

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
April 22, 2014 at 5:15 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor D. Murdock

Members: Kevin Brown, Harry Drage, Jude Coates, Mary Haig-Brown, Hal Gibbard,
Roberta Hesselgrave

Staff: Adriane Pollard, Environmental Services Manager; Debby Harris,
Corporate Projects Coordinator; Mark Boysen, Sustainability Coordinator;
Cory Manton, Urban Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Areas Manager;
Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Al-Nashir Charania, Marie Vander Heiden

Guests: George Klima

MINUTES

MOVED by M. Haig-Brown and Seconded by H. Gibbard: “That the Minutes of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held March 25, 2014 be adopted.”

CARRIED

ENERGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Sustainability Coordinator presented the Committee with an overview of the Energy Management Program Saanich initiated with BC Hydro on September 1, 2013. The following was noted:

- Saanich is increasing its focus on total energy as BC Hydro rates will increase by 28% over the next five years.
- Strategic energy management will become part of Saanich’s solution by:
 - Focusing tracking, planning and promoting energy wise behaviors
 - Improving detail which will provide improved energy utilization
 - Reducing Saanich’s carbon footprint
 - Improving the overall management for all energy uses
- A dedicated Energy Manager will focus on the implementation and business practices to assist Saanich in reaching energy targets.
- The majority of Saanich’s greenhouse gas emission (GHG) reductions are from changes to the fleet. Many opportunities for further reductions exist in the buildings.
- Saanich has achieved healthy GHG reductions, but BC Hydro recalculated the definition of a kilowatt hour which favors Saanich showing carbon footprint reductions.
- Energy Management Program will have five deliverables for year one (to September 2014):
 - Complete energy audits of Phase 1 buildings, completed by March 2014
 - Complete Strategic Energy Management Plan, summer 2014
 - Progress presented to the CAO and two Directors at each quarterly meeting

- Achieve a 1 Giga-Watt of energy savings in 2014
- Host two BC Hydro Community Outreach events
- Energy policy development will set targets following the Phase 1 building audits, and align with GHG reduction goals.
- Behavior action items include, departmental meeting presentations and workshops at different facilities.
- The recent hydro-electric project list includes:
 - Saanich Commonwealth Place interior lighting upgrades (saving 421,889 kWh).
 - Pearkes Recreation Centre interior lighting upgrades (saving 111,101 kWh).
 - Municipal Hall and Gordon Head Recreation Centre heating systems assessments are currently in progress.
- Financing for these projects come from the Carbon Fund and a concept of revolving funding to increase uptake.
- Hydro projects have commonly followed the following funding formula:
 - 1/3 Department Replacement Funds
 - 1/3 Hydro Incentives
 - 1/3 Carbon Fund

The Chair commented that approximately ten years ago Councillor Brownoff facilitated an energy audit of Saanich municipal buildings. The Sustainability Coordinator stated that it is difficult to determine the degree of success that was reached after the previous energy audit due to the number of variables that have impacted energy use over time at the municipal level.

STRATEGIC PLAN INDICATORS PART 2

The Chair introduced the Corporate Projects Coordinator. The Corporate Projects Coordinator led a discussion around the selection of Strategic Plan Indicators. A document was circulated to the committee for discussion and the following was noted:

- The indicators used for strategic planning were originally selected by a group of 20 staff members, selected by the CAO to develop a Balanced Scorecard for Saanich.
- The Balanced Scorecard was developed in 2003-2004.
- Indicators were suggested and then reviewed by a team of 55 representatives with assistance from professors from the University of Victoria.
- The SMART criteria were used during the initial development of the indicators.
- Sources for indicator data include: Saanich Citizen, Business and Employee surveys, internal data sources, CRD, Agriculture Land Reserve and BC Transit.
- Baselines targets were reported in 2004.
- The Strategic Plan was linked to the Official Community Plan (OCP) in 2010 with anecdotal OCP reporting.
- Seven Environmental Integrity long-range OCP Indicators established in 2012 with targets set to 2036.
- Data sources continue to be a significant challenge.
- Theme targets are determined at “theme tables” during the planning process.
- Currently for the period 2012 through 2014 there are:
 - Seven long-range indicators with 2036 targets. Current data is from 2009 to 2012.
 - Two mid-range indicators with 2016 targets. Current data is from 2012.
 - Three annual indicators with annual targets.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- Cost effective data collection is critical.

- Targets and progress data should be reviewed and be available.
- Cost and benefit analysis could be performed to determine the “value” of indicators.
- Air quality and shoreline preservation/restoration are two potential indicators that could be considered.
- Potential indicators can be given to the Corporate Projects Coordinator and she will present them to the Director who oversees the pertinent area.

The Manager of Environmental Services spoke to the possibility of adding stream/health and shoreline protection as indicators. Data for these potential indicators could possibly be sourced from streamside development area permits and reviewing yearly records of square meters of shoreline restored.

NOXIOUS WEEDS

The Manager of Environmental Services presented and the following was noted:

- Research is being conducted on enabling legislation.
- Combining noxious weed management with what is realistic.
- Numerous clauses to be considered for the updated bylaw such as; building and development noxious weed protocols, sale of invasive plants, protection of agricultural lands and a good neighbor clause.
- Public participation has occurred through a Saanich website, a presentation and through the 250 online surveys that were completed.
- Further public input will be obtained via planned displays at area recreation centres and at native plant sales events.
- A focus group for helping shape the development and building clause could include members from the Urban Design Institute, arborists and community association presidents.
- Feedback for the agriculture clause could be solicited from various groups such as; the Peninsula Agricultural Commission, Haliburton and Madrona farmers.
- An internal focus group comprised of Environment and Natural Areas Committee members could be formed to examine pesticides.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

The Manager of Environmental Services confirmed with the Committee that the Special Meeting to select this year’s winners will be held in Committee Room #2 Tuesday May 6, 2014 at 5:15 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Tuesday, May 27, 2014.

Saanich Councillor Murdock, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary