

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATION INDEX  
Wednesday, February 16, 2005**

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**E. NEW BUSINESS CONT'D**

**3. Update: Riparian Areas Regulation**

It was Moved by S. VanKeulen  
Seconded by B. Gray  
That the Environmental Advisory (EAC) Committee recommends to Council that up to two members of the EAC be authorized to attend the conference entitled, "Environmental Issues and Local Government", scheduled for March 3-4, 2005, at the Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel, and that all expenses be approved in accordance with Council Policy. **(See Appendix A)**  
Carried

**D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**1. Terms of Reference**

The Administrative Assistant will contact the Mayor's office in order to request a group session with Council and the EAC to discuss the terms of reference and a work plan.

**2. Draft Wild Salmon Policy**

It was Moved by K. Keshvani  
Seconded by S. VanKeulen  
That the Environmental Advisory Committee seeks Council's approval to provide a submission at the Multi-Interest Dialogue Forum on March 1-2, 2005 regarding the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' Draft Wild Salmon Policy.  
Carried

**City of Surrey**

***Environmental Advisory Committee  
Minutes***

Executive Boardroom  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2005**  
Time: 5:02 p.m.

**Present:**

R. Wetzel - Chair  
H. Locke - Vice Chair  
Dr. C. Dragomir (7:04 pm)  
B. Gray  
Dr. K. Hoekstra  
A. Keshvani  
B. Stilwell  
Councillor Bose

**Absent:**

D. Maher  
J. Lotzkar  
Dr. F. Perello

**Agricultural Advisory Committee  
Representative**

S. VanKeulen

**Staff Present:**

O. Croy, Parks, Recreation & Culture  
W. Whelen, Planning & Development  
C. Baron, Drainage & Environment Manager  
K. Miller, Legislative Services

**Also Present:**

J. Previer, Boundary Bay Conservation  
Committee  
D. Riley

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**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

## 1. Environmental Advisory Committee - Minutes - January 12, 2005

It was Moved by B. Gray  
Seconded by A. Keshvani  
That the minutes of the Environmental Advisory committee meeting of January 12, 2005 be amended on page 5, recommendation to the General Manager, Engineering read as follows, "... *Large Item Pick up Program progress reports be forwarded...*" and adopted.  
Carried

## E. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Pest Management Tracking 2004

The Manager of Parks was in attendance to discuss the above and provided an overview of practices used in pest management in the City. Through a growing awareness of the environmental impacts associated with the use of pesticides, the City now uses more cultural methods for controlling pests, in accordance with the City's Integrated Pest Management Policy (IPM). It was further stated that the City uses variety of means for the safe control of rodents.

Mr. Croy then provided an overview of the development of comprehensive management plans for the City's urban forests and other wild areas, whereby expert staff of varied fields of natural area management are in place to safely and effectively manage pests within the City's parks.

A recent focus is on the control of invasive plant species relying on community education as well as cultural and chemical means. The control of weeds, insects, diseases, molluscs, rodents and other pests in City parks, recreation and cultural facilities is regulated through the IPM Policy. The Policy relies on a combination of methods to suppress pests to acceptable levels and includes the use of pesticides where no other practical alternatives are available.

In recent years, the City has made a shift in the types of pest suppression that it carries out, through the adoption of the Natural Areas Management Plan (NAMP).

Pest-related issues account for a significant percentage of the calls from residents, with the greatest numbers of calls relating to weed levels, insect infestation on trees, and diseases causing die-back on various types of trees and shrubs.

With a growing understanding of the importance of natural areas and ecosystem management, the City increased its tolerance levels for typical pests in the man-made park environments, reduced its reliance on chemical pesticides, and began to treat serious pest issues associated with non-native invasive species. As well, the City began to employ a wider range of cultural and mechanical practices to reduce or eliminate pest populations in the parks system.

There followed a general discussion relative to the following:

- Treatment of sand-based sports fields relies primarily on sound turf culture practices, with some spot spraying for weed control;
- Areas of passive turf adjacent to sport fields become weed infested, and cause weed spillover onto playing fields. These adjacent areas are sometimes treated;
- It is not anticipated that any turf area will be weed free;
- Mosquito management is carried out through a GVRD contract, where populations of larvae are monitored, and treatment carried out primarily on the larvae using Bt I – very little adulticiding is carried out;
- Drainage of areas susceptible for mosquito infestation;
- Public awareness of IPM through a detailed breakdown of different types of pesticides by category;
- Amounts used in the City per hectare basis is low compared to agricultural standards;
- Domestic use by homeowners is typically much higher than what the City uses in parks;

- Other municipalities in the Lower Mainland are considering phasing out the use of pesticides, but this is not current being considered by Surrey staff; and
- Responsibilities for pesticide registration lies with the Federal government, while the BC Ministry of Water, Air and Land Protection is responsible for regulating the application of pesticides.

The committee commended staff for the report and practices in place for City parks.

O. Croy withdrew from the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

## **2. Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs)**

Planning and Development staff were in attendance to provide information relative to land use planning and ESAs in Surrey.

There followed a review of policies, regulations and processes that Surrey uses to protect ESAs and how environmental issues are integrated into Surrey's planning initiatives.

- Origins of Surrey's ESAs;
- Land development guidelines;
- Neighbourhood Concept Plan (NCP) program;
- Establishment of the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC);
- Adoption of the Official Community Plan (OCP) with natural area protection and environmental policies;
- Policy to acquire natural areas;
- Tree preservation by-law;
- Stream classification map;
- Establishment of the Planning and Development's Environmental Review Committee (ERC)
- Introduction of ISMPs;
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan;
- Land use planning (general and NCPs);
- Grandview Heights General Land Use Plan (vegetation and wildlife);
- ESA acquisition and enhancement strategies;
- Environmental protection tools (watercourse classifications; riparian setbacks; tree preservation by-law);
- Transfer of development rights;
- Development review process;
- Role of EAC; and
- Planning initiatives for 2005.

There followed a general discussion relative to the screening of developments prior to final approval.

W. Whelen withdrew from the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

The agenda was then varied to accommodate the Delegation

## **B. DELEGATION**

### **1. Mr. James Previer, Boundary Bay Conservation Committee**

Mr. Previer was in attendance to discuss the possible enhancement and protection of Boundary Bay. It was noted that this item was referred by Council at the December 23, 2004 Regular Council – Public Hearing. Mr. Previer provided an overview of previous requests that Council endorse enhancement and protection strategies

for Boundary Bay.

The purpose of the delegation was to ensure that dogs are leashed in environmentally sensitive areas and public parks in Surrey. Mr. Previer feels that Blackie Spit is particularly at risk.

The Boundary Bay Conservation Committee (BBCC) is concerned that there is significant disturbance to shorebirds and waterfowl by unleashed dogs at Blackie Spit. When undertaking research for this report, it became evident that there are a number of reasons why Surrey needs to ensure that dogs are leashed. Consequently, the BBCC's previous recommendations have been expanded to include public personal concerns as well as disturbance to the environment.

Mr. Previer feels that the City of Surrey has particular accountability because of the significance of the Boundary Bay ecosystem. Boundary Bay, Sturgeon Bank and Roberts Bank rank as the top important bird areas in Canada for number and diversity of birds exceeding global, continental and national criteria.

The estuary is a key stopover on the Pacific Flyway, a bird migration corridor between the Arctic and South America with over 320 species of birds. An estimated 5 million waterfowl, shorebirds and songbirds migrate through every spring and fall. Additionally, there are thousands of resident birds. Boundary Bay and Roberts Bank qualify as a Wetland of International Importance under the United Nations program (Ramsar site), but have not been officially designated. The estuary was declared a Western Hemispheric Site for shorebirds in the fall of 2004 by the Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN).

Boundary Bay is a Provincial Wildlife Management Area and Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection have the responsibility to respect and protect the sensitive foreshore. Disturbance of the waterfowl and shorebirds contravenes the Migratory Bird Act signed by Canada and the United States.

Throughout the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD), there are increasing conflicts between unleashed dog owners and the general public. The BBCC understands that dog owners continue to swim their dogs on the sensitive foreshore of Blackie Spit Park, despite regulations. The BBCC feels that education and enforcement are needed.

Mr. Gray provided an overview of the history of the public consultation process and resulted in an advisory group being established to address public concerns relative to Blackie Spit.

There followed a discussion relative to dog owners and conservation groups. It was noted that one application to the Fraser River Estuary Management Plan (FREMP) for a canine swim area was subsequently denied.

It was noted that a gate, which provides access to the environmentally sensitive area, has been locked in the open position.

Councillor Bose will inform Council that the gate located adjacent to the Maple Street Pump Station is presently locked in the open position and that the appropriate signs may need to be reinstalled.

Councillor Bose explained to the delegation the reasons for Council's referral to the EAC, however had the issue surrounding the controversy relative to off-leash dog areas, is more appropriately under the purview of the Council.

Mr. Previer stated that other issues the BBCC is addressing include the degradation of the Fraser River, degradation of agriculture based soil, and public access.

C. Baron stated that Environment Canada is looking at water quality in Boundary Bay, and the potential for bringing back shellfish harvesting for the local First Nations communities.

The delegation withdrew from the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

## **C. DISCUSSION OF DELEGATION**

It was Moved by Councillor Bose  
Seconded by B. Gray  
That the Environmental Advisory Committee receive the delegation on  
behalf of the Boundary Bay Conservation Committee (BBCC).  
Carried

## E. NEW BUSINESS CONT'D

### 3. Update: Riparian Areas Regulation

The Drainage & Environment Manager provided an overview of the above document.

In 2001, the newly formed Provincial government revisited the Streamside Protection Regulations, and has since modified those regulations referring to them as the Riparian Areas Regulations (RAR). There was little consultation with local governments, except through direct consultation with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). The legislation was enacted in July 2004 with all local governments required to adopt the regulations by March 31, 2005.

The intent of the regulation was to provide consistency, a uniform approach and clarity in riparian area determinations throughout the Province. Several key issues have emerged, making the achievement of set goals a challenge. A corporate report outlining the challenges was forwarded to Surrey City Council on September 7, 2004.

City staff have worked with other local government environmental staff to estimate the impact of the proposed RAR setbacks in Surrey. The current setback determination method used by the City is based on the Federal government document, *Land Development Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Habitat*.

This has been the setback standard for the City since the early 1990's as applied by the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks (now Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection), and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. This current setback methodology was conservative enough to also deal with geo-technical concerns, hazard trees concerns, wildlife corridor provisions, floodplain concerns and drainage rights-of-way issues.

The proposed RAR setbacks do not look at any other setback considerations except those required to protect fish habitat. They are, therefore, not necessarily consistent with other Provincial legislation dealing with floodplains and wildlife considerations along the same corridors.

A developer may be able to meet the setbacks for RAR only to find out later through the process that geo-technical considerations or those associated with floodplains may take precedence over the development of the site.

There followed a general discussion relative to the Riparian Areas Regulation, and an upcoming conference. (See item I.6)

It was Moved by S. VanKeulen  
Seconded by B. Gray  
That the Environmental Advisory (EAC) Committee recommends to  
Council that up to two members of the EAC be authorized to attend the conference entitled, "Environmental Issues and Local Government", scheduled for March 3-4, 2005, at the Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel, and that all expenses be approved in accordance with Council Policy. **(See Appendix A).**  
Carried

## D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

### 1. Terms of Reference

The Administrative Assistant informed the committee that the Terms of Reference are currently being reviewed and will be forwarded to the committee at a future meeting.

The Chair will contact the Mayor in order to request a group session with Council and the EAC to discuss the

terms of reference and a work plan.

The Administrative Assistant will contact the Mayor's office accordingly.

## **2. Draft Wild Salmon Policy**

At the January 12, 2005 meeting, the committee received the above document and resolved to provide comments to Council at the next EAC meeting. At that time the Chair requested that members submit written comments at the meeting, and that members bring the document distributed previously to the meeting.

It was generally agreed that the habitat protection section allows for some habitat losses, which contradicts the No Net Loss Policy. Only major projects will be reviewed for habitat loss. This is compounded by the staff cuts in the habitat branch that make it impossible for habitat staff to do their jobs. The lack of resources on the grounds in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) because of a lack of funding is difficult to understand.

There are no special provisions to safeguard wild salmon from impacts from aquaculture. On the fisheries management front, it was agreed with the environmental community that the "conservation units" are too large to protect the range of rivers and stream systems in the Province. The large size of these conservation units works against habitat protection in more localized places, i.e., Broughton pink runs that are being decimated by the salmon farms in the area (sea lice).

As spawner abundances decrease, a conservation unit may move from Green status across the upper benchmark to an Amber status, then across the benchmark to Red status. As this occurs, the likelihood and intensity of management responses will escalate.

It was felt that the document is full of motherhood statements about how well the government is going to maintain the resource with less manpower and funding. The committee expressed strong concerns relative to staffing cuts, which disables the government's preservation of wild salmon habitat.

It was  
Moved by K. Keshvani  
Seconded by S. VanKeulen  
That the Environmental Advisory Committee seeks Council's approval to  
provide a submission at the Multi-Interest Dialogue Forum on March 1-2, 2005 regarding the Department of  
Fisheries and Oceans' Draft Wild Salmon Policy.  
Carried

Dr. Dragomir withdrew from the meeting at 7:58 p.m., and returned at 8:03 p.m.

## **3. Member Contact List**

The Administrative Assistant informed the committee that personal contact information is not for public consumption, and should be used for internal purposes only.

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

## **G. UPDATES**

## **H. CORRESPONDENCE**

The committee was requested to pass a motion to receive the following items of correspondence.

It was  
Moved by B. Gray

Seconded by K. Hoekstra

That the Environmental Advisory Committee receive the following items

of correspondence.

Carried

**1. Good Citizen Award**

The Administrative Assistant advised that submissions may be provided from a group or individually.

**2. Suggestions for EAC Mandate**

Correspondence of February 3, 2005 from Dr. T. Godwin. It was agreed that Dr. Godwin's points would be considered for inclusion in the revised terms of reference.

**3. The Friends of the Semiahmoo Heritage Trail**

Correspondence received February 16, 2005, from Ms. Edna Shaw, requesting to appear as a delegation at an upcoming meeting.

It was

Moved by S. VanKeulen

Seconded by B. Stilwell

That the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) receive the Ms.

Edna Shaw, on behalf of the Friends of Semiahmoo Heritage Trail at the March 16, 2005 EAC meeting.

Carried

**I. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**1. Council Resolutions – January 17, 2005**

Memorandum of January 18, 2005 from Legislative Services.

**2. Delegation to Surrey EAC (Referred from Council)**

Correspondence of February 2, 2005 to Mr. James Previer.

**3. City's Recycling Effort Ratchets Up**

Article submitted by J. Lotzkar, from the Seattle Times.

**4. Green Communities Annual Conference and 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

Conference of February 24 - 26, 2005, at the University of British Columbia.

**5. Environmental Permitting and Approval Process in BC**

Workshop of February 24, 2005 at the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown.

**6. Environmental Issues and Local Government**

This item was addressed under E.3.

**7. Leading the Way – Workshop 2005**

Workshop of May 20 – 24, 2005 in Squamish, BC.

**J. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

**1. Green Timbers / RCMP Development**

The committee briefly discussed the above development.

**2. West Nile Virus**

C. Baron provided an overview of possible actions under consideration for the above subject and adulticide practices. It was agreed that the Fraser Health Authority be invited to attend the March EAC meeting.

It was

Moved by B. Gray

Seconded by B. Stilwell

That all delegations to the EAC be allotted fifteen minutes unless extension is authorized by the Chair.

Carried

**K. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on March 16, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Executive Board Room. The Administrative Assistant will contact the Mayor's office to coordinate a special meeting date.

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

The Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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Margaret Jones, City Clerk

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R. Wetzel, Chair, Environmental Advisory Committee