

**MINUTES**  
**ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 1  
**February 23, 2016 at 5:15 p.m.**

Present: Councillor Dean Murdock (Chair), Councillor Fred Haynes, Harry Drage, Hal Gibbard, Kevin Brown, Mary Haig-Brown, Roberta Hesselgrave, Al-Nashir Charania

Staff: Adriane Pollard, Environmental Services Manager; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Regrets: George Klima, Jude Coates

Guests: Matt Hulse, Our Horizon; Brenna Collicutt, Marsha Henderson (SCAN)

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### **Minutes**

**MOVED by K. Brown and Seconded by H. Gibbard: "That the Minutes of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held January 26, 2016, be adopted as amended."**

**CARRIED**

### **AIR POLLUTION RISK DISCLOSURES ON GAS PUMPS**

Matt Hulse, Our Horizon, presented information of labeling gas pumps with air pollution risk disclosures. The following was noted:

- Our Horizons is a Canadian non-profit with the goal of having municipalities requiring gas stations to have warning labels on their gas pumps as part of the requirement to obtain a business licence.
- These pump warning labels are considered a tool for transition to a lower carbon future.
- Image selected for the pump warning label will be significant to the municipality where the gas station is located.
- Labels have been shown to link cause and effect and can elicit behaviour change. For example, the warning labels on cigarette packages has been shown to impact cessation or reduction in some smokers.
- Awareness is a catalyst for change.
- Municipalities have an impact on climate change and can influence carbon footprint reductions.

The speaker and Committee members discussed the issues and the following was noted:

- North Vancouver has recently passed a bylaw requiring gas stations to display warning labels on its gas pumps.
- Goal is to have the provincial and federal governments support the labeling of gas pumps to raise awareness of air pollution and climate change risks associated with fossil fuels.
- Green coloured licence plates could also be considered for electric vehicles to promote awareness of alternate energy sources.
- A focus group, examining the labeling of gas pumps for risks to the environment is planned in the near future for a community in Eastern Canada. The results of the focus group should be discussed at an upcoming ENA Advisory Committee meeting.

- The presenter and his colleagues have done considerable research into the legalities of requiring gas stations to label their pumps to the risks of fossil fuels to the environment.

The Chair invited the speaker to return to the ENA Advisory Committee to continue the discussion.

## **MICROPLASTICS**

Brenna Collicutt, Masters Student, presented the Committee with information on microplastics in the ocean environment and following was noted:

- Microplastics are composed of microbeads of synthetic polymer particles that at the time of their manufacture, are greater than 0.1µm and less than or equal to 5 mm in size.
- Manufactured for uses in personal care products, cleaning products and numerous other applications.
- When soluble products containing microplastics are used and rinsed down the drain, these small plastics are too small to be filtered by waste water treatment facilities and are flushed out into the aquatic environment.
- Microplastics are shown to bio-accumulate in the food chain.
- Microplastics physically harm aquatic organisms by; blockage/abrasion, impaired feeding and translocation.
- Chemically microplastics concentrate persistent organic pollutants which then enters the food web.
- The United States has banned the use of microplastics effective 2017.

**Motion:        MOVED by M. Haig-Brown and Seconded by K. Brown, “That the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee recommends that Council support the Government of Canada proposal to add microbeads to the list of toxic substances under subsection 64 (a) CEPA, 1999 and that letters be sent to the appropriate Ministers.”**

**CARRIED**

## **PRIORITY SETTING**

The Committee will have ongoing discussions during the year on setting priorities.

## **UPDATE ON ENA MOTIONS**

The Chair updated the Committee on the status of the Motions passed by the ENA Advisory Committee in 2015.

**\*\* The Chair left the meeting at 7:05 p.m. \*\***

The Committee appointed Mary Haig-Brown Acting Chair.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS**

Committee member Al-Nashir Charania updated the Committee on the initial Environmental Bill of Rights working group meeting and the following was noted:

- A Working Group Charter is being drawn up. The purpose of the Charter is to provide guidelines and direction to the working group.
- Definition of Environmental Rights and the provisions of an Environmental Bill of

Rights are being discussed and itemized.

- A list of current Environmental Rights initiatives in Saanich is being compiled.
- A table listing the strengths and weaknesses of the Environmental Bill of Rights is being created. A GAP analysis will be conducted.
- The two key deliverables from the ENA working group will be to draw up a charter and provide the ENA Advisory Committee with a GAP analysis of the six items identified in the substantive and procedural rights for the Environmental Bill of Rights.

## **ENA AWARDS**

The Manager of Environmental Services updated the Committee on the progress of the 2016 ENA Awards event.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 22, 2016.

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Councillor Murdock, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary