

Municipality of North Cowichan

Environmental Advisory Committee

REVISED AGENDA

Tuesday, July 20, 2021, 1:30 p.m.
Electronically

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER

This meeting, though electronic, is open to the public and all representations to the Environmental Advisory Committee form part of the public record. At this time, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, public access to meeting rooms at North Cowichan Municipal Hall is not permitted, however, this meeting may be viewed on the District's live stream webcast at www.northcowichan.ca/meetings.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Purpose: To consider any items of business not included in the Agenda, that are of an urgent nature, must be introduced and approved at the time the agenda is adopted. Matters must be taken up in the order that they are listed unless changed at this time.

Recommendation:

That the agenda be adopted as circulated [or as amended].

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3 - 5

Purpose: To consider if there were any errors or omissions prior to adopting the minutes.

Recommendation:

That the Committee adopt the minutes of the meeting held June 22, 2021.

4. BUSINESS

4.1. Biodiversity Protection Policy - Workshop

6 - 28

Purpose: To receive a presentation from Dave Preikshot, Senior Environmental Specialist on the framework for the Biodiversity Protection Policy, and to provide input to Council.

5. UNFINISHED / POSTPONED BUSINESS

5.1. Forestry Educational Opportunities

29 - 30

Purpose: To continue the discussion from the June 22, 2021 Environmental Advisory Committee meeting - to solicit input from the EAC and to report back to Council with educational opportunities that the municipality can host and/or share online as part of the forestry review.

(Please note that additional information was appended to the agenda on July 19, 2021.)

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Next Meeting Date

Purpose: To determine a meeting date and time in August, if necessary, to continue the Biodiversity Protection Policy Workshop discussion.

(Suggested: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.)

7. ADJOURNMENT

Municipality of North Cowichan Environmental Advisory Committee MINUTES

**June 22, 2021, 1:30 p.m.
Electronically**

Members Present	Councillor Kate Marsh, Chair Neil Anderson Cam Campbell Bruce Coates (arrived at 2:05 p.m.) David Coulson Per Dahlstrom Sandra McPherson Dr. Jesse Patterson Dr. Geoffrey Strong Dr. Shannon Waters
Members Absent	Dr. Jana Kotaska Ashley Muckle
Staff Present	David Conway, Director, Engineering Projects Shaun Chadburn, Environmental Programs Coordinator Tricia Mayea, Deputy Corporate Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following items were added as late items to the agenda under New Business:

- (1) Recording/Archiving of Meetings [Item 5.1]
- (2) Articles: What on Earth, Reframing Economics [Item 5.2]

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the Committee approve the agenda, as amended.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

An error was noted in the minutes and was corrected by removing Sandy McPherson from the Members Absent column.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the Committee adopt the minutes of the meeting held May 18, 2021, as amended.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS

4.1 EAC Agenda Items

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That an Environmental Advisory Committee meeting be scheduled for July 20, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. to receive the Biodiversity Protection Policy presentation from the Senior Environmental Specialist and to provide input to Council. CARRIED

The Committee recessed, by unanimous consent at 2:53 p.m. and reconvened at 3:02 p.m.

Jesse Patterson left the meeting at 3:04 p.m. and returned at 4:05 p.m.

The Committee reviewed the list of subjects in section A of the EAC 2021 Workplan document, and prioritized the list of subjects in sections B and C.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

The Environmental Advisory Committee recommends:

That Council endorse the amended EAC 2021 Workplan, and direct staff to schedule the subjects on future Environmental Advisory Committee agendas with first priority for subjects in Section A of the Workplan. CARRIED

4.2 Forestry Review Input

The Committee discussed several potential educational opportunities that the municipality could host or share online as part of the forestry review but determined that more time was required to ponder this topic.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That Item 4.2 [Forestry Review Input] be deferred to the July 20, 2021 Environmental Advisory Committee meeting;

And That this meeting be extended to 5:30 p.m. CARRIED

Cam Campbell left the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

4.3 Cowichan Land Trust - OCP Feedback letter for information

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the Committee receive the OCP feedback letter from the Cowichan Land Trust for information;

And that the Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee be authorized to send a letter to the Cowichan Land Trust acknowledging that their letter was a valuable contribution. CARRIED

Dave Coulson left the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

Bruce Coates left the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Recording/Archiving of Meetings

The Committee briefly discussed recording and archiving meetings, but because many Committee members had already left the meeting and not able to contribute to the discussion, no direction was given.

5.2 Articles: What on Earth, Reframing Economics

This item was not discussed.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 4:56 p.m.

Certified by Recording Secretary

Signed by Chair;

Biodiversity Protection Policy for North Cowichan



Dave Preikshot, PhD, RPBio
Senior Environmental Specialist



Outline

- Strategic context and assumptions
- Overview of biodiversity
- Existing biodiversity programs and resources in North Cowichan
- Scoping a Biodiversity Protection Policy for North Cowichan
- Next steps



2019-2022 Council Strategic Plan

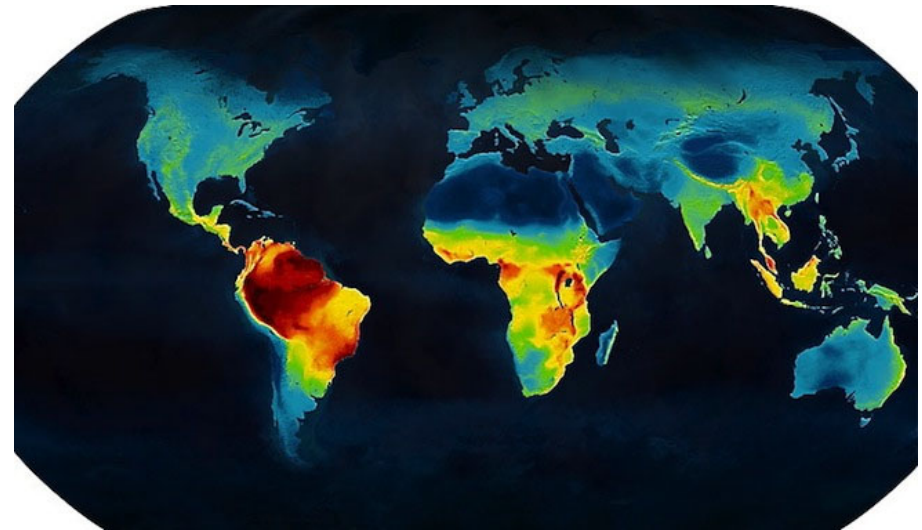
- Environment Strategic Pillar
 - *"We lead in environmental policies and practices to support the future health of our community."*
- Strategic Priority Project (2021 Business Plan)
 - *Create a Biodiversity Protection Policy*

Staff Assumptions

- Staff have been tasked with developing a [Council Policy](#) (vs creating an additional program, strategy, or plan)
- Once developed, the policy will provide practical guidance:
 - to staff and Council on biodiversity decision-making,
 - to the operational achievement of the policy's purpose statement (i.e. definitions, roles and responsibilities, budgeting, etc.).
- Input and comments from CoW tonight will inform policy development

What is Biodiversity?

- The variety of genes, species, and ecosystems in a place



Global Animal Biodiversity,
Red = More Blue = Less

Why is Biodiversity Important?

- Biodiversity usually, *but not always*, has a positive effect on ecosystem services.
- For example:
 - **Provisioning services;** yields of fodder, plants, wood
 - **Regulating services;** fish production stability, insect pests, plant disease, invasive species, CO₂ sequestration, improved soil organic matter, remediation from climate change effects
 - **Cultural Services;** landscape aesthetics, cultural values, recreation opportunities

Canada's Goals and Targets

- Better land use planning management
- Environmentally sustainable management across sectors
- Improving information about biodiversity ecosystem services
- Raising awareness of biodiversity, and encouraging participation in conservation

Source: biodivcanada, Canada's national biodiversity clearing-house,
<https://biodivcanada.chm-cbd.net/2020-biodiversity-goals-and-targets-canada>

BiodiversityBC: 1 Vision, 3 Goals

- *British Columbia is a spectacular place with healthy, natural and diverse ecosystems that sustain and enrich the lives of all.*
 1. Conserve the elements of biodiversity
 2. Increase awareness of the importance of biodiversity and respect for the natural environment
 3. Providing tools and incentives to enable biodiversity conservation

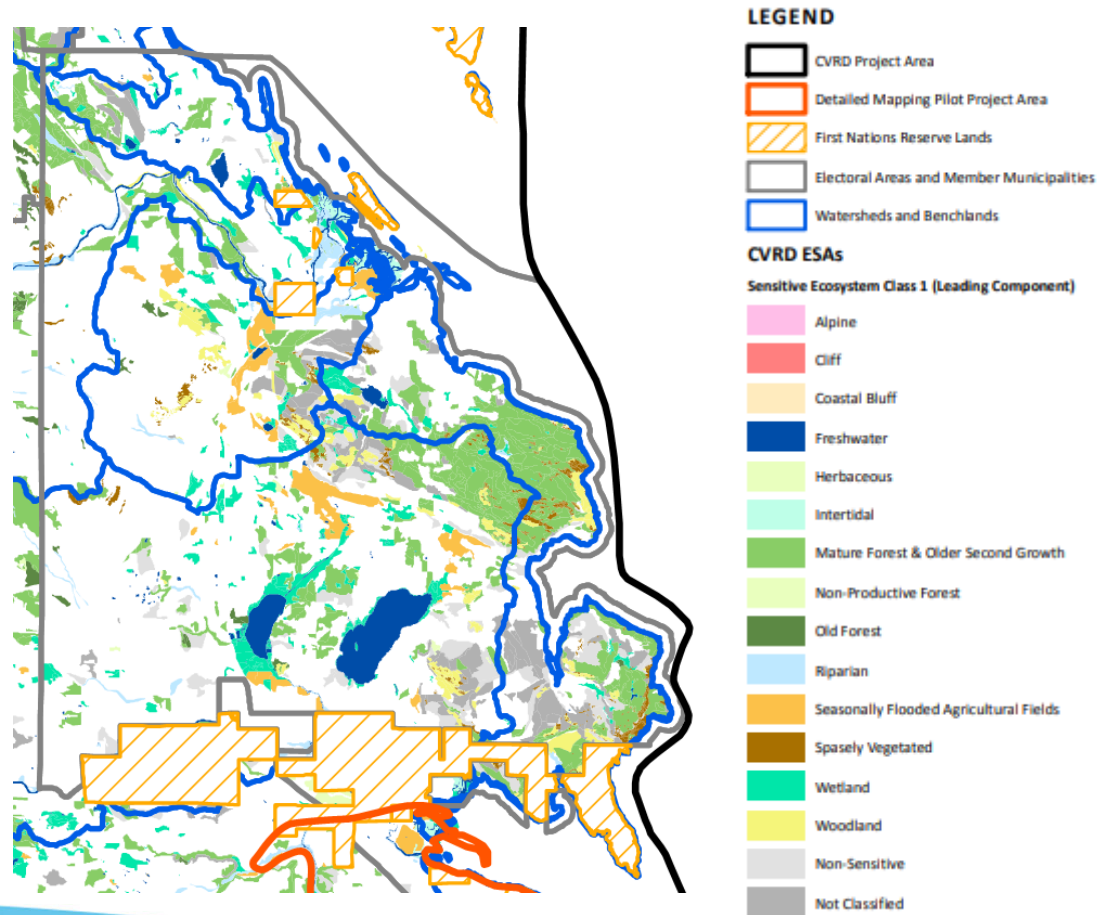
Source: <http://www.biodiversitybc.org/>

CVRD

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

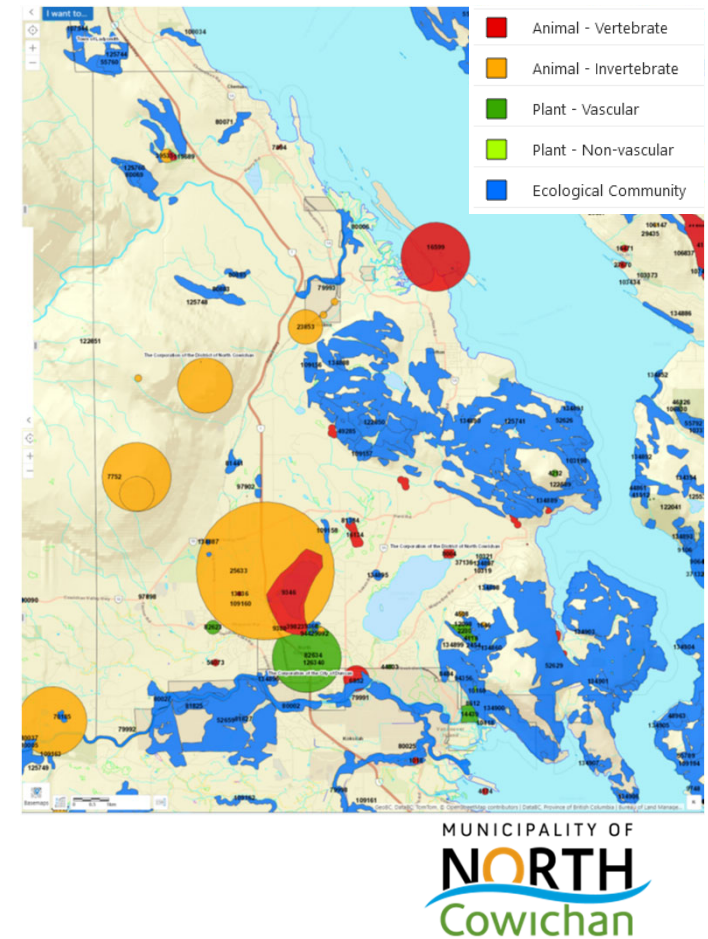
- Mapping
- Inventory
- Strategy

Figure shows MNC portion of ESA map prepared by Madrone Environmental for the CVRD



Species/Ecosystems in North Cowichan

- BC Conservation Data Centre identifies over 350 species and ecosystems of interest in North Cowichan
- Management: e.g. Somenos Conservation Area, stream flow augmentation
- Protection: e.g. Riparian Area Protection Regulations
- Enhancement: e.g. Wetland construction, Quamichan Lake Bluegreen Algae control





Natural Assets in North Cowichan

- Municipal Forest, Urban Forest
- Lakes and Reservoirs
- Streams and Wetlands
- Parks, Covenant Areas, Conservation Areas

Work Underway at North Cowichan to Protect Biodiversity

- Invasive and Noxious Weeds, Parrot's Feather management
- Collaboration with stewardship groups
- Riparian Area protection regulations
- Environmental review of development applications
- Municipal Forest management
- Wetland enhancement
- Wetland development
- Lake monitoring
- Invasive plant control
- Conservation areas and covenants
- Recommendations of Diamond Head Consulting report



Invasive and Noxious Weeds Managed

- Blueweed (*Echium vulgare*)
- Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)
- Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)
- Gorse (*Ulex Europaeus*)
- Knotweeds (*Fallopia spp.* and *Polygonum spp.*)
- Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)
- Wild Chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*)

Parrot's Feather



Lake Monitoring and Remediation



Input from CoW

Scoping the Biodiversity Protection Policy

Existing Biodiversity Action

- Reactions to existing programs/services:
 - Satisfied?
 - Gaps?
- What elements of biodiversity protection should North Cowichan leave for senior governments?
- What will a Council Biodiversity Protection Policy add in Council's view?

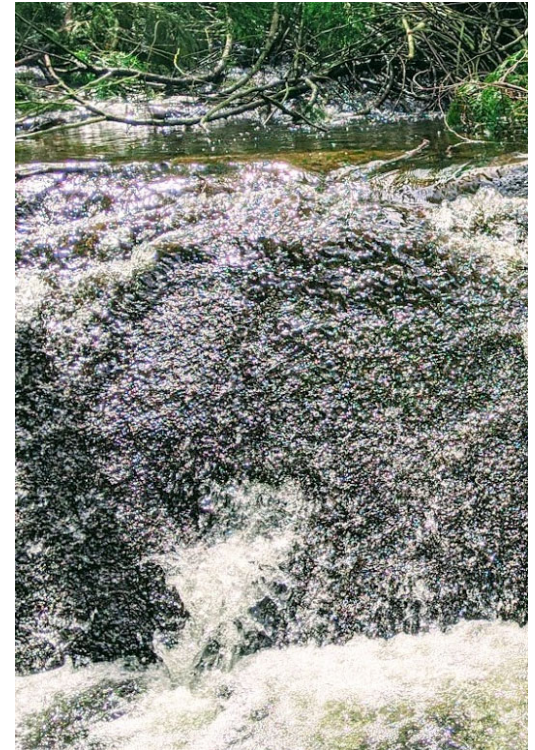


Purpose Statement Development

- What does Council want a biodiversity policy to address?
- What does Council want the policy to add to existing actions?
- What might be added to existing areas of focus for biodiversity?

Scoping a Biodiversity Protection Policy

- Accounting of species, in general, and at risk
- Accounting of ecosystems
- Tracking of significant invasive species
- Identification of significant ecological assets
- Monitoring environmental health indicators
- Biodiversity lens on development
- Watercourse protection
- Tree protection



What else might be considered within scope of the policy?

Policy Development Process

- EAC Involvement?
- Stakeholders?
 - *Stewardship groups?*
 - *Developers?*
 - *Others?*



Anticipated Next Steps

1. Staff to retain consultant
2. Engagement
3. Report to Council with Draft Policy for feedback
4. Council adopts policy
5. Staff return with resourcing requests for implementation during Budget and Business Planning 2022 (if required)



Other Suggestions? Ideas?



**Thank-You !
Huy ch q'u !**

Forest Awareness Quiz

Forests and tree cover in the Cowichan Valley can be seen from every vantage point. What do you already know about them and their place on our community? What more might you want to learn?

1. What is the name of the creek or river which defines your watershed?
2. Can you trace the water you drink from precipitation to tap?
3. Think of two ways that trees play a part in providing that water.
4. Name five native edible plants you might find in our local forests.
5. Name five native trees you might find in our local forests.
6. Name some non-human beings which live in the forest.
 - a) above the ground
 - b) under the ground
7. Name one of the first Spring wildflowers to bloom in an open area near the forest.
8. How have the local forests been used by humans within the past 1,000 years?
9. What could cause a wildfire in the forest?
10. Do you have trees close to where you live?
 - a) What do you like about them?
 - b) How do they change from season to season?
11. How long do you think the forests have lived here?
12. How long do you think humans have lived here?
13. Have you ever planted a tree? Where?
14. What particular place or places have special meaning to you?
- 15.



Aesthetic value— I value the forest because I enjoy the forest scenery, sights, sounds, smells, etc.

Economic value— I value the forest because it provides timber, fisheries, minerals, or tourism opportunities such as outfitting and guiding.

Recreation value— I value the forest because it provides a place for my favorite outdoor recreation activities.

Life Sustaining value— I value the forest because it helps produce, preserve, clean, and renew air, soil, and water.

Learning value— I value the forest because we can learn about the environment through scientific observation or experimentation.

Biological diversity value—I value the forest because it provides a variety of fish, wildlife, plant life, etc.

Spiritual value— I value the forest because it is a sacred, religious, or spiritually special place to me or because I feel reverence and respect for nature there.

Intrinsic value— I value the forest in and of itself for its existence, no matter what I or others think about the forest.

Historic value— I value the forest because it has places and things of natural and human history that matter to me, others, or the nation.

Future value— I value the forest because it allows future generations to know and experience the forest as it is now.

Subsistence value— I value the forest because it provides necessary food and supplies to sustain my life.

Therapeutic value— I value the forest because it makes me feel better, physically and/or mentally.

Cultural value— I value the forest because it is a place for me to continue and pass down the wisdom and knowledge, traditions, and way of life of my ancestors.