

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATION INDEX  
Thursday, May 15, 2003**

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**D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**1. Environmental Workshop**

It was Moved by B. Stilwell  
Seconded by D. Maher  
That the Environmental Advisory Committee would request Council  
instruct the City Manager provide the committee with the city's environmental information, guidelines, and  
policy statements referring to environmental concerns and protection.

Carried

**City of Surrey**

***Environmental Advisory Committee  
Minutes***

Executive Boardroom  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
**THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2003**  
Time: 7:00 p.m.

**Present:**

Dr. R.M. Strang - Chair  
J. Grewal  
Dr. T. Godwin  
H. Locke  
D. Maher  
J. Sarwal  
R. Wetzel

**Absent:**

Councillor B. Bose  
Dr. F. Perello  
J. Trimble  
S. Vankeulen

**Staff Present:**

C. Baron, Drainage & Environment Manager  
R. Jones, Environmental Coordinator  
S. Palmer, Legislative Services

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**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**1. Environmental Advisory Committee**

It was Moved by R. Wetzel  
Seconded by J. Sarwal  
That the minutes of the Environmental Advisory committee meeting of  
April 17, 2003 be adopted.

Carried

Note: Council received and adopted the April 17, 2003 minutes at the Regular Council – Public Hearing meeting.

**B. DELEGATIONS**

**1. West Nile Virus**

Ms. Rachael Jones, Environmental Coordinator, was in attendance to provide an information session regarding the West Nile Virus.

The following information was provided with respect to the West Nile Virus:

- That West Nile Virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne virus. In nature, it is normally passed between

- mosquitoes and birds.
- That typically, humans contract WNV through the bite of an infected mosquito. However, a small proportion of cases may be infected alternatively through blood transfusion, organ donation, etc. Most people infected with WNV will experience no symptoms at all. About twenty percent of those infected will develop mild flu-like symptoms lasting a week or less. Symptoms typically include fever, head and body aches, rash, and perhaps swollen lymph glands. In less than one percent of cases, the virus can cause meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord) or encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), which can be fatal. For unknown reasons, people over 50 years of age are most at risk for severe illness. In areas where mosquitoes do carry the virus, very few mosquitoes – much less than one percent – are infected. If bitten by an infected mosquito, less than one percent of people who become infected will get severely ill. For more information on WNV, contact Health Canada at: [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/wnv-vwn/](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/wnv-vwn/) or [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/diseases/west\\_nile.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/diseases/west_nile.html)
  - That species of mosquito capable of transmitting WNV do exist in BC. It is expected that WNV will be identified during the spring or summer of 2003 as the virus continues its westward spread across North America. Last year, the virus was identified in two crows in Washington State near the BC border.
  - That WNV response is being coordinated jointly by the BC Centre for Disease Control and the Fraser Health Authority and includes several approaches, namely:
    - Corvid (crows, ravens, jays and magpies) surveillance, collection and testing
    - Mosquito surveillance including mosquito trapping, species identification and WNV testing
    - Mosquito control
    - Public education
    - Physician information
    - Media announcements
  - That Fraser Health Authority will notify the public if WNV is detected in mosquitoes or crows anywhere within the Fraser Health region.
  - That although there is no specific treatment, medication or cure, many of the symptoms and complications of the disease can be treated. Most people who are infected with WNV recover. There is no human vaccine for WNV at this time. There is a vaccine available for horses. Horse owners should contact their veterinarian for more information.
  - That Surrey's mosquito control program has been in place for many years. The program is managed by the GVRD on behalf of four municipalities, namely the City of Surrey, Township of Langley, Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows. The target of this program is the control of nuisance levels of mosquitoes. The mosquito control contractor for the program is Morrow Engineering Ltd. Morrow has a "mosquito hotline" at **604-986-3363** (shown above) in place to take calls from residents within the four municipalities to report areas of potential concern regarding mosquitoes
  - That information gathered by Morrow is passed on to the Fraser Health Authority (FHA) and the B.C. Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC). Additional projects being conducted this year to help identify and control mosquitoes include the mapping of wet areas in Surrey which are potential mosquito breeding sites, sampling in these areas to see how abundant larvae are, and the application of larvicides to control the mosquito larvae when sufficient numbers are found. In addition, Morrow will be conducting adult mosquito trapping to determine species distribution and abundance. However, the mosquito control program cannot alone fully address the potential problem posed by West Nile Virus (WNV).

## C. DISCUSSION OF DELEGATIONS

### 1. West Nile Virus

Discussion ensued regarding the information provided on the West Nile Virus and the following comments were provided:

- That the larvicide used in the control of mosquitoes is BTI, an environmentally safe product targeting mosquitoes only.
- That Parks staff will coordinate with the SPCA on the collection of dead crows.

- That citizens should not collect dead birds because certain protocols must be followed when collecting specimens and should contact the SPCA for the removal of these birds.
- That humans do develop immunities following recovery from the disease but it is not known at this time how long the antibodies will last.
- That the neighbouring municipalities of the Township of Langley, Pitt Meadows, Richmond, Delta, and Maple Ridge all have mosquito control programs in place.
- That Surrey's mosquito control contract allows for adulticiding of mosquitoes (fogging) but it is not a preferred method.
- That detention ponds do not pose a concern as natural predation should keep the population of mosquitoes at a manageable level.
- That bug zappers may actually attract mosquitoes and one of the best methods of preventing mosquito bites is to wear appropriate clothing, use a repellent containing DEET and get rid of shallow water on property.
- That the City of Vancouver and the GVRD are preparing brochures dealing with the issue.
- That some people use vegetable oil on ponds, which kills the mosquito larvae, however it was stated that this method is hard on birds.

An excerpt on Mosquito Control in the Township of Langley was provided on table and is attached to these minutes as Appendix A.

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

### **1. Environmental Website**

It was asked at the last meeting, that committee members review the environmental section of the City of Surrey website and that the following items would be discussed at the next meeting:

- Discussion of a paper City of Surrey Environmental Almanac
- Types of information the Committee would like to see on the environmental section of the City of Surrey website.

R. Wetzel commented that he is familiar with the City's website, that it is a good site, but added that people looking for environmental information may find it difficult to navigate. He made the suggestion that more links be provided to allow easier access to environmental information. The Chair suggested committee members make a point of looking at the website and bring forward any ideas they may have which would make the site more relevant to the environmental concerns of the community of Surrey.

### **2. Pharmaceuticals in Groundwater**

The memo was received at the Monday, April 28, 2003, Regular Council Public Hearing meeting.

A minute excerpt had been provided stating that memo be forwarded to the City Page as well as a memo forwarded to the City Page on April 22, 2003 by Legislative Services.

The request was made that the website specify that the article on Pharmaceuticals in Groundwater originated from the Environmental Advisory Committee.

### **3. Environmental Workshop**

At the last meeting, the Chair was asked to review and further refine the outline provided. The Chair will bring suggestions forth to the committee.

The Chair noted that the objective of presenting an Environmental Workshop was to make environmental

awareness much higher on the agenda for all departments and agencies within the city, not to develop new restrictions or restraints, but simply to make people more aware of environmental issues.

The statement was made that it would be an internal workshop with perhaps some outside audience geared to ensuring a comprehensive flow of environmental thinking amongst several departments and agencies.

J. Grewal requested an identification of existing problems and the Chair offered an opinion that the city could put environmental issues higher on the agenda with respect to development projects. The Chair then quoted an article from the Peace Arch News titled "Shrew Threatened in Grandview Plan" (attached as Appendix B). He noted that a request had been made for setbacks around Fergus Creek.

The statement was made that the City of North Vancouver has an environmental protection program, a principle document used for all future activities (see Appendix C attached).

The statement was made that Surrey follows provincial legislation and follows various environmental policies such as those included in the Official Community Plan. The Drainage & Environment Manager noted that there are environmental guidelines under Drainage Engineering Standards revolving around riparian habitat, protection of creek corridors and land development criteria.

It was  
Moved by B. Stilwell  
Seconded by D. Maher  
That the Environmental Advisory Committee would request Council  
instruct the City Manager provide the committee with the city's environmental information, guidelines, and  
policy statements referring to environmental concerns and protection.

Carried

**E. NEW BUSINESS**

**F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

**G. UPDATES**

**1. Outstanding Action List (For Review)**

The request was made that the Committee Clerk amend the Outstanding Action List to state that the West Nile Virus issue has been completed and strike it from the list.

Questions regarding Groundwater and Elgin Creek issues indicated that these matters are still pending.

The Committee members were advised of the information presented on the Sumas Energy 2 Generation Facility and BP Cherry Point Cogeneration Project.

**H. CORRESPONDENCE**

**1. Cod Fishery Press Release**

Correspondence received by John Cummins, M.P. dated April 24, 2003.

**I. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**1. Article from “A Green Mystery of the World” by Clive Penting, 1992**

The request was made to attach this article comparing efficiencies in terms of people moving, energy and railways versus roads to the minutes for general interest (see Appendix D).

**2. Panel Discussion on Preserving Green Space in the Lower Mainland**

An invitation was extended to committee members to attend the panel discussion at Chief Sepass Theatre, Langley fine Arts School, 9096 Trattle Street, Fort Langley on Tuesday, May 20, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. (see Appendix E).

**3. Canadian Environmental Protection Newsletter – April 2003**

An offer of a free subscription to the Canadian Environmental Protection newsletter was not pursued by the members.

**J. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

**1. Proposed Subdivision on 168 Street**

A brief discussion ensued with respect to a proposed subdivision on 168 Street which involves a finger of land extending between ARL lands and parkland. The statement was made that the property is close to a viable coho spawning stream and it was noted that the project had received final adoption.

**2. Water Meter Program Update**

An update on the water meter program was provided by the Drainage and Environment Manager.

**K. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 19, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by T. Godwin  
Seconded by R. Wetzel  
That the Environmental Advisory committee do now adjourn.  
Carried

The Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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Chairperson