

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION INDEX

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Retreat to Review Terms of Reference Work Plan

It was Moved by F. Perello
Seconded by C. Dragomir
That in light of Council encouragement to the Environmental Advisory Committee to hold a retreat, that the Environmental Advisory Committee request that Council establish a budget of \$3,200.00 for the Environmental Advisory Committee to hold a Committee Retreat January 28, 2006, to establish a work plan and objectives for 2006, and beyond, with a draft document to be provided for Council input and recommendation.

Carried

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Curbside/Large Item Pick up

It was Moved by A. Keshvani
Seconded by B. Gray
That the Environmental Advisory Committee recommend that Council ask the Engineering Department to work with the EAC by opening a dialogue to review problems and evaluate possible improvements to the curbside/large item pick up program, by sending a representative of the Engineering Department to the next meeting of the Committee to be held December 15, 2005.

Carried with Joseph Lotzkar contrary

City of Surrey

***Environmental Advisory Committee
Minutes***

Executive Boardroom

City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16,
2005**

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Present:

R. Wetzel - Chair
Dr. Dragomir
B. Gray
A. Keshvani
H. Locke
J. Lotzkar
D. Maher – 7:00 p.m.
Dr. F. Perello – 6:50 p.m.

Absent:

B. Stilwell
Dr. K. Hoekstra
Councillor Bose
S. VanKeulen

Staff Present:

C. Baron, Drainage & Environment Manager
K. Swaele, Legislative Services

**Agricultural Advisory Committee
Representative**

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Environmental Advisory Committee - Minutes

It was Moved by J. Lotzkar
Seconded by A. Keshvani

That the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of October 19, 2005 be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Vancouver Island High Voltage Power Line Project

Monique Stevenson, Community Relations and Mike Wise, Project Manager of Sea Breeze Pacific Regional Transmission System Inc. were present to discuss the Vancouver Island High Voltage Power Line Project. Ms. Stevenson and Mr. Wise commented:

- That Sea Breeze Pacific Regional Transmission System Inc. is a joint venture between Sea Breeze Power Corp, a Vancouver-based developer of renewable energy and Boundless Energy LLC, a transmission and utility engineering company based in York Harbor, Maine.
- That Sea Breeze Pacific Regional Transmission System is proposing to construct a High Voltage Direct Current Light (HVDC) submarine electricity transmission cable to connect the Lower Mainland of BC to Vancouver Island.
- That the proposed cable would run under the Georgia Strait, bypassing the Gulf Islands and connect to BC Hydro substations in Surrey and Greater Victoria.
- That at the end of September they submitted an application to the BC Utilities Commission for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to obtain regulatory approval.
- That the BC Utilities Commission has accepted their application and will be reviewing it, along with an application from the provincially owned BC Transmission Corporation.
- That a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity would only allow the company to review the project further and conduct environmental studies.
- That the technology, route and installation techniques are proposed due to their low environmental impact and broad and long-term system benefits.
- That the cables are solid and there is no fluid insulation that can leak out.
- That the technology is designed to bring voltage stability, which will be a real benefit to Vancouver Island.
- That there are about 7 projects in the world utilizing this technology, and which are presently operational.
- That they believe the HVDC Light transmission link is the best solution to meet the needs of Vancouver Island now and into the future.
- That Sea Breeze Pacific believes their proposal will meet the requirement of the larger population to secure the supply and reliable transmission of power to Vancouver Island and the concerns of affected residents along the path of the project.
- That Sea Breeze Pacific plans to meet the requirements for reliable transmission with minimal impacts by:
 - Constructing a state-of the art project to provide reliable transmission for Vancouver Island to improve their supply and bring security to that supply.
 - Using environmentally friendly HVDC Light technology.
 - Burying the cable along roadways and public rights-of-way rather than overhead transmission lines.
 - Burying the cable under the Georgia Strait for the entire length of the marine portion of the project, thus bypassing the Gulf Islands.
- That land/sea transmission will begin from White Rock, but would avoid the foreshore area.
- That a converter station building would need to be constructed, and would be designed to blend with the area.
- That once constructed the transmission line would become part of the BC electricity grid and would be operated exclusively by the Provincially owned BC Transmission Corporation.
- That Sea Breeze has a team of dedicated and experienced people, bringing together a broad range of technical and system planning expertise.
- That once installed, the submarine cable would have no adverse impacts to fish resources during operation.
- That once operational, the project would produce little noise and no air emissions.

- That noise impacts would be temporary and limited to the construction phase.
- That noise suppressors for some construction equipment have been used on similar projects with positive results.
- That they are planning on putting the cables as close together as possible, which will significantly reduce the magnetic field because they will cancel each other out.
- That they are working with the BC Environmental Assessment Office and environmental studies will be performed on the proposed route corridor as part of the environmental assessment process.
- That other utilities can be placed within one metre, but it depends on the type of material used – for instance metal pipes would react more significantly to the electromagnetic field of the cable, and plastics may have a problem with heat.
- That next week they will be holding a meeting in White Rock with environmental/conservation groups who would like information on the project.
- That further information on the project can be obtained at www.vancouverislandcable.com .

F. Perello joined the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

The Manager Long Range Planning & Policy Development joined the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

In response to questions Mr. Wise stated:

- That the cable itself operates at 60 – 70 degrees Celsius on the outside and given our soils and environment it is not likely to make a significant difference, but it is an important consideration and is an issue they feel is part of design.
- That this route has been selected rather than the one that is already there for the following reasons:
 - The potential for liquefaction with the soils at Arnott Substation (Delta) and that it is virtually impossible to prevent this and mitigate the soil.
 - That Roberts Bank is a very steep area of the ocean and there have been a lot of underwater slides. The area is unstable and in the event of an earthquake the cables would be severed.
 - That the proposal by the BC Transmission Corporation calls for overhead lines across the Gulf Islands, and then stringing more lines down the Island to get to the Pike substation.

Donna Maher joined the meeting 7:05 p.m.

Mr. Wise continued:

- That on the land portion of the route the cable will be trenched so that there will be no overhead wires.
- That the route has been chosen to stay within existing rights-of-way, and avoid private properties.
- That they are looking at the BC Hydro properties to ensure that they still have the surface rights to the corridor.
- That the construction cost is just over \$300 million and the proposed BCTC line is about \$250 million;
- That in analyzing the proposals, you need to look at benefits such as reliability.
- That the proposal is contingent on securing rights-of-way under power lines, and on City Streets.
- That they looked at the existing right of way through Roberts Bank along the railway, but this area is prone to liquefaction and the railway lines may move laterally during a seismic event, which would be a problem for the security of the lines.
- That there is not enough capacity on the overhead lines to utilize them for power upgrades, thus the need to lay new lines.

The Drainage and Environment Manager noted that the proponents would have to apply to the City to use the City streets and the City would look at impact on residents. The City has not yet made a comment on the proposal, but is listening.

The Delegation left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

The Environmental Advisory Committee expressed an interest in being kept updated on progress of the project.

2. Proposed Tree Preservation By-law

The Manager Long Range Planning & Policy Development was in attendance to receive input from the Environmental Advisory Committee on the proposed Tree Preservation By-law.

The Manager noted that she had spoken with the Environmental Advisory Committee in September and had received additional input through the meeting with the Surrey Environmental Partners and Mr. Steve Kurrein of the Development Advisory Committee. She noted that she would be happy to receive any further input from the Environmental Advisory Committee.

The Environmental Advisory Committee commented:

- That there appeared to be a 90% agreement between the developer and the Surrey Environmental Partners, and perhaps it would be useful to look at and resolve the 10%.
- That the Committee does support cluster housing developments, and would like to see more of them.
- That to date there is only one cluster housing project, which has proven to have strong sales, and is very popular.
- That the tree bylaw cannot be looked at without looking at the process of planning – they have to be linked.
- That the City should look at the issue of view properties where trees are removed to increase the value of a property.
- That when trees are removed for a view, the value of the property goes up tremendously, but the perpetrators only face a small fine, which makes it financially beneficial to remove the trees.
- That trees should be tagged and identified as protected and people will think twice before cutting them down.
- That the Environmental Advisory Committee would prefer to see more conifers rather than deciduous because conifers create oxygen all year, whereas deciduous go dormant in winter.

The Manager Long Range Planning & Policy Development advised that the next step is to take what has been heard from the Environmental Advisory Committee and the other advisory committees. They will take a look at issues that have been raised and determine where there is agreement. They hope to make recommendations that all can agree to and make suggestions for other areas where there is not agreement. A report will be prepared for Council and the Committees will also receive a copy for input.

It was

Moved by B. Gray

Seconded by F. Perello

That the comments from the September 26, 2005 Environmental Advisory Committee meeting, the information from the October 26, 2005 meeting with the Surrey Environmental Partners and Mr. Steve Kurrein, and the suggestions from the November 16, 2005 meeting be forwarded to the General Manager, Planning & Development for consideration in the next stage of the revised tree by-law.

Carried

The Manager Long Range Planning & Policy Development left the meeting at 7:55 pm.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

2. Retreat to Review Terms of Reference Work Plan

Based on information gathered by the Chair, it is estimated that the retreat will cost \$3,200.00, which will include a light breakfast and lunch, facilitation services, presentation from Van Schafer on Urban Ecology, and honorarium for use of Little Campbell Hatchery.

The Committee noted that the retreat would develop a work plan for the short term (1 year) and long term (5 years). The discussions will include the Committee's goals, commitment, community interaction and effective

use of time.

It was

Moved by F. Perello

Seconded by C. Dragomir

That in light of Council encouragement to the Environmental Advisory Committee to hold a retreat, that the Environmental Advisory Committee request that Council establish a budget of \$3,200.00 for the Environmental Advisory Committee to hold a Committee Retreat January 28, 2006, to establish a work plan and objectives for 2006 and beyond, with a draft document to be provided for Council input and recommendation.

Carried

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Reminder – Committee members' Terms for Renewal

The Environmental Advisory Committee was reminded that applications should be submitted for those members whose terms are up and who wish to continue to serve on the Committee.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Curbside/Large Item Pick up

Memorandum of November 14, 2005 from the General Manager, Engineering, regarding the Environmental Advisory Committee request for information on the City's curbside garbage collection program, explaining that the information will be submitted to Council in January 2006, and also to the EAC at that time.

Joseph Lotzkar expressed his disappointment that there was no one from the Engineering Department available to discuss the issue. It was noted that the Committee has identified this project as an issue they want to pursue, and would like to be able to discuss it with staff before a recommendation is made to Council.

The Environmental Advisory Committee discussed the Curbside/Large Item Pick up and commented:

- That there appears to be a significant amount of garbage on suburban roads (i.e. Harvie Road).
- That the previous program handled all forms of garbage where as the new program only handles half of it.
- That the Committee's first priority is to be involved in the review before a report goes to Council.
- That the information on the program should not go to Council until the EAC has had input, which they were unable to provide the previous year.
- That the EAC and Engineering Departments appear to have different visions – where the Engineering Department appears to be conscious of the costs, the EAC is concerned with the workability and livability of the program.

It was

Moved by A. Keshvani

Seconded by B. Gray

That the Environmental Advisory Committee recommend that Council ask the Engineering Department to work with the EAC by opening a dialogue to review the problem and evaluate possible improvements to the curbside/large item pick up program, by sending a representative of the Engineering Department to the next meeting of the Committee to be held December 15 2005.

Carried with Joseph Lotzkar contrary

H. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

The Committee agreed to the following meeting dates for 2006. Unless otherwise varied the meetings will start at 6:30 and be held in the Executive Board Room.

January 18
February 15
March 15
April 19
May 17
June 21
July 19 (if necessary)
August – no meeting
September 20
October 18
November 15
December – if necessary to be determined.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee (December, 2005) will be at the call of the Chair.

J. ADJOURNMENT

The Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Chairperson (name and Committee)