

Municipality of North Cowichan Environmental Advisory Committee MINUTES

**April 26, 2022, 1:30 p.m.
Electronically**

Members Present	Councillor Kate Marsh, Chair Neil Anderson Cam Campbell Bruce Coates David Coulson Sandra McPherson Ashley Muckle Dr. Jesse Patterson Dr. Geoffrey Strong
Members Absent	Per Dahlstrom Dr. Jana Kotaska Dr. Shannon Waters Mayor Al Siebring (ex-officio)
Staff Present	David Conway, Director, Engineering Projects Dave Preikshot, Senior Environmental Specialist Shaun Chadburn, Environmental Programs Coordinator Michelle Martineau, Corporate Officer Heather Power, Legislative Coordinator Info. Services Support

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 1:39 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the committee adopt the minutes of the meeting held February 22, 2022.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS

4.1 Community Solar Power Presentation

Peter Nix and Tom Mommsen led the presentations on solar power to the Committee. Copies of their presentations were included in the agenda. Chair Marsh reiterated what Mr. Nix was requesting, that the Municipality create its own solar utility, address net metering, and that doing a cost benefit analysis and calculate the cost of doing nothing would be beneficial.

4.2 Revisit the 2022 Meeting Schedule

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee reschedule the May 17 meeting to May 24, the July 19 meeting to July 26, the September 20 meeting to September 27, and cancel the November 15 meeting;

AND THAT these meetings be conducted by electronic means. CARRIED

4.3 Climate Action and Energy Plan Reserve Fund Terms of Reference

Neil Anderson left the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that Council amend the Climate Action and Energy Plan Reserve Fund Terms of Reference by inserting "are established as a non-profit organization or" to the beginning of bullet 5 under Applicant and Project Eligibility. CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that Council direct staff to provide an annual report representing all transactions into and out of the Climate Action and Energy Plan Reserve Fund to the Environmental Advisory Committee. CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that Council amend the Climate Action and Energy Plan Reserve Fund Terms of Reference by striking out the sentence "The Environmental Advisory Committee will evaluate proposals and, where supported, provide recommendations to Council" under Funding Categories. CARRIED

4.4 Cowichan Climate Hub, Re: Reducing GHG Emissions in Built Environment

Sandra McPherson declared a conflict of interest on this item, being that she was one of the signatories on the letter, after presenting it to the committee and left the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) recommends that Council refer the letter from Cowichan Climate Hub to staff for a report back to the EAC on implications prior to their making a recommendation to Council. CARRIED

Sandra McPherson returned to the meeting at 3:56 p.m.

Dr. Geoff Strong left the meeting at 3:56 p.m.

Dr. Jesse Patterson left the meeting at 4:14 p.m.

4.5 Prioritization of items for Environmental Advisory Committee

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee prioritize initiatives as follows:

- (1) Actions from the environmental policy review;
- (2) Climate change risk and vulnerability assessment; and
- (3) District energy feasibility study.

CARRIED

5. NEW BUSINESS

No items.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 4:30 p.m.

Certified by Recording Secretary

Signed by Chair;