

**MINUTES**  
**ENIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2  
**February 21, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.**

Present: Chair: Councillor Leif Wergeland

Members: Kevin Brown, Jude Coates, Mary Haig-Brown, Roberta Hesselgrave,  
Ryan Senechal, Carmel Thomson; George Klima

Staff: Adriane Pollard, Manager Environmental Services; Jeff Keays,  
Committee Clerk

Regrets: Al-Nashir Charania

---

**MINUTES**

**MOVED by R. Hesselgrave and seconded by M. Haig-Brown, "That the minutes of the Environmental and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held January 17, 2017 be adopted as circulated."**

**CARRIED**

**STREAMSIDE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREA ATLAS HOUSEKEEPING AMENDMENTS**

The Manager of Environmental Services gave a presentation on the recommended amendments to the Streamside Development Permit Area (SDPA) Atlas. The following highlights are noted:

- The SDPA process requires Streamside Development Permits to be issued to for development activities within 30 m of the high watermark for all identified streams.
- The Atlas is used to identify fisheries sensitive streams and specifies the Streamside Protection and Enhancement Area (SPEA), or riparian setbacks, required to ensure healthy and productive fish habitats.
- It is recognized that Atlas would need to be updated regularly; the last update was in 2015.
- Environmental Services staff visited the all of the affected properties, except for 174 Goward St. where staff were unable to contact the owners.
- Based on the field work and reports submitted to Saanich by Qualified Environmental Professionals, three (3) changes to SDPA Atlas for 2018.
- The affected watersheds are:
  - Bowker Creek
  - Goward Springs Creek and Wetland
  - Wray Creek
- QEP reports were commissioned by landowners, and are aware of that a report has been prepared for Council.
- Any additional affected properties were notified of the relevant proposed amendment.

Committee discussion followed the Manager of Environmental Services presentation. The following highlights are noted:

- The Province recognizes QEP's based on their membership (in good standing) within a professional organization.
- Province has a training program for The Riparian Areas Regulation
- The cost to retain a QEP varies
- If staff are asked to determine a setback there is approximately up to a 1 year wait.
- These reports do not take into account flooding i.e. a 100 year flood. They utilize only the visible high watermark/top of bank which may include some floodplain.
- Mitigation efforts for events such as a 100 year flood are done at the development approval stage.
- Wary Creek is being subdivided by owners. Trees on property are being covenanted as Natural State Areas as part of the development process.
- Detailed reports are available for view in the Planning Department.

## **MOTION**

**Moved by M. Haig-Brown and seconded by J. Coates "That the Environmental and Natural Area Advisory Committee endorse the recommended amendments to the Streamside Development Permit Area Atlas."**

**CARRIED**

## **UPDATES**

### **PLASTIC BAG UPDATE**

The Manager of Environmental Services provided the committee with an update on the status of the Plastic Bag Model Bylaw. The following highlights are noted:

- The recommendation from the November 9, 2017 Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting that Council obtain legal advice on banning single use plastic bags and setting minimum pricing for single use plastic bags was defeated
- Council noted that getting a legal opinion is not a good use of staff time while the courts are reviewing the matter.
- Case law will be established in the near future.
- The item has been added to the Council Referral Summary and could be reconsidered by Council once the courts have made a decision.

Committee discussion followed the update. The following highlights are noted.

- No time frame RE: Legal Review.
- Legal challenge highlights need for a uniform, regional bylaw.

## **ENA AWARDS**

The Manager of Environmental Services provided the committee with an update on the status of the ENA Awards. The following highlights are noted:

- Committee will use the guidelines presented at the October 18, 2017 meeting.
- Nominations will open in March.
- It will remain a standing item on the agenda.

- Letter calling for nominations will be circulated to all community associations as well as SCAN.

## **WELLS AND GROUNDWATER WORKSHOP**

The Manager of Environmental Services advised the committee that District will be hosting a Wells and Groundwater Conservation Workshop. An event poster was circulated to committee members. The following highlights are noted:

- The event will be on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 from 7:00-9:00PM at the Swan Lake Nature House.
- The event will include presentations from: The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development and Island Health.
- Additional partners in attendance will include the Capital Regional District's Septic Savy team, Maxxam Labs, a local well driller and a pump installer.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:20PM

## **NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2018.

---

Councillor Wergeland, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

---

Committee Secretary