

**MINUTES**  
**ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2  
**October 28, 2014 at 5:15 p.m.**

Present: Chair: Councillor D. Murdock

Members: Kevin Brown, Al-Nashir Charania, Mary Haig-Brown, Harry Drage, Hal Gibbard

Staff: Adriane Pollard, Environmental Services Manager; Mark Boysen, Sustainability Coordinator; Shannon Jamison, Sustainable Community Planner; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Jude Coates, Roberta Hesselgrave, Marie Vander Heiden

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**MINUTES**

**MOVED by H. Gibbard and Seconded by K. Brown: "That the Minutes of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held September 23, 2014 be adopted as amended."**

**CARRIED**

**SUSTAINABLE SAANICH: COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS**

The Sustainability Coordinator and the Sustainable Community Planner presented and the following was noted:

- The role of the Sustainability Department is to provide policy development, program implementation and community engagement.
- The community target is a 33% reduction of greenhouse gases in the community by 2020 from the 2007 levels.
- Many successful sustainability projects have been supported by Saanich including: Tap by Tap, Climate Smart Business, Communities in Harvest and electric vehicle awareness and infrastructure.
- Future projects will be targeted toward reducing greenhouse gases and building community.
- Several ideas for future projects have come been identified from brainstorming sessions:
  - Sunday Parkways, Bike Rack Art Program, and safe routes to school
  - "Energy Diets"
  - Heating oil incentives
  - Energy Coaches
  - Laundry lines
  - Energy conservation kits
  - HERO
  - Boulevard gardening
  - Backyard chicken workshops

- Partnerships between Saanich, Government, Utility and other Organizational stakeholders will be facilitated.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- Targeting the “biggest bang for the buck” should be considered when planning sustainability projects.
- Small acts of conservation/sustainability can add up quickly.
- Band-Aid fixes based on market driven exercises will do little to reduce or reverse our carbon footprint. Aggressive measures will need to be implemented to reach the targets.
- Cost-effective programs can have big benefits.
- Putting potential future sustainability projects on the Saanich Website and allowing the public to vote on which projects the public feel warrants Saanich participation could be a good community engagement tool.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN INDICATORS**

The Manager of Environmental Services reviewed the Committee discussions with respect to Strategic Plan Indicators and the following was noted:

- Overall it is recommended that the environmental indicators show the condition or abundance of environmental features or the effectiveness of municipal policies to protect them.
- Currently the Strategic Plan indicators do not directly measure biodiversity.
- The Strategic Plan indicator for urban forest cover does not distinguish between riparian forests and other forests and there are no other indicators used to evaluate stream health.
- Marine shoreline protection is difficult to assess due to the variety of ecosystems present and lack of regular monitoring.

### **MOTION:**

**Moved by M. Haig-Brown and seconded by A. Charania: “The Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee recommends that staff consider the following metrics be used for updating the Strategic Plan indicators;**

- a. Hectares of sensitive ecosystem present and hectares of sensitive ecosystem protected;**
- b. Adherence to fresh water quality standards;**
- c. Hectares of riparian tree cover; and,**
- d. Impervious cover in watersheds.”**

**CARRIED**

### **STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Chair facilitated a Committee discussion with respect to stormwater management and the following was noted:

- The Central Saanich Stormwater Management Plan is a good example of a comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan.
- With documents as large as a comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan a good feature is to have a 1-2 page synopsis which contains a step by step work flow and guide for priorities.

- Currently Central Saanich uses the recommendations within their SWMP for guidelines.
- There is no budget noted for implementation of the management plan.
- A document prepared by The UVIC Environmental Law Centre on the subject of stormwater management would be worth reviewing.
- The committee will re-visit stormwater management in the New Year.

#### **UPDATES**

- An improved process for the Committee Members to orient themselves with Saanich Significant Trees will be discussed at an upcoming meeting by the Manger of Urban Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Areas.
- The Noxious Weeds Bylaw process will be reviewed at a future Committee meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held in January 2015.

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Saanich Councillor Murdock, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary