

DISTRICT OF SAANICH
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING, WITH THE CITY OF VICTORIA COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
VICTORIA CITY HALL, 1 CENTENNIAL SQUARE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2012 AT 4:00 P.M.

Present: **Saanich Chair:** Mayor Leonard
 Saanich Council: Councillors Brice, Brownoff, Derman, Gerrard, Murdock, Sanders, and Wergeland (entered 4:15 pm)
 Saanich Staff: Paul Murray, Chief Administrative Officer; Carrie MacPhee, Director of Legislative Services; Mark Boysen, Sustainability Coordinator; Donna Dupas, Legislative Manager; and Lynn Merry, Senior Committee Clerk

 Victoria Chair: Mayor Fortin
 Victoria Council: Councillors Alto, Gudgeon, Helps, Isitt, Madoff, Thornton-Joe, and Young (entered 4:38 pm)
 Victoria Staff: Don Schaffer, Manager of Legislative Service and Trina Harrison, Acting General Manager of Corporate Services; Roy Brooke, Director of Sustainability; S. Young, Adaptation Specialist; Janet Hawkins, Council Secretary.

Opening
Remarks

OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Fortin called the Victoria Council Meeting to order.

Mayor Leonard called the Saanich Council Meeting to order and stated:

- He is proud of the committee and staff who prepared the Climate Action and Climate Adaptation Plans.
- He is pleased to see municipalities working together for the betterment of citizens.

PRESENTATION

2560-01
Environmental
Management -
Sustainability

CLIMATE ACTION ADAPTATION – SEA-LEVEL RISE COASTAL ASSESSMENT AND MODEL BYLAW

Joint presentation from the District of Saanich Sustainability Coordinator, the City of Victoria Director of Sustainability, the City of Victoria Adaptation Specialist and the BC Climate Action Secretariat Climate Adaptation Specialist.

Mr. R. Brooke, Director of Sustainability for the City of Victoria made a presentation on “Engagement, Guidance, Policy: Progress on Adapting to Sea-Level Rise in British Columbia”, highlighting the following:

- Climate change compels leaders to examine how they do business.
- There has been strong collaboration on the Sea-level Rise Risk Assessment and Model Bylaw projects between the City of Victoria, the District of Saanich and the Capital Regional District (CRD).
- Municipalities need to be proactive in their planning; having a plan will assist with protecting municipal assets.
- Sea-level rise leaves the region vulnerable; it is important to continue to strengthen efforts.

Ms. T. Neale, Climate Adaptation Specialist with the BC Climate Action Secretariat presented and highlighted the following:

- Sea-level rise is an inevitable consequence of global warming.
- It is necessary for all levels of government to work collaboratively to deal with rising sea levels; the project will estimate the costs of sea-level rise.
- Studies show that in July 2012, 97% of the ice on Greenland was melting.
- In BC, the projected sea-level rise will be one metre by the year 2100.
- Other factors have to be considered with sea-level rise including local land uplift, high tide, storm surges, wind and wave effects and freeboarding.
- The concern for municipalities is land use – the impact of sea level rise on existing infrastructure and the location of new infrastructure.
- A project objective will include mapping of coastal areas subject to sea-level rise hazard; information will assist future land use development.
- Options to aid with adaptation to sea-level rise include: dikes, shoreline protection structures, beach nourishment and soft armouring.
- Long-term and proactive planning by municipalities is necessary; development projects in identified flood hazard areas are encouraged to meet interim Flood Construction Levels (FCL) guidelines.
- Local governments have already begun researching interim measures including soft armouring; enhanced shoreline protection will help to reduce infrastructure repair and maintenance costs.

Mr. S. Young, Adaptation Specialist with the City of Victoria presented and highlighted the following:

- By the year 2050, the region will have warmer temperatures, wetter winters and drier summers, and increased frequency and intensity of storm events.
- Risks to infrastructure must be assessed with partners; the response must be community based and driven by preparation.
- Saanich and Victoria have completed a climate change risk assessment; the plan emphasizes preparation over response.
- It is cost-effective to prepare versus respond (\$1 vs. \$4).
- As sea-levels rise, the potential for flooding occurs.
- By the year 2100, it is estimated there will be a 30% increase on storm and wastewater systems capacity.
- Planning must be done on a regional level; this will ensure that mapping is consistent.
- The project has received joint funding for two key components: Coastal Risk Assessment and Model Bylaw Development.

Mr. M. Boysen, Sustainability Coordinator with the District of Saanich presented and highlighted the following:

- Saanich adopted a Climate Change Adaptation Plan in October 2011.
- Feedback was received through community consultation.
- Impacts were evaluated on the level of urgency; high urgency impacts of sea level rise were identified and include infrastructure, transportation systems, buildings, marine shoreline habitat and land use.
- A Model Bylaw will assist with planning for future development; this is a high value project with high payback for municipalities.
- The benefits of the project will be in assisting with the management of coastal flood hazard areas in response to rising sea-levels and reducing the future liability and economic hardship of residents, the development community and government agencies.

In response to questions and comments from Saanich Mayor and Council, the presenters stated:

- Wetland restoration is a tool for mitigating flood risk, breaking up wave surges, and can be used in concert with retreat strategies.
- Researching sea-level rise is a good investment for now and for the future; this is vital work and will include a lengthy public consultation process.
- The Model Bylaw will assist in planning for the future.
- Insurance will cover sewer backups in the case of flooding but does not cover overland flooding; the presenters encourage municipalities to have plans for backstop drains.
- Trends observed can project five year sea-level rises with reasonable confidence.
- Protecting current infrastructure will be a challenge; earthquakes need to be considered.
- Municipalities have authority over tidal land; soft-armouring is not suitable everywhere.
- Green Shores Coastal Development Rating System (CDRS) is a voluntary rating certification process for coastal developments inspired by the LEED Green Building rating system.
- The Model Bylaw will become the Provincial standard.
- There are a number of other municipalities throughout BC who have begun to discuss sea-level rise; collaboration and sharing information is important.
- Planning Departments could inform residents that they need to take sea-level rise into account when making application for development.
- Local governments can access the Columbia Basin Trust for information and support.

CLOSING REMARKS

Mayor Fortin thanked the Saanich Mayor and Council for attending and called for a motion to adjourn the Victoria Council meeting.

Mayor Leonard thanked the Victoria Mayor and Council stating he looks forward to the Spring Joint Council Meeting. Mayor Leonard called for a motion to adjourn the Saanich Council Meeting.

Adjournment On a motion from Councillor Brice, the Saanich Council meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

.....
MAYOR

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate

.....
MUNICIPAL CLERK