



Making a difference...together

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee

Held March 6, 2013, in the Board Room, 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC

Present: **Directors:** B. Desjardins (Chair), L. Wergeland (Vice Chair), T. Daly, V. Derman, C. Hamilton, G. Hill, J. Ranns (8:25 am), L. Seaton, G. Young, A. Bryson (Board Chair, ex officio)

Staff: R. Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer; M. Misek-Evans, Acting General Manager, Planning & Protective Services; T. Robbins, Acting General Manager Integrated Water Services; H. Kamphof, Senior Manager Housing Secretariat; M. Rachwalski, Senior Manager Health and Capital Planning; J. Klassen, Manager Local Area Planning; S. Palmer, Senior Project Coordinator; S. Webb, Climate Action Program Coordinator; C. Newcomb, Town of Sidney; T. Taylor, Senior Administrative Secretary, Planning & Protective Services (recorder)

Consultant: J. Van Hemert, Golder Associates

Absent: L. Cross, D. Fortin

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 a.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

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

CARRIED

2. Video Presentation

M. Misek-Evans spoke to the staff report and provided background through the 4.5 minute Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS) Background video which is the first in a series to educate and raise awareness around the RSS.

The RSS Framework is intended to help structure and organize the RSS, and as a base to prepare communications and engagement materials from this point forward. The RSS Framework has been reviewed by the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC), Development Planning Advisory Committee and the Sustainability Resource Team.

CRD staff will be attending a number of councils over the next few weeks to present and discuss the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) Review report in order to get the big ideas on the table as to how the current RGS has been functioning and where it needs to be tightened up a bit or improved. Input from council meetings will be considered at the next few workshops where drafting the RSS will commence. A three week period for municipal staff and IAC to thoroughly review the RGS Review report and provide written comments has been scheduled. The process has been structured to allow people sufficient time to digest the material and capture concerns/issues while moving forward in a collaborative way.

Copies of *The Regional Sustainability Strategy is Underway!* brochure along with copies of the PowerPoint presentation *RSS Framework, RGS Review and Key Questions* were distributed.

3. Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS)

i) RSS Framework

James Van Hemert, Golder Associates then gave a PowerPoint presentation followed by questions and answers.

Director Ranns entered the meeting at 8:25 a.m.

Following is a summary of the feedback from the Committee:

- Climate change has not been adequately addressed (i.e., “a” challenge vs “the” challenge)
- Inter-governmental involvement not illustrated
- Diagram hard to follow the intertwining colours; diagrams and overlapping circles have no value
- Overuse of sustainable/sustainability loses its meaning; what does sustainable actually mean?
- Unable to see how a sustainable region can be reached when there isn't integrated economic structure in the region
- Debates always come down to the local economies; need a stronger economic lens
- Nothing in the framework to disagree with because it doesn't represent the issues and restraints that municipalities and the CRD face; language is not clear enough
- RGS to RSS just a new logo or is the process starting over?
- Too much about benefits and not enough about the costs
- Need presentations to meet target audiences, simple pictures with bullet points
- LEED standards are American as there are no Canadian standards; facilitate green buildings may result in increased costs
- Younger generation hasn't bought into change
- Begin with what the challenges are and then look at how to resolve in order to reach prosperity
- Need a glossary for all the acronyms

To address some of the concerns raised, J. Van Hemert mentioned that the RGS Review is where the depth and detail is on the meatier issues and also noted that climate action is an over-arching lens that will be addressed in each of the five themes. The Framework can be polished and simplified. The Framework was put together with input by the IAC which includes representatives from senior levels of government.

MOVED by Director Derman, **SECONDED** by Director Bryson,
That the RSS Framework be referred back to staff for further revisions based on input today and be brought back to Committee.

CARRIED

ii) Regional Growth Strategy Review

Due to time constraints, J. Van Hemert highlighted the PowerPoint presentation on the *RGS Review Report* followed by questions and answers. Following is a summary of the feedback received from the Committee:

- Two levels: policy issues (i.e., RUCSPA boundaries) and implementation issues, should be clearly defined; i.e., here is the policy issue and these are the implementation issues that go with that policy issue
- For municipal presentations, show pictures of the RUCSPA boundaries or for disaster preparedness, show the areas that will be affected; municipal presentations must be pointed
- What is meant by resilient economy?
- Lose credibility to claim agriculture has much of an impact on economic development; when it comes to agricultural economy; the question is whether we are willing to subsidize farming for its social value? If so, will need consent of the community. Some pragmatic issues to address deer/geese, organic matter and farm worker housing.
- Fuzzy words—what do they mean? What is a collaborative economy?
- Glossary of the acronyms would be helpful
- Where are we going and how will we know we are there? Policies must contain targets and appropriate indicators to measure progress.
- Policies and cost for them
- Factual background information and grounded questions should be included in discussions
- Fundamental questions of which areas get development must be faced as well as regional role in land use.

Discussions at Committee and with the municipal councils are to get a sense of direction on priorities, interests and challenges to move forward. Upcoming workshops will be more pointed after municipal input has been received.

4. Adjournment

MOVED by Director Daly, **SECONDED** by Director Wergeland,
That the meeting be adjourned at 9:14 a.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR

COMMITTEE CLERK