

**MINUTES**  
**ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2

**March 17, 2015 at 5:15 p.m.**

Present: Chair: Councillor D. Murdock

Members: Al-Nashir Charania, Mary Haig-Brown, Harry Drage, Hal Gibbard, George Klima, Kevin Brown, Jude Coates, Courtney Fraser, Student Youth Council Representative

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

Regrets: Roberta Hesselgrave

Guest: Ian Bruce, Peninsula Streams Society

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**MINUTES**

**MOVED by M. Haig-Brown and Seconded by H. Gibbard: "That the Minutes of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held February 24, 2015 be adopted as amended."**

**CARRIED**

**STEWARDSHIP AND RESTORATION OF THE COLQUITZ**

Mr. Ian Bruce, Peninsula Streams Society provided an overview of the stewardship and restoration efforts in Saanich watersheds and the following was noted:

- The Tod Creek Flats Project has RFCPP and PSF applications in for funding the creation of 10,000 m<sup>2</sup> of new riparian habitat and the creation of 1500 metres of new stream channel which will result in 7500 m<sup>2</sup> of new fish habitat.
- The Tod Creek Dam Project is requesting funding from RFCPP and PSF to construct a fishway over the 2 metre Butchart Dam to provide access for Coho salmon and sea run cutthroat trout to the Tod Creek Watershed.
- The Colquitz Creek Watershed consists of the Colquitz River, Elk/Beaver Lake, O'Donnell Creek, Blenkinsop Creek, Blenkinsop Lake, Swan Lake, Swan Creek and Gabo Creek.
- Goward Springs Watershed Stewards, Mainstream Initiative and the Colquitz Coalition have been involved with the stewardship and restoration of the Colquitz Creek Watershed.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- The stream riffles have been an on-going project since the 1980s.
- Local volunteers are recruited to assist with the restoration and stewardship projects for local waterways and watersheds.
- Riffles function to cool and oxygenate the water, and provides substrate for the insects that the fish feed on.

**CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Sustainability Coordinator gave a presentation on the Saanich 2014 Green House Gases (GHG) Inventory. The following was noted:

- Saanich reduced GHG emissions 12% from 2007-2014.
- Municipal Greener Garbage Program resulted in doubling of the kms driven and resulted in increased fuel consumption and GHGs.
- The Greener Garbage Program is the largest GHG reduction initiative to date.

- A faulty boiler at Saanich Commonwealth Place resulted in excessive natural gas use. Increased boiler monitoring and maintenance have been established to reduce the likelihood of this occurring in the future.
- Energy studies at Saanich Recreation Centres and the Municipal Hall have been completed.
- Ten of the twelve home heating oil tanks on Saanich properties have been removed.
- 2015 planned projects include:
  - Implementation of the recommendations from the energy studies
  - Replacement of the Gordon Head Recreation Centre boiler with a high efficiency system.
  - Heating system improvements at the Municipal Hall
  - Upgrade of the refrigeration system at G.R. Pearkes recreation Centre
  - New electric vehicles at the Hall and for the Parks Department
- Municipal operations 2015 inventory projection is for an overall reduction in GHGs from 2007 through 2015 is set at 22%.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- Air source heat pumps have a significant impact on GHG emissions.
- Oak Bay has a climate change program.
- GHG Inventory is part of Saanich's budgeting process.
- Conservation efforts for the police fleet should be considered.
- Increasing conservation should be promoted within the Municipality.

#### **ANNUAL ENA AWARDS**

The Manager of Environmental Services provided an update on the 2015 ENA Awards. The special meeting to select the winners of the 2015 Environmental Awards will be held on Tuesday April 21, 2015 at 5:15 in Committee Room #2.

#### **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO THE SDPA AND THE EDPA**

The Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted: regarding

- The Saanich website has posted an FAQ to correct the inaccuracies that were reported in the media.
- An informal sit down with the stakeholders may be a good starting point to creating a productive dialogue on SDPA and the EDPA.
- These documents are a planning tool for the future.
- Opinions varied on whether the individual homeowner should be tasked with the financial obligation to maintain areas that have been designated as sensitive and thereby protected.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on April 28, 2015.

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Councillor Murdock, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary