

# City of Surrey

## *Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes*

Executive Boardroom  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2003**  
Time: 7:00 p.m.  
File No. 0540-20 EAC

**Present:**

Dr. R.M. Strang - Chair  
J. Grewal  
H. Locke (7:03 p.m.)  
Dr. T. Godwin  
D. Maher  
Dr. F. Perello  
B. Stilwell  
R. Wetzel  
Councillor Bose

**Absent:**

J. Trimble  
J. Sarwal

**Staff Present:**

C. Baron, Drainage & Environment Manager  
A. Zonta, Legislative Services

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Councillor Bose and Mr. Bill Stilwell were introduced to the members of the committee via a round table.

### **A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

#### **1. Environmental Advisory Committee - Minutes**

It was

January 16, 2003 be adopted.

Moved by R. Wetzel

Seconded by Dr. T. Godwin

That the minutes of the Environmental Advisory committee meeting of

Carried

### **B. DELEGATIONS**

There weren't any delegations present.

### **C. DISCUSSION OF DELEGATIONS**

There weren't any delegations present.

### **D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

#### **1. Terms of Reference – Alternates/Absences**

A memo was provided to the committee by the Acting City Clerk addressing the committee's request for alternates and when dealing with member's absences.

The committee briefly reviewed the memo and it was noted that since the generation of this memo, Council had decided at a Closed Council meeting that the Clerk's Department would prepare a revised memo to update the committee of recent developments.

## **E. NEW BUSINESS (Round Table)**

### **1. WaterWise Demonstration Garden and Watering Requirements**

The Chair stated that since the construction and opening of the City of Surrey's WaterWise Demonstration Garden there hasn't been limited promotion and feedback from Surrey residents regarding this garden design concept. He suggested that the committee place an article in the City Page to remind patrons to keep in mind these design concepts when constructing and maintaining their gardens.

F. Perello suggested that the committee could use the article from last year but it should be reworded and updated before being placed on the City Page.

Councillor Bose mentioned that the Regional District has provided in the past and will be providing watering guidelines for this coming summer. He noted that there would be strict watering guidelines for Lower Mainland residents as there has been limited rainfall this past year and new year. He suggested that this watering guideline information could be coordinated with tax notices and utility notices so that Surrey residents can be properly informed beforehand.

C. Baron was requested to draft the article for City Page. Legislative Services will provide her with last year's memo.

### **2. Environmental Impacts For Proposed Development (152 Street and Grandview Corridor)**

A query was posed regarding the proposed development located at 152 Street and the Grandview Corridor and how it would impact surrounding land environmentally. Also, it was asked if the Environmental Advisory Committee could receive information on the developmental and environmental plans for this proposed project.

The Chair suggested that a member from the Planning Department attend a future committee meeting as a delegation. C. Baron noted that the contact for the project in the Planning Department is George Fujii and that the committee should contact the planning department requesting a delegation to attend the next EAC to discuss the Grandview Heights areashe could contact him to discuss this request.

Councillor Bose asked if the environmental components for this project are incorporated with the developmental components. C. Baron responded that the Official Community Plan (OCP) requires that these two components coincide with each other during the planning process.

The Chair will prepare formal correspondence to the Planning DepartmentMr. Fujii in conjunction with Ms. Baron's request requesting a delegation for the March EAC meeting.

## **F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

There weren't any items brought forth.

## **G. UPDATES**

### **1. Committee Focus Reports**

#### **(a) Outstanding Action Item List (Revised)**

The list has been reformatted and updated for the committee's review. This is a draft version only and must be approved by the committee before its implementation.

Last meeting, the committee decided to keep completed items on the list for a calendar year. Upon review of the revised list, the committee will need to decide if completed items should be kept or taken off.

The committee accepted the revised changes to the action list and agreed that the completed items are kept for a calendar year (i.e. "on file") and that pending items be brought forward to the top of the list.

**i. Changes to Action List**

(a) BC Hydro PCB Contamination

- Deletion of "Action Completed" and insertion of "Letter Sent," in Pending/Completed column.
- Addition of line "Waiting for C. Baron's response," in Status column.

(b) Sumas SE2 and BPR Cherry Point Generation Plant

- In Staff/Member column, change "R. Gray" to "Councillor Bose."
- The Status Columns for both need updating.

**ii. Arsenic in Wells in Surrey**

At the last meeting, it was suggested that another response letter should be sent to the Fraser Health Authority as the action item list stated that a response from the authority had not yet been received.

Upon further review, two letters have already been sent by the health authority in response to the committee's requests of October 29, 2001 and April 30, 2002. This item is completed.

A query was brought forth regarding if arsenic in wells is a unique occurrence in Surrey. C. Baron stated that this issue is not unique to Surrey and has been ongoing. She noted that potable water is being brought into agricultural areas of Surrey as a result for fire and residential use only.

Councillor Bose mentioned that arsenic leeching into wells might have arose via the handling of locally produced products. When the products are harvested and prepared for market, the product is cleaned free of pesticides. It is possible that contaminates might be entering the ground/water table during the washing process.

C. Baron mentioned that the Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Fisheries is looking at implementing a program that relates to ~~septic field compliance~~ and water quality in ditches. She noted that the Engineering Department would be observing the assessments. She will provide the committee with updates at a later date.

**iii. Sumas SE 2 and BPR Cherry Point Generation Plant Updates**

News updates and information was provided for the committee's review. The action item list shall be updated to reflect the new information brought forward.

Councillor Bose stated that the Regional Committee would be monitoring the progress of these two projects. He offered his assistance to provide the committee with updates for both projects. It was agreed by the committee that he would undertake this responsibility.

**(b) Recycling**

A draft memo was prepared by the Chair and was reviewed by the committee before placing it on the City Page.

C. Baron had spoken with R. Costanzo about this concern. She stated during garbage collection, the schedule that is distributed promotes the use of garbage cans.

Councillor Bose stated that he had received a phone call regarding the littering of garbage. He also noted that the public might not be completely aware of the importance of garbage can use.

R. Wetzel explained the history behind the generation of this memo to Councillor Bose.

F. Perello mentioned that since the discussion of this topic, he has been increasing aware of garbage collection in his area. He has noticed that residents are not properly securing the lids onto the garbage cans. He suggested that the memo depict the securing of lids.

Changes to the memo are as follows:

- *“Metal or plastic cans with tightly fitting lids cannot.”*
- *“The Environmental Advisory Committee urges Surrey residents to use garbage cans rather than just bags so as to minimize the quantity of garbage spread around by scavengers.”*

**(c) Bicycle Paths**

Councillor Bose provided a brief update regarding the current status of the TransLink budget for roadways and bicycle paths. He stated that the budget is providing monies for the construction of new bicycle paths. The significant addition will be a bicycle lane along King George Highway to Colebrook Road. There have been a large number of demands for a bicycle lane to be built in this area.

He noted that K. Zondervan is overseeing the implementation of this budget and that it will be a shared funding project between the City and TransLink. The budget allocates funds to certain projects by priority.

A copy of this budget will be brought forth for review at the next meeting.

There was brief discussion regarding provisions for bicycle lanes/paths for projects not listed on the budget. Councillor Bose noted that constructing bicycle paths is quite expensive.

**H. CORRESPONDENCE**

It was

Moved by R. Wetzel  
Seconded by F. Perello  
That Correspondence Items 1 and 2 be received.  
Carried

**1. Fraser Basin Council's 2002 Sustainability Awards**

File No. 5650-20 FRASER

**2. State of the Fraser Basin Report Released: How Healthy is the Fraser River Basin?**

File No. 5650-20 FRASER

**I. INFORMATION ITEMS**

It was Moved by F. Perello  
Seconded by B. Stilwell  
That Information Item 1 be received.  
Carried

**1. 2003 Salmon Habitat & Restoration Program (ShaRP)**

File No. 4803-905

Corporate Report was submitted by the General Manager of Engineering to apprise Council of the 2003~~2~~ ShaRP Program and seek authorization for the activities to be undertaken by the students in the ShaRP Program during the summer of 2003 with respect to the watershed stewardship.

Council had approved all recommendations provided by the General Manager.

C. Baron stated that only primary funding for the program has been released at the moment. Currently, the City has completed applications for external funding as well as sent out support letters to Members of parliament, Council, and other agencies. She stated that the HRDC committed to the program last year and has strongly supported the program. She mentioned that for this year they are searching for new funding sources.

There was brief discussion regarding the contents of the program (i.e. composition of program, member involvement, etc.)

D. Maher asked about the current funding resources and delegated amount. C. Baron responded that it is the same as last year. In the past, the City has contributed to the majority of the funding however, due to the expansion of external funding resources, the City has reduced their contributory amount.

## **J. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

**1. Updates - Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) and MAFFTH workshop.**

R. Wetzel updated the committee regarding the AAC and MAFFTH workshops recently held. He noted that a lot of districts are starting up agricultural committees. The workshop was designed to assist and to provide districts with valuable information in order to effectively organize, and manage agricultural committees.

R. Wetzel noted that the City of Surrey to date has the only agricultural representative that is also a member represented on the EAC committee. The City of Surrey's agricultural and environmental committees were praised for their commitment and efforts.

**2. State of Mud Bay**

Councillor Bose inquired about the current status of Mud Bay and if the committee has had any recent involvements with this issue. He noted that because of past environmental impacts in this area, the shellfish were contaminated. Due to the contamination, cleanup measures were implemented, however, the committee has not revisited this issue for some time.

C. Baron responded that the Georgia Basin Ecological initiative (GBEI) is examining the issue of shellfish contamination in Boundary Bay – Drayton Harbour area. In addition, GBDI in conjunction with the GVRD has a monitoring program in place to monitor beach contamination levels, and the effects on shellfish livestock from Kwamis Point to Drajnten harbour. A joint circulation study is in progress and will be released at a later date through the GBEI roundtable. Surrey was a contributing partner to the study.

There was brief discussion regarding the past/recent effects of sewerage released into these waters and how it affects the shellfish. Councillor Bose stated that the surrounding harbours, straits and bays could be the most significant estuaries for shellfish along the coast.

The Chair stated that there seems to be a significant division of water management responsibility for environmentally sensitive areas. C. Baron confirmed that there is a division of responsibilities by different agencies for water/land management in Mud Bay.

### **3. Pharmaceuticals in Groundwater**

R. Wetzel mentioned that information had been brought forth regarding the possibility of trace amounts of pharmaceuticals found in local sewer systems and drinking water.

C. Baron provided a brief update regarding current water monitoring programs in place and being conducted by the GVRD as part of the Liquid Waste Management Plan. Copies of the studies will be made available at the next EAC meeting, that she could provide the committee with water monitoring reports. (Liquid Management Monitoring Plan for discharge.)

B. Stilwill noted that a European study was completed revealing that pharmaceuticals were found in water systems/sewerage and that it has affected local fish stocks. These findings have noted permanent impacts on the fish stocks. He asked if the province had conducted and published a similar study. C. Baron responded that currently the province is aware of this concern and is monitoring levels to establish a baseline.

H. Locke mentioned that there is a program in British Columbia that is managed by Pharmacists. The program promotes the recycling of old/partially used drugs instead of dumping them down the drain, etc. Currently, there aren't enough funds available to properly advertise the program.

The Chair recommended that H. Locke draft a memo for the City Page in order to promote the program locally. He noted that if this is a significant environmental impact that there should be pressure put on the Pharmacists to find additional funding resources for this program.

Dr. T. Godwin suggested that it would be also beneficial if the memo could include in addition to the recycling of pharmaceuticals, batteries and other hazardous wastes.

Councillor Bose requested that the committee be updated on the program's progress and if a consultant could appear as a delegation before the committee once the report has been generated (Spring 2003.)

### **4. Arsenic Found in Playgrounds**

F. Perello stated that there was an article published regarding arsenic levels found in playgrounds in Delta. ~~C. Baron responded that the Corporation of Delta is monitoring for arsenic levels.~~ He asked if the City of Surrey has had a similar concern and/or if there is a program in place to monitor this concern. The Chair will speak to O. Croy, Parks Division General Manager of Parks, Recreation & Culture, regarding this inquiry.

### **5. BC Hydro Permit**

J. Grewal inquired about the current status of the BC Hydro Permit. C. Baron noted that a formal permit has not been granted to BC Hydro and that only a trial permit (used for a demonstration trial) was temporarily granted.

### **6. Truck Washing Facilities**

H. Locke inquired about the progress of a truck-washing bylaw. C. Baron noted that there isn't a specific

formal bylaw in place but the Bylaws Department is ensuring that industrial area owners are prohibited to wash commercial vehicles in their parking lots. Managers and owners in these areas must use a proper truck washing facility or else they will be fined. She noted that there is a generic letter that is sent out to truck washing operations that addresses this concern.

Councillor Bose stated that there has been some variance development permits with restricted covenants issued allowing for some truck operators to park temporary in gravel lots. These permits specify that truck owners are not allowed to wash their trucks in these lots however, some owners are not abiding to the restrictions.

C. Baron stated that both the Engineering and Bylaws Departments are working to improve awareness in industrial areas and automotive businesses so these businesses are using proper washing facilities so that contaminants are not being unnecessarily washed into the ground table.

F. Perello left the meeting at 8:17 p.m. and returned at 8:20 p.m.

C. Baron noted that the ownership for contamination has been directed to both the business managers and owners. She noted that the Engineering Department is trying to track and locate the primary offenders. They are working with the Ministry on limiting this type of exposure as a conjoint effort. Currently, there has been great improvement as there has been a large number of spills reduced and cleaned up.

## **7. Recycling of Treated Wood**

There was brief discussion regard the recycling and use of treated wood for feed troughs for livestock.

## **8. Conference**

D. Maher stated that the International Association of Impact Assessment Conference (IAIA) is scheduled to be held in Vancouver in 2004. This conference could raise the awareness and profile of impact assessments in the region. ~~a conference dealing with would be held to house impact assessment industries in 2004. Donna to get back to me.~~

## **K. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee is tentatively scheduled for March 20, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

## **L. ADJOURNMENT**

The Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

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Chairperson