

**MINUTES**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2  
**January 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.**

Present: Chair: Councillor Rebecca Mersereau

Members: Alfred Birch, Kevin Brown, Al-Nashir Charania, George Klima, Ryan Senechal, Carmel Thomson, Emily Truman.

Staff: Adriane Pollard, Manager Environmental Services; Maggie Baynham, Dr. Sustainability Manager and Jeff Keays, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Kyle Empringham

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**MINUTES**

**MOVED by A. Charania and Seconded by K. Brown, “That the minutes of the Environmental and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held September 19, 2019, be adopted as amended.”**

**CARRIED**

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed the committee members to the first meeting on 2019. The committee participated in a round table where they shared their backgrounds, previous committee experience, and goals for the upcoming term.

The Clerk will maintain a record of the discussion for the committee’s future reference.

**CHAIR’S COMMENTS**

The Chair thanked the members for their commitment to the community and the shared environment. Looking to the term ahead, the Chair noted that Saanich has a demonstrative legacy with regard to environmental protection and programming; accordingly, chairing this committee will be a privilege.

Meaningful participation from all members is vital to fulfilling the committee’s mandate. Ideas, suggestions and requests for future items and initiatives are welcomed.

The Chair noted that the evening’s agenda was rather heavy, and couldn’t include everything all at once, to this end the committee will reserve further discussion about the year’s priorities and goals until the New Business item of the agenda.

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**ELK/BEAVER LAKE INITIATIVE**

The Chair introduced, Jill Robinson, Project Coordinator – CRD, who provided the committee of the CRD's ongoing Elk/Beaver Lake initiative. The following highlights were noted:

- The Elk/Beaver Lake Initiative (EBLI) was created by the Capital Regional District (CRD) in 2016 and endeavors to undertake actions that will:
- Lead to a reduction in the frequency and toxicity of cyanobacteria (a.k.a. blue-green algae, 'BGA') blooms in Elk and Beaver Lakes,
- Improve fish habitat, manage weed growth, and ensure continued recreational use.
- In 2016, the CRD Parks and Environmental Services provided funding for one part-time coordinator, and a budget for continued water quality monitoring, the selection and implementation of an in-lake remediation option, and preparation of a watershed management plan.
- The EBLI was established in response to public demand for focus on the struggling lake ecosystem.
- In addition to annual toxic cyanobacteria blooms, there is concern over:
  - the sustainability of a healthy fishery under low oxygen (anoxic) conditions;
  - the proliferation of nuisance aquatic weeds;
  - the presence of invasive aquatic and terrestrial species; and
  - public health and safety during water contact recreation.
- CRD agreed to fund the EBLI through 2019 (four years).

Committee discussion followed the presentation, the following highlights are noted:

- There is no current integration with the surrounding forest interface.
- Surrounding forests can have an impact on external loads, sources could be identified and prioritized.
- There are numerous opportunities for restoration initiatives for other bodies of water within the Colquitz Watershed.
- There has been considerable public engagement and involvement from a variety of community stakeholders.
  - Numerous volunteers and community groups have contributed to the assessment and planning of in-lake improvements.
  - The enjoyment of recreation activities such as rowing, swimming, and fishing have driven the objectives of the EBLI.
- There is significant erosion to the lake's shoreline, a watershed/parks management plan should be considered to mitigate these impacts.
- The initiative is a collaborate effort, facilitated by an inter-governmental working group that includes the CRD, the District of Saanich, the Government of BC and VIHA.
- The program is funded through the 2019 fiscal year.
- Seeking funding for an additional four (4) years to undertake the implementation.
- The agricultural community has been the largest recipient of the harvested milfoil.

The Chair thanked, Ms. Robinson for the informative presentation.

## **REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE, COMMITTEE PROCEDURES & DATES**

Jeff Keays, Committee Clerk, provided an overview of the committee's terms of reference, procedures and proposed meeting dates. Copies of all relevant policies and procedures were circulated on-table. A summary of the topics presented include:

- Guiding Legislation and Policies
- Role and Mandate of ENAC
- Expectations and Responsibilities of Committee Members
- Code of Conduct – Respectful Workplace
- Personal Safety of committee members
- Access and Privacy at the District of Saanich

## **ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT - PROGRESS UPDATE**

The Senior Sustainability Planner provided the committee with an overview of the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy. The following highlights are noted:

- Council adopted the September 21, 2017 Motion from PTED at their January 8, 2018 meeting.
- In 2017 Council adopted new long-term targets for renewable energy (100% by 2050) and GHG emissions (80% reduction by 2050 over 2007 totals).
- Personal transportation accounts for 58% of Saanich's GHG emissions.
- EVs can help achieve an 18% decrease in GHGs.
- Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) Mandate:
  - Supply side policy.
  - ZEV mandate bans sale of new internal combustion engines by 2040 (for passenger vehicles and light duty trucks).
- Local governments have an important role in facilitating access to charging (home and on the go).
- 2018 Q3 EV sales are up 151% in BC from Q3 2017.
- EV sales accounted for 15% of all passenger car sales (BC) in 2018.
- Benefits of Electric Vehicles:
  - five times more efficient;
  - lower fuels costs;
  - decreasing battery costs; and
  - less maintenance.
- Latent demand for EVs (as portion of market share) is primarily constrained by home charging access.
- Good policies can increase EV market share.
- There are currently three types of charging infrastructure
  - L1 – 120 V (8-12 hrs. full charge) = \$500 retrofit cost.
  - L2 – 240 V (4-6 hrs. full charge) = \$2,500 - \$15,000.
  - DCFC – Variable DC Voltage (30 mins for 80% charge) = \$75,000.
- EV owners charge their vehicles at home 80-90% of the time
- With batteries and range increasing, L2 is preferred for performance and consumer expectation.

- Findings of the Capital Region EV and E-Bike Infrastructure Planning Project -- Public Survey:
  - 27% of people living in multi-family residences said access to a charging station was their largest barrier to market entry.
  - 92% felt that it was important for local governments to ensure new construction future proofed to allow for future EV charging equipment.
- Findings of the Capital Region EV and E-Bike Infrastructure Planning Project – Development Industry Survey
  - 79% had installed a charging station and 63% had a development “EV ready” (conduit or wiring for one or more stalls).
  - 68% supported or strongly supported local governments in the CRD requiring new development to EV ready.
- Climate Plan Engagement – Public Survey
  - EV adoption is one of the top three climate action priorities (41% of respondents).
- Since 2017, 7 local governments have adopted L2 infrastructure requirements for 100% of stalls in new residential developments.
- There was a shift away from partial installation (e.g. 20% of stalls) for a variety of reasons.
- The City of Richmond (with funding support from BC Hydro) produced a guide for local governments, developers and Stratas.
- The City of Richmond also developed a costing study of the installation and operating costs of different charging requirements for various building archetypes.
- Proposed Approach:

Single-Family, Duplex and Town House Developments	Multi-Family Development	Commercial and Institutional Development (TBC with additional analysis)
1 on-site parking space per unit to be energized (L2), excluding secondary and garden suites.	All off-street residential parking spaces in multi-fam. dwellings to be energized (L2), excluding visitor parking.	10% of parking spaces to be energized I2 EVSE up to a maximum of 12 stalls. Applies to Devs. With 10+ off-street spaces

- Next Steps:
  - Establish performance standards
  - Host Engagement with the Urban Development Institute (UDI)
  - Seek input from key stakeholders e.g. Vancouver Island Strata Owners Association, Drive Electric Victoria etc.
  - Summarize Phase 2 engagement results and amend proposed approach as required.
  - Final recommendation to Committees and Council.
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Committee discussion followed the presentation, the following highlights are noted:

- The priority for the current program is for home-charging.
- There is a high demand for additional public charging facilities.
- BC Transit is transitioning to an electric fleet by 2030.
- Addressing the latency of demand in the entry into the market is a key

component of the strategy.

- Regional transit improvements, in the near-term, is a low-hanging fruit and is being incorporated into the CRD's Strategic Plan.
- There is a report coming forward (that considers the numerous retro-fit strategies for existing single-family homes, condos and apartment buildings.

## TREATED AGRICULTURAL POSTS

The Chair welcomed Alan Galambos to the meeting. Mr. Galambos was referred to committee by Council to provide the committee with information regarding the sale of unlabelled agricultural posts that have been treated with Chromated Copper Arsenate. The following was highlighted:

- Across Victoria and indeed across Canada, hardware, lumber supply stores, and nurseries sell to the public the standard green pencil posts treated with Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA) without warning labels.
- Improper handling of the posts themselves can cause several cancers, plants located near the post can take up the arsenic and enter our food, and burning of the posts concentrates the arsenic into an incredibly toxic ash and smoke.
- In 2016, after purchasing a home in the District, Mr. Galambos discovered ash from a burn pile left by the properties previous owners.
- Suspicious of the pile, the ash was tested for heavy metals and leachability.
- Tests revealed high level of arsenic, 344 parts per million (ppm), and very high levels of chromium and copper, confirming that the ash was a result of the burning of CCA treated garden posts.
- Due to the toxic leachability level of the arsenic (4.13ppm), twice the allowable limit a Heartland, the District of Saanich refused to allow the disposal of the material, including through the Hazardous Waste program.
- JOMA Environmental was retained to collect the ash/soil mixture, during the removal process it was determined that there was significant contamination to the soil. Approximately 3 tonnes of soil were removed.
- Prior to 2004, pressure treated wood for nearly all applications used CCA due to its effectiveness in prolonging the life of wood.
- Mounting evidence of CCA resulted in the voluntary phase out for residential lumber across the world.
- Although residential lumber is now treated with substantially less toxic materials, warning labels are still required to be affixed to each piece of lumber.
- CCA is still the treatment of choice for wood for industrial purposes such as power and telephone poles, bridge beams and other large structures.
- Despite the known dangers CCA remains the almost universal treatment of choice for agricultural posts.
- After considerable research and communication with Municipal, Provincial and Federal Governments it was determined that the responsibility of regulation of pesticides (the classification into which CCA falls) to the Federal Ministry of Health, through the Pest Management Regulatory Agency.
- Numerous replies by Sr. Levels of Government received to-date reflects that no single government agency accepts the responsibility for the sale of unlabelled CCA treated posts to the public.

Committee discussion followed the presentation, the following highlights are noted:

- Could the matter be addressed through workers' rights, and through an Occupational Health and Safety perspective?
- The Ministry of Health has not demonstrated significant interest in the matter.
- This information should also be brought to the Peninsula Agricultural Advisory Committee (the Clerk will provide contact information for PAAC).
- The committee will resume discussion on the item at February.

The Chair thanked Mr. Galambos for his informative presentation, and reiterated that the committee will return the matter in February. The Clerk will follow up with Mr. Galambos as appropriate.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The committee discussed items for future consideration, a more robust visioning exercise will be included in the next agenda. The Chair will send correspondence soliciting member feedback that will help facilitate the February discussion.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10PM

### **NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2019

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Councillor Mersereau, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary