

Minutes of a Meeting held April 7, 2008

Present: S. Brice (Chair), J. Mar (Vice-Chair), L. Adams, K. Baker, J. Bauche, K. Brown, I. Dyck, R. Fromholt, B. Holl, W. Macdonald, J. O’Riordan, B. Reid, T. Sheldon, F. Smith, P. West, A. Wolfe,

CRD staff: Tracy Corbett, Andrea Mercer, Teresa Waddell (Recorder)

Regrets: David Coney, Janet Gagne, Gary Gibson, R. Ord,

Vice Chair Mar called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Ian Dyck, SECONDED by Forrest Smith that the agenda be approved as amended: add to new business issue of plastic bags as an RTE environmental indicator and proposed motion to partner with UVIC’s Common Energy.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of January 21, 2008

As a result of difficulties in the recent distribution of the minutes, approval deferred.

3. Review of Task List of January 21, 2008

- Tracy Corbett indicated that she had met with the RTE to discuss potential areas for RTE participation in the RGS review process. As outlined in a recent email, she noted that the RGS review Work Plan will go to the Committee of the Whole on April 30 and that the consultation strategy will follow soon after.
- Andrea Mercer provided an update on the idling control bylaw indicating that it was moving forward. CRD staff are meeting with Dr. Stanwick to clarify VIHA’s role and the consultation process is anticipated to commence in June/July.
- Andrea Mercer provided an update on the “zero waste” initiative noting that Solid Waste staff are continuing to explore the idea and will be reporting back to the Environment Committee in the fall. Jon O’Riordan indicated that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee would be meeting on April 10 to review its strategic plan and the issue would be discussed at that time.

4. Chair's Remarks

Vice Chair Mar indicated that he would chair the meeting until Chair Brice’s arrival shortly after 9:00 am. He extended a “thank you” to David Coney for co-chairing the Food Matters! Forum held on March 14 and opened the floor to the subcommittee Chairs.

Paul West reported that the April 3 pesticide seminar with Micheline Levesque on the role of local government in pesticide reduction was a success with 20-30 attendees. He noted the wide range of attendees including Councillors from the District of Nanaimo, North Saanich, Esquimalt, and Central Saanich, as well as a number of municipal staff from across the region.

**5. Presentation: Alan Osborne, Executive Director
Intergovernmental Relations and Planning Division
Ministry of Community Services**

Ted Sheldon introduced guest speaker Alan Osborne, Ministry of Community Services. With a number of local initiatives applicable to the CRD, Ted Sheldon noted that Mr. Osborne provided a key link to Provincial climate change programs at the provincial-municipal level.

See attached PowerPoint Presentation.

Alan Osborne noted that in his 20 years of service with the BC government, he had never seen a project like climate change, as it crosscuts every ministry. He noted that the Provincial government is moving quickly and that the project is highly complex and chaotic.

Highlighting the integral role local government needs to play in mitigating climate change, he noted that about half of the Provincial GHG reduction targets have been allocated to potential projects, but that they are still looking for the “other half.” He reported that climate decisions are already being considered, as each new project proposal is evaluated on its impact on climate. He noted the creation of a “Community Practice” program in each ministry to engage all staff members (>34 000) on climate change.

He highlighted the Green Communities Program, with its proposed climate registry and rating system. He noted the distinction between the *Community* Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI) and the *corporate* Climate Registry in development. Touching on the Smart Planning for Communities initiative, he noted the common dilemma of the lack of municipal staff to engage with these issues and noted the Provincial creation of “Sustainability Facilitators” to help communities to get started.

When asked about the consultation strategy that will be used in determining the targets for local governments, he indicated that they work closely with UBCM and have/will carry out a number of workshops with Ministry Executives, UBCM and other stakeholders.

Surprisingly, he noted that there was “no shortage of money” and that they were “having a hard time spending it.” He reported that there are a great deal of activities in progress, that they are always looking for new ideas, but that they had more than enough to keep them busy for some time.

When asked about the urgency of requiring local governments to incorporate targets into their OCPs/RGS (ie. whether they were taking the ‘carrot’ or ‘stick,’ soft or hard, approach), Alan Osborne replied that they prefer to use financial incentives and political pressure (competition), but eventually if required, they are prepared to use more legislative force.

Resource:

The Playbook provides local governments with guidance and resources to rapidly advance green buildings, neighborhoods and infrastructure. <http://www.greenplaybook.org>

Ted Sheldon thanked Alan Osborne for his presentation with the gift of a RTE mug and a \$30 gift certificate for Bolan Books.

6. Subcommittee Chair Updates (attached)

7. Advisory Committee Updates (attached)

Water Advisory Committee

Ian Dyck reported that his presentation on the RTE had been well received by the WAC. He noted that the WAC is enthusiastic about participating in Indicator reporting and in an environmental forum. He reported that a motion was passed at the last WAC meeting to collaborate with the RTE in hosting a forum on the water cycle. In addition, a motion was passed to collaborate with the RTE in developing a Regional Water Charter. Ian Dyck inquired about the RTE’s interest in participating in such a bilateral arrangement and Chair Brice referred the item to the next RTE meeting agenda and asked staff to do some prep work to inform the discussion.

8. Items for Discussion

o Environmental Advisory Forum

Chair Brice reported that the RTE executive had met on April 3 and discussed the next forum topic. She noted that they had discussed the potential forum timeline and given the timing of municipal elections, they had decided that they would hold one forum this year (early

summer or early fall). However, she suggested that the RTE begin a planning cycle, calendaring future forums, with the next forum scheduled for early in the New Year.

Suggested Forum Topics:

1. Integrated Resource Management – water and wastewater
2. Water stewardship/ Watershed health
3. Climate Change
4. Regional Growth Strategy – incorporating climate change targets
5. Sewage Treatment

Forum Purpose: expand RTE network and increase effectiveness of environmental advisors in their ability to influence positive change.

It was noted that the RGS has been identified as a priority for the RTE. When asked about the potential for a forum on the RGS, Tracy Corbett responded favorably, indicating that although the process has been stalled, a forum may provide an opportunity to move things forward. She noted that there was a need to broaden dialogue and proposed potential focus areas including integrated water management and the coastal zone management plan. Linda Adams offered a reminder that electoral areas would not be engaged in a RGS forum as they are not included in the RGS.

It was noted that considerable preparation is required to hold a successful forum and Anita Wolfe offered to facilitate the planning process. Teresa Waddell will circulate potential dates.

After considerable discussion, it was decided that the forum topic would be **integrated resource management with a focus on water/wastewater/watersheds.**

9. New Business

- Plastic Bags as an Environmental Indicator

Chair Brice reported that the Board had approved a “multi-pronged” approach to reducing plastic bag use including expanding plastic recycling and working with industry to reduce bag use. The Environment Committee had requested that the Roundtable include plastic bag use as an environmental indicator and staff had been requested to do further research on reducing plastic bag use.

February 27 Environment Committee motion:

MOVED by Director Blackwell, **SECONDED** by Alternate Director Mahovlich, that:

- 1) the Roundtable on the Environment be requested to include plastic bag use as an environmental indicator, and staff be requested to do further research on reducing plastic bag use;
- 2) an increase in education about alternatives to plastic bags be endorsed in cooperation with industry stakeholders, as outlined in Option 2 of the staff report;
- 3) a letter be written to the minister of environment regarding inclusion of plastic bags and Styrofoam in the BC Recycling Regulation; and
- 4) staff be requested to do further research on the inclusion of plastic bags in the blue box program.

Chair Brice referred the issue to the Planning and Monitoring Subcommittee Chair, Jon O’Riordan. Jon O’Riordan indicated that he would take the issue to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and bring back a response.

- Motion: Partnership with UVIC’s Common Energy

Motion: That the CRD RTE work with the University Of Victoria’s Common Energy Association as a partner organization in a funding application for a \$2,500 matched grant from the BC Healthy Communities (a non-profit run through the UBCM) to undertake

"community capacity-building and awareness project(s)" in fiscal year 08/09, tentatively entitled "Community Conversation on Climate Change" to be held in September 2008 with the understanding that once the application is successful and the detailed work plan is finalized these plans would be presented along with a funding request in the amount of \$2,500 for approval by the RTE .

MOVED by Forrest Smith, SECONDED by Paul West that the RTE endorse the partnership between Common Energy, a registered society, and the RTE.

CARRIED

Tracy Corbett noted that funds were available from the Planning department to support the motion.

On motion, Chair Brice adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Next meeting: May 26, 2008 at 8:45 a.m.

TASK LIST

TASK	ACTION
Discuss "zero waste" initiative with SWAC to determine if a letter from the RTE in support is justified at this point in time	Jon O'Riordan
Seek an update from staff on "zero waste" initiative after staff report goes to Environment Committee in fall	Andrea/Teresa (November)
Discuss the potential for the RTE to collaborate with the Water Advisory Committee in developing a Regional Water Charter	Agenda item for May
Carry out prep work to inform discussion on developing a Regional Water Charter	Ian / CRD staff
Circulate potential dates for the Environmental Forum	Teresa
Draft a Earth Day post card to be distributed to all Mayors, Council members and CRD staff	Teresa
Take the plastic bag issue to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and report back to the RTE	Jon O'Riordan

Reports of Subcommittee Chairs

State of the Environment Indicators Subcommittee:

(Jon O'Riordan)

The subcommittee met on March 10th. It agreed to delay the implementation of an update environmental indicator report till there was an opportunity to meet with the chairs of the other sub committees and the budget for the RTE had been determined.

The Subcommittee plans to bring forward a decision on the indicator report update to the May meeting of the RTE

The Subcommittee reviewed various subjects for the forum involving the environmental advisory committees around the CRD. It supported looking at the integrated management of water and waste in the CRD with a focus of following the path of water use from the Sooke Reservoir to its discharge into Juan de Fuca and searching for more efficient use of water and better integration with the management of solid and liquid wastes.

Environmental Stewardship:

(Paul West)

The subcommittee met on March 26, 2008 and reviewed draft terms of reference and a tentative schedule for the coming year. There was considerable discussion of the range of activities in which the committee could be involved, particularly in response to the number of indicators that need to be reviewed. It was decided to focus on areas of prime importance to current decision-making, including review of the RGS, and support of the ongoing work of the climate change subcommittee. The stewardship subcommittee did identify water, including freshwater and marine environments as being a central area of activity.

The committee also identified the ongoing work of the PURE campaign as a core activity in the next meeting scheduled for the week of April 21 and will be combined with a PURE working group meeting. The PURE working group met on March 3 to interact further with corporate communications in the advertising and outreach activities that are currently ongoing on pesticide reduction. A highlight is the workshop being held April 3 on the role of local government in pesticide reduction.

Food and Agriculture Subcommittee:

(Kevin Brown)

The subcommittee is now at full strength and met in early February with Andrea and Teresa in attendance to advise us. We selected a chair and had initial discussions about the form, direction, activities and possible budgetary needs of the subcommittee. We are attempting to clarify how the subcommittee role and activities should differ from that of our primary partner, CR-FAIR, with respect to food and agriculture issues, as we have somewhat different interests. Two specific priorities for 2008 are subcommittee input for the RGS review / update and strengthening food and agriculture indicators for the indicators report update.

Recent activities:

The final report for phase 2 of the Food and Health Action Plan is complete. As part of phase 3, the Food Matters Forum was held at Victoria City Hall on March 14 in collaboration with partners CR-FAIR and VIHA. The forum was attended by over 100 people, including local growers and processors, representatives (elected and otherwise) from local, regional and provincial government and from non-governmental groups, interested citizens, and media. By all accounts, the forum was very successful. David Coney and Jack Mar participated on behalf of FASC. A follow-up "strategizing" meeting on CRD farmland issues is planned for April 24 and we will participate along with numerous others.

Reports of Advisory Committee Representatives

Core Area and West Shore Sewage Treatment Technical and Community Advisory Committee: (Paul West)

The committee met on March 25, 2008. It had last met formally in May of 2007. The principal item of business was to review final overlay maps on siting criteria for the West Shore and East Saanich sites. The work had been done by Westland Resources and was presented by David Harper. The principal the committee learned that liquid and solid waste integration was under discussion in house. An offer from the committee to participate in that work was not taken up. It appears that public consultation will not begin until January 2009.

Water Advisory Committee: Outlined in Minutes