



Making a difference...together

**Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Environmental Services Committee
Held Wednesday, October 23, 2013, in the Board Room, 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC**

Present: Directors: N. Jensen (Chair), J. Brownoff, J. Cullington (for C. Hamilton), V. Derman, B. Desjardins, D. Fortin, S. Olsen (for D. Howe), W. Sifert (for D. Blackwell), A. Bryson (Board Chair, ex officio)

Guests: Planning, Transportation & Protective Services Committee: G. Hill, M. Loveless (for L. Cross), C. McBride (for T. Daly), J. Ranns, L. Seaton, L. Wergeland, G. Young; Roundtable on the Environment: D. Moffat, S. Cairns, J. Doucette, T. Sheldon, Elevate Consulting: Jae Cooper, Denise Walker

Staff: L. Hutcheson, General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services; G. Harris, Senior Manager, Environmental Protection; M. Rachwalski, Acting General Manager, Planning & Protective Services; C. Leahy (Recorder)

Absent: Directors: J. Mendum, W. Milne

The meeting was called to order at 11:44 am

1. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Director Brownoff, **SECONDED** by Director Derman,
That the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

2. Chair's Remarks:

Chair Jensen welcomed everyone and made introductory remarks. The goal of the workshop is to gather together members of the Environmental Services Committee (ESC), Planning, Transportation & Protective Services Committee (PT&PSC) and Roundtable on the Environment (RTE) to create a vision of how the RTE can effectively assist the Capital Regional District (CRD) on environmental issues.

3. Presentations/Delegations: There were none.

4. Workshop Agenda

L. Hutcheson introduced the workshop facilitator, Jae Cooper from Elevate Consulting. Mr. Cooper outlined workshop objectives and then led a brainstorming session on how the RTE can best provide value to the CRD. Ideas from participants included:

- RTE could be used as an expert panel to provide long-term visioning and a strategic perspective to standing committees.
- Could support committees in prioritizing environmental issues.
- Provide an accountability role: an external, non-partisan, arm's-length expert voice.
- Act as a potential facilitator and/or construct processes to get a broader voice and representation from the community.
- Provide a safe place for standing committees to explore, flesh out and test ideas.

Other discussion items included:

- The capacity of the RTE must be considered; it meets a handful of times a year.
- Is it appropriate for RTE to provide perspective on its current priority areas: Regional Sustainability Strategy, green space and solid waste?
- Immediate issues versus the longer term (20-50 year horizon).
- What is the RTE's public presence?
- Need a better communication linkage between committees and RTE.
- Good governance requires good information; RTE is a panel of experts.
- Must be cautious not to politicize the RTE; it's an apolitical think tank. Also be cautious of RTE becoming a public voice.
- Could consider holding an "idea jam" – RTE collects best and bold ideas/initiatives from the community and presents them to ESC and PT&PSC.
- The RTE is looking for the process for engagement with the committees and would like specifics.

J. Cooper will present the ideas/outcome of the workshop at the RTE's next meeting. The RTE, in turn, will bring forward a recommendation to the ESC.

5. Adjournment

MOVED by Director Brownoff, **SECONDED** by Director Derman,
That the meeting be adjourned at 1:32 pm.

CARRIED

CHAIR

RECORDER