

City of Surrey

Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2005
Time: 6:30 p.m.



Present:

R. Wetzel - Chair
Dr. Dragomir
Dr. K. Hoekstra
H. Locke
J. Lotzkar
Dr. F. Perello
B. Stilwell

Absent:

B. Gray
A. Keshvani
D. Maher
Councillor Bose

Staff Present:

C. Baron, Drainage & Environment Manager
K.K. Li, Water Planning Manager
C. Bonneville, Legislative Services

**Agricultural Advisory Committee
Representative**

S. VanKeulen

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Environmental Advisory Committee - Minutes - April 20, 2005

It was

Moved by F. Perello

Seconded by S. VanKeulen

That the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of

April 20, 2005 be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

The Chair advised that there are no delegations scheduled to be heard, however a delegation from the Border Infrastructure Project may be present at the next EAC meeting.

C. DISCUSSION OF DELEGATIONS

The agenda was amended to hear item E.1.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. City of Surrey Groundwater Strategy, Groundwater Exploration Program

K.K. Li, Water Planning Manager, was in attendance to present the above item, and made the following comments:

- The Groundwater Exploration Program has been started for a few years, and this presentation will be reviewing what has been done and what will be done.
- Review of the objectives was stated as - to provide safe and reliable supply of drinking water; supplement the supply currently being purchased from the GVRD; defer the expansion of the regions' surface water sources; provide emergency supplies of water, lower cost than the GVRD water purchase.
 - Do not have the capability to take over the GVRD supply.
 - The GVRD water main is running through the lowland, which is seismic sensitive; there would be a benefit to the south surrey area to have groundwater as alternate source.
- Groundwater study was started in 1999; the rehabilitation of the Sunnyside well started after and was

commissioned in 2003.

- The groundwater study done in 1999 was a desktop study, assessing the feasibility and cost of developing groundwater resources. It was concluded that groundwater could supplement GVRD system, not replace it.
- The cost of groundwater is approximately 15 cents per cubic meter; the cost of GVRD water will cost 38 cents per cubic meter in 2008.
- After the rehabilitation of the well at Sunnyside, the well is capable of producing 46 litres per second.
- The groundwater assessment of 2004 including hiring a consultant who created a 3D geologic model, identify the different layers of soil, this will assist the City as to where to drill the wells. At the same time we reviewed where land is available for production wells and the pumping facilities.
- The Groundwater exploration and testing of 2004 was reviewed and it was stated that drilling and testing program in three aquifers: the S. Surrey Uplands, Clayton Uplands and the N. Surrey Uplands.
- S. Surrey Uplands; there is a production well that is approximately 50 m within the forest area.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Water Planning Manager stated:

- Geologic model shows where the potential areas are, we look at different area and the Softball City are is the preferred area as there is an existing well and an existing pump station, therefore the existing infrastructure is in place.
- In Crescent Beach there is a small well that is operated by the Parks Department.
- We have a test well at the south edge of the South Surrey Athletic Park;

The Water Planning Manager continued with his presentation stating the following:

- At the Clayton Uplands there are two test wells and a 'monitoring well' near the Clayton Reservoir, there are some concerns with the test results from this well near the reservoir.
- In the N. Surrey Upland, two wells were drilled next to the Newton and Kennedy Reservoirs and there was insufficient yield. A productive aquifer was found in the area at the Fleetwood Sports and Leisure Centre.
- A map showing the location of the test wells that have been drilled so far was reviewed for the Committee members.
- The location of potential production wells of 2005 were reviewed together with their capacity. In Fleetwood the capacity is 74 litres per second. Once 74 litres is achieved, the current legislation requires an environmental assessment process be undertaken. In Clayton the well is not as productive as in the other areas.
- The water quality complies with the Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines; there are elevated levels of manganese and iron. The effect of these two elements in the water is that once oxidized it will produce a stain; an example is causing a reddish brown color in laundry if water directly from the aquifer is used.
- We also provide sodium hypo-chloride to disinfect the groundwater, only to provide secondary protection.
- Beyond 2005, there will be an ongoing program of monitoring and analysis of groundwater levels, surface water data collection and analysis. Once analysis is complete and the result is favourable, then we would undertake the environmental assessment process.

In response to questions from the Committee Members, the Water Planning Manager advised:

- 75 litres per second works out to 1000 gallons per minute. The intention is to pump continually.
- The City does not intend to pump more than the 75 litres per second until we know the affect on the ground water. The intention is not to pump and deplete the aquifer and lower the groundwater level of the aquifer and to allow the rainwater and the surface water infiltration to replenish the aquifer.
- We have a joint study with Langley to review the Brookwood aquifer, there was a report done by Golder that reviewed Langley's groundwater and aquifers.
- We will monitor the effect on existing wells. However we are not aware of private wells near Fleetwood and Sunnyside production wells.
- The consultant has advised that we do not put wells in the lowland areas due to the water quality.
- We start the well of May 2003, and the well was supplying to our customers, and we shut down the well in May 2004 for technical reason. We are planning to supply our customers within the next few months.

Our staff are informed that the well has started. In 2003 we did not provide any news release.

- We could provide up to 25% of the water consumption, subject to the monitoring and approval from the environmental assessment. The 15% or 25% supply is based on how much water can be replenished through the infiltration process. We can install pumping capacity to a higher level however, we want to do it at a sustainable manner and not to have any adverse effect on the aquifer.
- The groundwater would be pumped directly into the water system; the City does not have any reservoirs.
- We developed an emergency pen where we can still supply the basic supply to the City; the groundwater would be able to provide some water to our residents. The well would be pumping directly into our system.
- The water will pump directly into the City system and the GVRD water will be mixed; sodium hypochloride is injected at the pump station.
- We monitor the water from time to time. Based on experience in other areas, we expect that the water quality will remain steady for a long time. The water quality may change if the infiltration of the rainwater cannot sustain the aquifer and the water may be drawn from a distant source.
- Manganese is indicated as an aesthetic limit and not a health concern in the Canadian Drinking Water Guideline.
- We do not have the capacity to draw more water than what has been stated in the presentation. The environment assessment act does not allow us to draw more water from the aquifer – we have to apply for their approval before we can put in the equipment to take more capacity. There are other wells in South Surrey that would produce good quality water, we know where they are. but until we have the approval from the environmental assessment process we will not put in more wells.
- The City of Surrey does not treat wastewater. Regarding the use of treated water, there is a pilot project ongoing with the GVRD. The GVRD is the one that treats our sewerage.
- The GVRD is aware of our groundwater program they had planned to develop groundwater as part of their water source. In 2001, we have secured the groundwater as a municipal resource.
- We plan to install two production wells in 2005. We will monitor the groundwater levels for a few years. If the monitoring result is favourable, then we may extend the project. It will then take another two or three years to complete.

The Chair thanked the Water Planning Manager for his presentation.

The regular agenda resumed.

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. 2005 Work Plan

The Chair advised that the committee members should review the 2005 Work Plan for priorities and amendments. Following are the comments made during their discussion:

- Under Education and Awareness there should be three separate items as follows:
 - 1. Support the Residential Waste and Recycling Calendar
 - 2. Expand the environment section of the City web site as a major communication vehicle.
 - 3. Review Calendar content for upgrades.
- Riparian Areas Regulations
 - It was questioned whether EAC has any control of this issue.
 - The Environment Manager advised that the City is reviewing a new policy and in the next couple months would like to show the results of the pilot and request input from the EAC and the DAC.
- There was a brief discussion regarding the items referred by Council and the priority that those items will take, as the EAC main mandate is to advise Council.
- There was a discussion regarding the website and the environmental content not being focused on the City's website, there should be one central area that would show that the City is environmental, showcasing the projects and events. The environmental webpage should be a virtual almanac that educates the citizens of the City on how to better manage water, land and air. It was suggested that under Education and

Awareness a fourth item be added as follows:

- 4. Education items and material continue to be submitted to the City Page published in the local newspaper.

The Chair encouraged the Committee members to write and submit environmental articles of interest for review by the EAC for inclusion on the City Page.

- There was a discussion regarding the scope of the committee, and the meaning of the word environmental. It was clarified that the environmental encompasses water, land and air.
- A Committee member queried as to why they did not have any input into the Environmental Extravaganza. The Environmental Manager advised that the Parks Department had steering committees put together months prior to the start of the event. She further responded that there was a request in the past from the staff of the Planning and Parks Departments that they attend the EAC meetings as required. The EAC may request members of staff to attend their meetings.
- There was discussion regarding the 'annual environmental progress report', it was determined that the wording of the 4th item of 'New Areas' should read:
 - Develop an Annual EAC Summary Report.
- The Environmental Manager advised that the 'integrated storm water management plan' under the bullet of Grandview Corridor should be moved to be included with the NCP Reviews and Parks Plans under Advance Participation. She further advised that there are three reviews scheduled for this year and three scheduled for next year.
- It was suggested that the wording of Clayton Heights Low Impact Development be changed to read Clayton Heights Development.
- A discussion ensued regarding the Grandview Development; the Environmental Manager advised that there is no water monitoring currently being done. It was requested that the Environmental Manager request the appropriate staff members attend the next EAC meeting to discuss this development.

It was

Moved by B. Stillwell

Seconded by S. Vankeulen

That the Environmental Manager request the person(s) (Planning and Engineering staff) responsible for the Grandview (Corners) Development to attend the next EAC meeting to answer pertinent questions of the EAC.

Carried

The discussion continued:

- It was decided to minimize some of the wording in the 2005 work plan to make the document briefer.
- There was a brief discussion regarding the 'large item pickup program' and a motion that was passed at the March meeting. The motion stated that the Solid Waste Manager would provide a mid term report regarding the progress of the large item pickup program. It was decided that this item would be on the next agenda of the EAC.
- A discussion ensued regarding an environmental progress report, it was stated that the EAC had addressed this issue at a previous meeting and found it to be time consuming, as it would need a lot of supporting data to be given a grade, and not to be just individuals personal opinions. It was decided that the topic of 'Environmental Progress Report' and that the City of Richmond model (which was background material in a 2004 EAC meeting) would also be included on the next agenda. And that the City of Richmond model (from the Environmental Manager) would be provided at the next meeting, and further that J. Lotzkar would provide a sample of the (one page) report he has in mind.
- A item should be added to read;
 - Provide advice to City Council on the Environmental Impacts of City Programs.
- It was decided that the following two issues would be included in the 2005 Work plan: Brownfields and EMS – Environmental Management System for Contaminated sites.

The Secretary read the amended 2005 work plan to the Committee members as follows:

Items referred by Council and delegations:

1. Deal promptly and effectively with items. Schedule special meetings if timing requires.

2. Provide advice to City Council on the environmental impact of City Programs.

A follow up on project in progress:

1. Campbell Heights Business Park
2. Clayton Heights Development
3. Riparian Areas Regulations
4. Grandview Corridor Shopping Centre
5. GVRD Sewage Containment (164th and Hwy 10)
6. Large Item Pickup Program Effectiveness
7. EMS – Environmental Management System for contaminated sites

Advance Participation:

1. Offer to Participate in the Development Advisory Committee
2. Schedule 2005 – NCP Reviews and Parks Plans – Integrated Storm Water Management Plan
3. Develop an effective process to review and comment upon land use applications with significant environmental impacts
4. Tree preservation by-law

New Areas:

1. Purchasing policies review to refocus attention on energy conservation initiatives and appropriate use of environmentally preferable products
2. Consult with Solid Waste Manager to determine the next major recycling initiative
3. Transportation Plan – Pilot Project
4. Develop an Annual EAC Summary Report
5. Brownfields

Education and Awareness:

1. Support the Residential Waste and Recycling Calendar
2. Expand the environmental section of the City web site as major communication vehicle
3. Review Calendar content for upgrades
4. Education items and material continue to be submitted to the City Page published in the local newspaper

Terms:

1. Revise terms of reference as necessary to accomplish this Plan

H. Locke left the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

It was

Moved by B. Stillwell
Seconded by J. Lotzkar
That the EAC approve the 2005 Work Plan as amended.
Carried

E. NEW BUSINESS

2. Removal of Trees Along Semiahmoo Trail North of 32 Avenue to Facilitate the Installation of a Sanitary Sewer

The Committee reviewed and received the memorandum of May 17, 2005 from the General Manager, Engineering regarding the above issue.

F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

G. UPDATES

H. CORRESPONDENCE

I. INFORMATION

1. Council Resolutions – May 2, 2005

The Committee reviewed and received the memorandum of May 3, 2005 from Legislative Services.

2. News Releases

The Committee reviewed and received the various news releases provided by J. Lotzkar.

J. Lotzkar provided the following comments during the review of the various news releases:

- Always looking for the new bold initiatives that the City many want to consider incorporating into the City.
- The article provided regarding the Brownfield was dated April 11, on May 18, the EPA – Environmental Protection Agency announced a 75.9 Million in Brownfield Grants, Mr. Lotzkar provided the new release to the Administrative Assistance for EAC's files.

J. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

1. Styrofoam Package / Recycling

F. Perello made the following comments regarding recycling:

- When purchasing large items such as computers or appliances the large Styrofoam packaging has recycling symbols, however the local waste management company does not recycle Styrofoam.
- Where is Styrofoam recycled and why do we not recycle this item and other such items like plastic with the recycling symbol no. 3.

The Environmental Manager advised that this item should be forwarded to the next agenda as the appropriate staff member would be present at the meeting to answer the questions.

K. NEXT MEETING

The Chair advised that the next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on June 15, 2005 at **6:30 p.m.** in the Executive Board Room.

It was requested that the Administrative Assistant confirm that there is no construction taking place in or around the meeting room on June 15, 2005 and if there is that the Administrative Assistant is to confirm another location for the EAC to holds its meeting.

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

R. Wetzel, Chairperson
Environmental Advisory Committee