Chris Wood

Advertising campaign is proceeding – example of some of the ads currently going into local papers and radio stations for November and December were shown. Upcoming ads will be on Energy and Biodiversity. Suggestion to make a cohesive whole of all the ads and present it to remind the public of all that has been circulated.

CR2 Water and Fish – Rodger

Plan to present to commission on Cowichan Water Board in early 2011 and plan what they will want to do. \$5000 approved for education – it will be used this year.

Air – report by Rodger Hunter. They have not decided what initiatives to do – request approved funding to roll over to 2011.

CR3 Land – Justin Straker

Subcommittee report was distributed. Two issues:
Planning and budget of proposed land use workshop and recommendations on issues regarding land use and draft motions put forward.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the land workshop on carrying capacity study in January or February 2011.

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion on a motion to the Board re the land report needs carried forward to move to next meeting. Need to frame it in a positive manner. Plan to have motion to the Board for their January meeting. Commission members will give comments to Justin or Dave and will then be formulated and discussed in greater detail by group at next meeting.

- CR4 Agriculture** – workshop planned for December 9, 2010 at Duncan Fire Hall. It will be an all day event. Guest speaker, Jill Clapperton, has given a reduced rate for the Agricultural Society. It will be a free workshop and information will be circulated. Farmers are very pleased that CVRD is supporting this. The Ag Society will help financially if necessary. Expecting 100 people. Reducing ground water and surface water contamination are topics of interest for this workshop as well. Question: How are other committees planning to do the work involved in setting up and putting on workshops? Is CVRD providing staff support? Other partners enhance the workshops and make them more credible as well.

Question to be answered in the future: how did the Agricultural Advisory Committee form? Who are the members and how where they chosen?

STAFF REPORTS

- SR1 Species at Risk** –Staff report tabled as a useful backgrounder for the commissions consideration, relative to the issues of Species at Risk and potential impacts on local governments.

NEW BUSINESS

- NB1 Coastal Douglas-Fir Ecosystem.** Will be discussed at an upcoming meeting. Also to be discussed will be the Economic Strategic Plan that took place with the Focus Group this past month.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, December 16, 2010

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Cowichan Valley Regional District Environment Commission

Land Subcommittee Report – Recommended Targets and Actions
December, 2010

Securing our Wealth

Wisely, the CVRD Corporate Strategic Plan adopted earlier this year identifies “Sustainable Land Use” as its number one goal, followed immediately by “A Healthy Environment.” These goals recognize that our wealth in the Cowichan flows from nature, in ways both obvious and not.

Both before and after European contact, First Nations in this region prospered on the bounty of salmon and other resources drawn from the environment. Historically and into the present, our living forests generated jobs and industrial activity. In the new century, our verdant landscape attracts both tourist dollars and investment from new settlers.

Other ecological services that support our wealth are less apparent but no less essential. The capacity of upland forests to absorb precipitation is a dominant factor in reducing (or raising) the risk of costly and dangerous downstream flooding. How well landscape surfaces permit rainwater to permeate the ground and refill an aquifer determines whether wells can be relied on to serve our homes and communities. Beds of eelgrass in the Cowichan estuary, scarcely seen from shore, supply the nursery stock of small creatures that support commercial fishing at the top of the marine food chain. And in the emerging markets for renewable energy and the recapture of excess carbon from the atmosphere, the big trees that cover two-thirds of the CVRD are enviable productive assets.

Viewed on a global scale the human economy, after millennia of expansion in a context of nature surplus, has transitioned into an irrevocable context of nature scarcity. As confirmed by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and numerous other authorities, the human economic demand on nature—that is, on productive living ecosystem services—exceeds supply. In this new world of permanent nature-scarcity, the Cowichan’s highly productive ecosystems constitute economic assets of great and increasing value.

The quality of those assets however, depends entirely on their health, and on our ability to maintain this health in the future. The 2010 State of the CVRD Environment Report inventoried 80 indicators of our environmental assets’ health. It found that virtually all are on negative

trends. The region is losing rare ecosystems, eelgrass beds are retreating, and the diverse species structure that provides resilience to ecosystems is fraying and eroding.

A natural wealth management strategy for the CVRD

In respect of its mandate to provide guidance to the CVRD Board on achieving sustainable prosperity in the Cowichan region, your Environment Commission has therefore developed the recommendations presented below. These recommendations are designed to arrest and reverse the decline in ecosystem services now draining our natural wealth account, and to protect these assets as the foundation of our region's future.

Our developed recommendations fall in three broad categories:

1. assessment of regional carrying capacity and cumulative effects of human land use;
2. protective "targets" for land-based indicators; and
3. immediate actions for regional improvement and achievement of targets.

Recommendations are based on consideration of the context described above, and on specific information contained in the CVRD's SoE 2010.

Recommendation #1 – Assess Regional Carrying Capacity and Cumulative Effects

We know that our continued existence and prosperity rely not only on a functional environment around us, but on our thoughtful use of the land, goods and services that our environment provides. This means that we must balance our activities and the benefits they generate with the continued ability of our regional environment to provide a healthy and resilient foundation for these activities. We therefore need tools to help us quantify the economic and ecologic costs and benefits of our actions, and the ecological "carrying capacities" of our region, so that we can evaluate our land-use decisions with respect to these costs, benefits and capacities.

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. This

recommended assessment would be referenced to the range of pre-industrial environmental "baseline" conditions, and would include explicit (and transparent, quantified, and defensible) evaluation of the environmental and economic "trade-off" decisions that we are likely to face in the near future in the CVRD. This process would support identification of future environmental and economic goals for the region, and a range of strategies (e.g., zoning, protection, focused development, best practices, restoration) to achieve these goals.

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

As work proceeds in detail to balance economic and environmental needs and develop strategic targets for sustainability, the 2010 SoE makes it clear that for long-term environmental health, policy change must be initiated now. The following interim targets are recommended, based on data included in the CVRD report, and on the "precautionary principle"¹:

A. Protection of Lands

Issue: We know that as our human footprint expands across the landbase, so does the risk of loss of ecological integrity and function on that landbase. Correspondingly, as we "protect" areas from unrestricted human activity, the risk to ecological integrity declines, and our ability to support the future prosperity grows. Table 1 shows information on levels of landbase protection and attendant risk from a science review of conservation planning and target-setting for eastern Vancouver Island.

¹ Principle #15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development states: "In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied.... Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation." <http://www.unep.org/Documents.multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=78&ArticleID=1163>

Table 1. Estimated ranges of protection associated with different risk and certainty levels. Inferred from review of thresholds (Price et al. 2007) and hypotheses about uncertainty (from Holt, 2007).

Range of habitat protection	Estimated maximum risk level	How much certainty?
70% plus	Low	High
60% - 70%	Low – Moderate	Moderate
50% - 60	Moderate	Moderate – Low
40% -50%	Moderate	Moderate – Low
30% - 40%	Moderate - High	Moderate – Low
<30%	High	High

Currently, our level of protection in the CVRD is very low, totaling less than 8% across the region. Only the wettest Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH) forests are above the “high-risk” 30% threshold, due to their inclusion in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. Overall, our human footprint, including forest harvesting, covers 75% of the region.

Recommendation:

Based on Table 1, secure representative “conservation-focused” lands, including:

- **A minimum of 50% of each biogeoclimatic zone/subzone (e.g., all remaining Coastal Douglas-Fir [CDF] not under permanent agricultural and residential conversion).**
- **A minimum of 70% of the historic extent of listed Sensitive Ecosystems (e.g., 100% of all current intact Sensitive Ecosystems).**
- **A minimum of 70% of the historic extent of listed ecological communities at risk, prioritizing “Red-Listed” communities.**

“Conservation-focused” lands would be defined as lands which are managed with the primary goal of maintenance of ecological integrity, and would likely include a mixture of “protected” and “restricted-use” zones. Only activities consistent with the priority goal (e.g. non-motorized recreation, limited motorized corridors in protected areas; human activities that approximate natural disturbance regimes in the “restricted-use” zones) would be

permitted on these lands, in order to enable their primary purpose of ecological maintenance.²

A more detailed suggestion for achieving these targets would be to secure a minimum of 30% of each biogeoclimatic zone/subzone in permanent, legislatively protected areas, with the remaining minimum 20% in "restricted-use" zoning, where human activities must approximate natural disturbance regimes – these activities could likely include some types of selective forest harvest (see below). For Sensitive Ecosystems and at-risk communities, the target for permanent legislative protection would be higher (e.g., 60%), with the remaining area in "restricted-use" zones.

B. Protection of Old Forest

Issue: We know that "old forest" (defined in the SoE 2010 and in this document as intact mature forest with dominant/co-dominant tree ages of >140 years) provides important habitat to many wildlife species (e.g., cavity-nesting birds, Roosevelt elk), as well as providing critical ecosystem functions such as hydrologic attenuation. We also know that historic levels of old forest in our region would have been approximately 50% in the Coastal Douglas-Fir zone, and 70-95% in the wetter Coastal Western Hemlock forests. Today, the proportion of old forest is above 60% in the western and upper-elevation parts of the region, but below 25% in all other zones, including <1% in the Coastal Douglas-Fir zone, indicating very poor forest condition today for the majority of our forested ecosystems.

If we combine the range of protection targets presented in Table 1 with knowledge of typical forest age distributions, we can generate targets for old forest. An example of this approach for the Coastal Douglas-Fir zone is presented in Table 2, where the yellow highlighted row shows targets for a "low-risk" (70%) level of protection for our definition of old forest (>140 years). A similar approach can be applied to the wetter forests in the region.

² Two identified Sensitive Ecosystems in our region – older second-growth forests and seasonally flooded agricultural fields – are "modified systems" created by human land use. Protection of these ecosystems requires specific management strategies that do not fit the model suggested for natural systems above.

Table 2. Cumulative targets for forests of different ages. This approach helps to identify which parts of the landscape require additional effort or restoration in order to meet a low-risk target (from Holt, 2007).

Age of forest	Estimated proportion of landbase	For example, using a target (at 70%) – low risk.
>250 years	29%	20%
>200 years	37%	26%
>140 years	50%	35%
>80 years	67%	45%

If we wish to maintain the ecological integrity of our region's forest ecosystems, we must protect existing old forests, and develop strategies to restore levels of those ecosystems that are currently below our target protection thresholds.

Recommendation:

Set old-forest retention targets of:

- a minimum of 35% of the CDF and CWHxm zones/subzones; and
- a minimum of 50% of all wetter zones.

It is further recommended that harvest be deferred on all intact old forest stands in the region until clear strategies are in place to secure the above targets for old-forest retention.

Note that the target metrics are intended to be calculated on the total historic forest range, not on remaining forest area. As an example, there are approximately 40,000 ha in the Coastal Douglas-Fir zone within the CVRD. Half of these have already been "permanently converted" to agricultural/residential/urban uses. Recommendation 2A sets a target of 50%, or 20,000 ha, for conservation focus, which effectively means achieving conservation/retention of all non-converted lands. Recommendation 2B sets an old forest retention goal of 35%, or 14,000 ha, which is 35% of the entire CDF land base, but would be 70% of the conservation-focused area.

These targets can currently be met for the wetter and high-elevation zones/subzones in the region, which comprise approximately 30% of the regional landbase. All other zones/subzones would require active management and restoration to reach these targets.

Recommendation #3 – Immediate and Mid-Term Actions

Immediate – identified opportunities or “low-hanging” fruit to improve indicator status, public perspectives and knowledge, and to progress towards targets:

- **Re-zoning to conservation designation of all identified Sensitive Ecosystems** (see SoE 2010, McPhee et al. 2000, and AXYS Environmental Consulting Ltd., 2005) in the CVRD – examples include the Koksilah “Big Trees” area, Eagle Heights, and the Chemainus “Balds”.
- **Develop a conservation/restoration strategy for Garry oak and associated ecosystems to meet targets for conservation and old forest contained in this report** – this represents a starting point, as this process will have to be conducted for multiple ecosystems.
- **Undertake small-scale environmental modification projects of CVRD facilities** – the Attachment to this document presents a vision and example for environmental drainage modification of the Kerry Park parking. Such projects are intended to both reduce the ecological footprint of these facilities and to provide demonstrations of simple, ecologically appropriate ways of changing current practices.

Mid-Term – during development of this report, we recognized that many of the recommended actions and targets can only be implemented and achieved through collaboration with various industrial and governmental partners. Of particular importance in the CVRD, where 80% of the land base is in forest cover, is the presence of industrial private forest landholders/licensees. **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.**

References

- AXYS Environmental Consulting Ltd., 2005. Redigitizing of Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory polygons to exclude disturbed areas – summary report. Prepared for the Canadian Wildlife Service, Delta, B.C.
- Holt, R.F. 2007. Conservation Planning and Targets for the Coastal Douglas-fir Ecosystem. A Science Review and Preliminary Approach. Prepared for ILMB, Nanaimo. Available at www.veridianecological.ca
- McPhee, M., P.Ward, J. Kirkby, L.Wolfe, N. Page, K. Dunster, N. K. Dawe and I. Nykwist. 2000. Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory: East Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands, 1993 - 1997. Volume 2: Conservation Manual. Technical Report Series No. 345, Canadian Wildlife Service, Pacific and Yukon Region, British Columbia.

ATTACHMENT – PARKING-LOT “GREENING” EXAMPLE

SOME SIMPLE IDEAS FOR “GREENING” CVRD PARKING LOTS KERRY PARK ARENA EXAMPLE

PURPOSE AND INTRODUCTION

There are 2 main purposes for modifying the parking lot drainage as suggested below:

1. To reduce the ecological footprint of these facilities; and
2. To demonstrate simple, ecologically appropriate ways of modifying existing paved surfaces to reduce the ecological impact of these facilities.

Paved surfaces modify normal hydrologic processes by transferring rainfall directly to the storm-water drainage system rather than allowing it to infiltrate the soil and recharge groundwater systems. In urban areas this causes unintended consequences on local streams and watercourses (Photograph 1).



Photograph 1. Askew Creek in Chemainus has experienced excessive bank erosion due to increases in peak flow associated with paving in the watershed above.

Paved surfaces collect pollutants that without treatment enter our watercourses, our estuaries and eventually our food chains. Providing simple, natural treatment facilities can significantly reduce pollutant loading while creating habitat for a diversity of organisms.

The following example from the Kerry Park Arena parking lot has the added advantage of addressing pollutants that might arise from the recycling bins in the parking lot.

KERRY PARK EXAMPLE

One corner of the Kerry Park parking lot drains directly to Shawnigan Creek (Photograph 2). The curbed parking lot edges could be made into vegetated swales while a rain garden could be constructed in the corner of the parking lot with the overflow going to Shawnigan Creek.



Photograph 2. Part of the Kerry Park Arena parking lot drains directly to Shawnigan Creek. Construction of vegetated swales leading to a rain garden would be a simple way of treating parking lot drainage.

Vegetated swales could be constructed along the curbed edges of the parking lot to provide the initial treatment of drainage water. They could be about 1.5 m wide and 0.5 m deep with sloping sides. The sides and bottom should be loosened to encourage infiltration and groundwater recharge. Porous “no post” barriers or large old logs (former boom logs) could be used to prevent parking lot users from driving into the swales.

The rain garden could consist of a small basin with an oil trapping outlet (underflow system) in case of a significant oil spill in the parking lot. The basin could be oval shaped 4 or 5 m in length and 3 or 4 m in width. As with the swales, the garden should be about 0.5 m deep with the bottom and sides loosened to allow infiltration. The outlet should be situated to retain 20 to 25 cm of water in the garden at all times,

Emergent aquatic species (Typha, Carex, Sagittaria, etc.) can be transplanted as sods from appropriate donor sites such as roadside ditches where maintenance activities will remove these plants in any case. Planting at a density of 0.5 m spacing will be adequate as many of these species spread by creeping rhizomes, they will quickly fill the available space. Maintenance should not be needed on the swales or garden for many years, although once the vegetation is well established, these areas can act as sources for transplants to new sites.

INFORMATION DISPLAYS

Information about the swales and rain gardens could be provided on signs and with pamphlets. This is an opportunity to provide information on green initiatives being undertaken by the CVRD in a location that will be seen by many.

OTHER CVRD SITES

There are a variety of CVRD operated parking lots throughout the region. Vegetated swales and rain gardens could be established at many of these. Specific designs would be needed to address the geometry of the site being considered, although the general dimensions presented in the Kerry Park example could be used in most cases.

Dyan Freer

From: Grace Peng [gracepeng@live.ca]
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2010 11:13 PM
To: 12things@cvrdenviron.com
Subject: Idea #05: 'Clear the Air'

Re: Idea #05: Clear the Air (October 22, 2010 print of the Cowichan Valley Citizen)

Dear CVRD;

The recent blurb was a welcome reminder that our calls for help in cases of respiratory illness in the Cowichan Valley has not gone unnoticed.

However, our liberal open burning practices only account for some of the 'fine particulate matter'. In recent years, the Crofton Catalyst Pulp and Paper Mill has produced generous amounts of smog. The 'fine particulate matter' that created those '...elevated rates of illness and death...' in the South side of the Cowichan Valley can be seen on calm, overcast days as a fine yellowish streak extending across the eastern horizon, in both directions, to the Catalyst mill stacks.

I was diagnosed with chronic asthma 13 years ago. I've lived in Crofton for almost 15 years. I am not the only one.

But what can be said? Most of Crofton depends on the pulp mill for a pay check. Apparently, the health of the economy has taken priorities over the well-being of ourselves and our children.

Yours truly,
Grace Peng

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Dyan Freer

From: jay siska [jaysiska@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2010 2:30 PM
To: 12things@cvrdeniro.com
Subject: Idea #07 - We need to be able to build micro houses!

Folks,

As well as "growing up not out" we need the ability to build free-standing micro houses for rental units on our smaller-size lots.

I live right next to the Post Office in Shawnigan Village. I would love to have a small rental unit in my backyard, to help with the mortgage and bills. I have the space, am on bus routes, and everything is within walking distance. But I can't, because of zoning and bylaws. As I look around, some of my neighbours' lots would suit this kind of higher-density addition to the core village area, whereas some simply would not because of the placement of the existing dwellings. So were the CVRD to relax rules regarding free-standing secondary suites not everyone would elect to have one, nor could they reasonably build one.

The result would be the in-fill of a variety of existing lots with small - and likely very charming - units without most of the environmental impacts of the construction process for new multi-unit structures (which I'm also in favour of - residential over commercial). A resident-renter would have a home to call their own and not be relegated to a basement suite, thus his or her quality of life improves. Smaller, compact structures are also less of an impact on the environment as they require less energy to run and heat. By their size alone, they are less expensive to build.

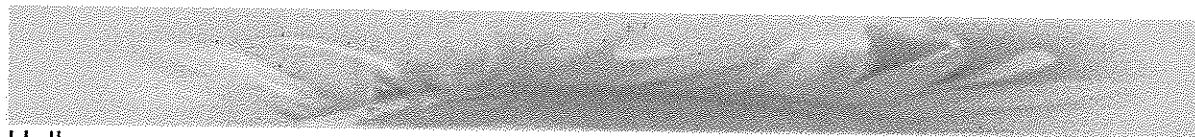
The benefits to both the homeowner and the renter would be huge, and would fulfill the goals and intentions of 'Idea #07', whereas the perceivable negative effects would be minimal.

Regards,

Jay

Dyan Freer

From: Mary Hunt [maryhunt@shaw.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, November 03, 2010 12:14 PM
To: 12things@cvrdenviro.com
Subject: smoke



Hello,

I saw your article in the local paper. I have been contacting the Shawnigan Area director for years trying to get some controls on backyard burns. He said to me that he lives in Shawnigan and never noticed the smoke. I find that hard to believe but perhaps he lives in a windy open area. I have many neighbours and they almost all love to light fires outside. The air is often so bad I am driven from my garden into the house. The house lets in smoke as well so on very bad days I leave the area if possible. Many people burn in their yards, just the yard debris is bad enough but many piles include plastic trash bags, old mattresses, old paint cans, painted wood, plywood etc. I have contacted the environment minister but am told unless the fire is proven to be off site waste they cannot do anything. The proving part is the problem. The local fire chief has done his best, due to his efforts a notorious neighbourhood offender has scaled back the Styrofoam, plastic, paint, garbage, off site waste packaging etc. burns somewhat but again the fire chief cannot do anything in "burning season" as no laws permit him to. I would welcome a ban on burning. Many piles like the one near us last week smouldered for three days, the smoke did not lift and I was unable to go outside. All the burn was yard waste, all green wood, wet leaves etc. so maximum smoke, untended and set right against property line bordering acres of forest. If by laws were in effect this debris could be composted, which would be a lot easier for me and many others. The local fire hall posts a sign saying backyard burning OK in fall and suddenly the air which was fairly clear becomes very poor, especially on weekends when people go into their yards and burn stuff, the same days I would like to sit on the patio or do some gardening. Many days the entire Cowichan Valley is shrouded in smoke from Duncan to Shawnigan. In October I visited my family in Skutz Falls and three major fires were burning, the smoke was not lifting and the family house was surrounded with thick smoke. My eyes and throat were stinging, my grandson was coughing. One fire was going for days new neighbours burning land debris, wet and green wood, one neighbour burning an old house down with all the attendant paints etc, and one burning large piles he hauls from his job to his residential property. My daughter phoned her director for assistance but he said he cannot do anything.

Thank you so much for taking this issue seriously. When a few people lived in CVRD it was probably a lot less smoke but now there are so many people this is a serious problem for many people.

Sincerely,
Mary Hunt

From: Bruce Clarke [<mailto:bruce@shoebox.bc.ca>]
Sent: Sunday, November 28, 2010 7:21 PM
To: Kate Miller
Cc: lianni@shaw.ca; kerrietalbot@shaw.ca
Subject: CVRD Environment Commission

Kate;

I noticed with interest the ad in the weekend paper "Water..What's More Important" and so I checked out the website 12things.ca where apparently the plan for water and other environmental issues are discussed. I may be assuming the website reflects the consensus items on the agenda. Because

I'm concerned the plan and the commission show no initiative to solve the fact the regional waste water system is unsatisfactory. How can such an extensive plan be blind to this region being listed as one of the top polluters in the province for our lack of attention to waste water treatment? The volume of water, the location of the current lagoons and the obvious crisis of water requirements for adjacent projects obviate the requirement for this commission to be actively involved in finding a solution.

Please advise.

Bruce Clarke
1719 Glen Road
Cowichan Bay
250-748-3962

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Dyan Freer

From: Craig Meredith [cmeredith@shaw.ca]
Sent: Thursday, December 02, 2010 12:22 PM
To: 12things@cvrdenviro.com
Subject: Feedback from the 12things.ca website

Clear the air and getting energy smart are generally more difficult in the 250 calling area vs 604. In the more urban areas, there is access to natural gas and therefore they are able to keep their hydro rates down by staying in Tier one. We stopped burning wood a few years ago but the penalizing hydro rates for those who have no access to natural gas has forced us to start burning again. BC Hydro is well aware that their power smart program has some major holes especially on the Island. As far as Teresen, they are not expanding its system unless a large development is coming on line.

Craig Meredith
6172 Roome Road,
North Cowichan, BC
V9L 4N6
1-250-748-8920

Dyan Freer

From: jay siska [jaysiska@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, December 03, 2010 3:03 PM
To: 12things@cvrdenviron.com
Subject: Big Ideas #3

Regarding your recent newspaper ad, and the questions it asks, I have the following comments and potential solutions:

While the concepts put forward in the final para. all rightly deserve the answer "yes", these concepts would have an extremely difficult time being brought to fruition because of costs, developers' profit margins, and the affordability of housing.

Under current practices, the CVRD could mandate developers install both district- or subdivision-scale geothermal (or other renewable source), and LEED Gold-standard construction, but the end result would be the developer passing those costs directly along to the purchaser, thereby making new construction housing much more expensive, and therefore less affordable for all but the wealthy.

Should the district mandate these same concepts for builders of large-scale projects such as the condo tower/townhouse/grocery store/retail which had been (is still?) proposed for the vacant property across from the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre? Absolutely, yes. Why? Because economies of scale would make it easier to apply, and the cost of which could be spread over many, many more unit-sales.

So what can be done for the builder of a smaller-scale development? The answer is easy - cover the cost (or part of the cost) of this additional construction and increased standards through density incentives.

Meaning:

A developer has a piece of property zoned for 20 houses. Let's say the additional cost of the geothermal and LEED (or BuiltGreen) standards would be \$30K per unit, or \$600,000 total. The CVRD could both mandate and allow a density increase of 25% resulting in 5 additional units within the same subdivision - the sales of which generate an additional \$300,000 in capital for the developer. The cost of the renewable heating and ultra efficient dwellings passed onto the new owner is only an additional \$15K, something I wouldn't hesitate to jump at should it be offered.

While all these figures I've applied are arbitrary - as I have no idea of real-world costs of these concepts - I feel this idea should be investigated thoroughly by the CVRD.

I have wrote before on my support for both micro-houses and the availability of a variety of housing options in new construction in the area, and these concepts could be applied in my proposed density-increase idea. Yes, the developer would be allowed an additional percentage of units in his project, but how those units are brought into the fold of his proposal could be approached in a number of ways.

Do you allow the developer the freedom to divide the land as he sees fit? (Not preferable in my opinion, as likely results in cookie-cutter product) Or do you mandate a mix of units and price-points within the development? (Not every buyer wants or can afford a 2,200 sq. ft. house, and would instead be happy with a well-designed 750 sq. ft. dwelling unit with an easy-care yard just large enough to let the dog into, have a BBQ, and a few flowers out front)

The end result of all the above is a mixed and more vibrant community of single people, families, and empty-nesters who wish to remain in the community while down-sizing, an increase in density consistent with the "Grow Up Not Out" Big Idea, and high-efficiency dwellings employing renewable sources to reach the goals of the original Big Idea #3.

I see this as a win for everyone, and I welcome your thoughts on the matter.

Regards,

Jay Siska
2739 E. Shawnigan Lake Rd.

024

Dyan Freer

From: Diana Hardacker [dianahardacker@telus.net]
Sent: Saturday, December 04, 2010 5:31 PM
To: 12things@cvrdenviron.com
Subject: yes to your energy smart ideas

I really like your ideas in today's Cowichan Valley Citizen "Be Energy Smart". If you have the ability to implement all three ideas: 1. requiring new subdivisions to provide district-scale heating from renewable sources
2. New home builders must meet the same energy standards as Europe
3. Houses put up for resale must undergo energy audits
please do so as soon as possible. You have my full support and encouragement.

Sincerely,
Diana Hardacker
3152 Channel Blvd.
Chemainus BC
V0R 1k2
250-246-4463

Margaret Mead, a famous observer of human society, said "Never doubt that a small group of citizens can change the world, indeed it's the only thing that ever has".
Be kind, remove my email address when you forward and use BCC; say no to spammers

0 025

Dyan Freer

From: Cheryl Bancroft [cheryl@futureworks.cc]
Sent: Tuesday, December 07, 2010 10:35 AM
To: 12things@cvrdenviro.com
Subject: Feedback from the 12things.ca website

The 12 Things are commendable as a good start. I would like to expand #3 Be Energy Smart with the suggestion that all new residential construction be provided with incentives to optimize energy savings. Currently, incentives are only provided for retrofit work. I believe that incentives that include new construction will help developers and individuals "lead the way".

My husband and I are in the process of building our home in the Ladysmith area using geothermal, heat pumps, radiant floor heating, LED lighting and native plant landscaping because we believe this is the sustainable way to build. We are not being helped financially by any organization, yet homes that are being retrofitted for energy conservation do receive financial incentives.

We also experienced road blocks with local government in our effort to obtain permits for new technologies - particularly geothermal (hydrothermal). Government forms are outdated and do not have appropriate "boxes" for new technologies, and this in itself created an obstacle to obtaining approvals. Every approving officer has a different opinion on approval procedures. A cumbersome process only discourages energy conservation leadership.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Bancroft
T: 250 924 1100
E: cheryl@futureworks.cc

Dyan Freer

Subject: FW: what to do?

From: V Russell [<mailto:vrussell@shaw.ca>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 07, 2010 8:51 PM
To: 12things@cvrdenviro.com
Subject: what to do?

Yes, I think that houses should have stricter policies on how energy efficient they need to be. They should be built with passive solar heating, and also all should have solar hot water (unless of course it is not feasible for the site). Water cisterns for watering the garden etc. These should be part of the package of building a house.
Valerie Russell

Dyan Freer

From: Dyan Freer
Sent: Tuesday, December 07, 2010 9:16 AM
To: 'Bruce Fraser'; 'Bruce Sampson'; 'Chris Wood'; 'Dave Polster'; 'Gerry Giles'; 'John Morris'; 'Judy Stafford'; Justin Straker; 'Kate Miller'; 'Kevin Visscher'; 'Larry George'; 'Lori Iannidinardo'; 'Pete Keber'; 'Phil Kent'; 'Rob Hutchins'; 'Rodger Hunter'; 'Roger Wiles'
Cc: Warren Jones
Subject: 12 things

-----Original Message-----

From: Kathy Wachs [<mailto:kathywachs2@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 07, 2010 8:57 AM
To: 12things@cvrdenviro.com
Subject: 12 things

Dear CVRD,

Thank you very much for your media campaign and everything you are doing to inform us of ways we can make our lives and those of future generations better. What you are doing is critical. You are our heroes

Sincerely,

Kathy Wachs
Chemainus