

Municipality of North Cowichan Environmental Advisory Committee MINUTES

January 25, 2024, 1:30 p.m.
Municipal Hall - Large Committee Room

Members Present Councillor Mike Caljouw, Chair
 Cam Campbell
 Carolyn Drugge
 Dianne Hinkley
 Dr. Jana Kotaska
 Sandra McPherson
 William Valentine

Staff Present David Conway, Director, Subdivision & Engineering Projects
 Heather Power, Legislative Coordinator
 Jennifer Aldcroft, Climate Change Specialist
 Neil Pukesh, Acting General Manager, Planning, Development and Community Services
 Robert Cheng, Senior Manager, Engineering (Transportation)

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

There being a quorum present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Discussion about Environmental Grant Opportunity Awareness was added to New Business.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Committee adopt the minutes of the meeting held October 17, 2023.

CARRIED

4. **BUSINESS**

4.1 **Draft Master Transportation Plan - for Environmental Advisory Committee Review**

David Conway, Director of Subdivision & Engineering Projects, introduced and provided background on the Master Transportation Plan. Nadine King, Watt Consulting, provided the Committee with an overview of the Master Transportation Plan process to date, addressed concerns and answered questions.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommend that Council direct staff to consider the following in preparation of the draft Master Transportation Plan:

- Consider wording that speaks to the flexibility in uses and expansions of rights of way; considering alternative options in cross sections and methods of acquisition.
- Add statement articulating the plan horizon and the frequency for when the plan should be updated.
- To continue to support the implementation of active transportation solutions that consider safety and accessibility issues including: separation from vehicles and path users, eco-friendly firm surface pathways, electric charging for other non-vehicle users, public end of trip facilities for cyclists.
- Increase commentary and add to maps the potential future use of the E&N railway corridor as a transportation corridor.
- Consider addition of a scenic local cross-section to acknowledge road segments that do not fit into the arterials/collector categories.
- For multi-use pathway segments, to provide consideration of pathways on both side of the roads.

CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee extend the meeting to 4:30 p.m.

CARRIED

4.2 Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Project Update

Jennifer Aldcroft, Climate Change Specialist, introduced the Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Project. Aaron Coehlo, Urban Systems Ltd, provided the Committee with an overview of the Risk and Vulnerability Assessment findings, addressed concerns and answered questions.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommend that Council direct staff to consider the following input in relation to the Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Summary Report:

- The largest risks are when several climate hazards overlap. Develop actions that articulate probable scenarios for adaptation for resource allocation and continue to work with the lead agency, Emergency Management Cowichan, on disaster response.
- Assess risk of fuel and power availability from utilities and the impact on community and business continuity. Include commentary on synergies and collaborative actions to understand risk and adaptation areas.
- Articulate the gap that risks and vulnerabilities of community sectors (e.g. agriculture) were not included in taking a municipal services approach.
- Provide clarification on the scope and applicability of North Cowichan's Risk and Vulnerability Assessment and how climate hazards were considered through each risk category.

- Watershed stewardship, development needs, understanding of aquifer performance and monitoring of water (drinking and greywater) needs to be a continued area of focus.
- Consider how changing species from climate impacts is articulated.
- Include commentary on drought, coastal slides and slumping hazards. CARRIED

Dianne Hinkley, and Dr. Jana Kotaska left the meeting at 4:26 p.m.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee extend the meeting to 5:00 p.m. CARRIED

William Valentine left the meeting at 4:29 p.m.

4.3 2024 Environmental Advisory Committee Workplan Update

Jennifer Aldcroft gave an update on the 2024 Environmental Advisory Committee Workplan and answered questions from the Committee.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Discussion of Environmental Grant Opportunity Awareness

David Conway provided an update on environmental grant opportunities.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Certified by Recording Secretary

Signed by Chair;