

Present:

Chair – Councillor Hayne
B. Campbell
C. Dragomir
G. James
J. Purewal
G. Sahota
G. Sangha
A. Schulze
B. Stewart
J. Stewart
S. Van Keulen (AAC
Representative)

Regrets:

R. Grewal

Guests:

Deb Jack, Surrey Environmental
Partners

Staff Present:

C. Baron, Drainage & Environment Mgr.
L. Luaifoa, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by G. Sahota

Seconded by C. Dragomir

That the minutes of the Environmental

Committee meeting held on January 25, 2012 be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

Stephen Godwin, Environmental Coordinator

In April, 2011, Council adopted the recommendations of the EMS and one of those recommendations included the authorization of staff to bring forward a Terms of Reference for the development of the Biodiversity Conservation Study for the City of Surrey.

Stephen Godwin provided a presentation – "*City of Surrey, Ecosystem Management Study and Biodiversity Conservation Strategy*" to the Committee.

The following information was provided:

- The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS) will identify what biodiversity the City of Surrey has and set objectives for the wildlife in Surrey. The criteria will be determined when managing a hub, or corridor, from A and B, and wildlife such as small birds or deer. The strategy will ensure that once targets levels are set that staff monitor the progress over time.

- The EMS mapping was used as a starting point for identifying a Green Infrastructure Network. A Green Infrastructure Network is a functioning network of ecosystems (forests, streams, fields, etc.)
- The study looks at the City as a whole and what is currently broken into hubs, sites and corridors. Hubs are larger and more than 10 hectares. Sites are less than 10 hectares. There were a lot of small areas less than 10 hectares.
- Wildlife isn't static and moves from one location to another. The study will identify potential corridors that are necessary to move wildlife. Also, it will identify; how wildlife will move from one area to another with least impedance, how wide the corridors need to be, and what types of wildlife will be moving through the potential corridors. The different municipalities will also be identified and how wildlife can move in and out of Surrey's municipality.
- There will be certain decisions on how to manage wildlife in the City on 15% of the land base.
- With the BCS, the EMS mapped out a whole bunch of things and with the NCP, 10 – 15% percent of land base is managed as natural land base. There are lots of riparian areas and a fair amount of real estate to deal with.

Discussion ensued and the following comments were made by the Committee:

- It was questioned if there has been contact with other municipalities?
Staff replied that contact has been made with all levels of government. It is a collaborative effort from all municipalities.
- It was questioned when the corridors project grey areas, if that links into Langley?
Staff replied, yes some of them do.
- How does it actually tie into our neighbours? If their hub is destroyed, it pretty much destroys our hub. Is there a strategy for purchasing that land for this plan? Is there anyone taking control of ensuring the neighbours are on board?
Staff replied there is collaboration within the municipalities and although there will be some non-linkages that do occur, the City will maintain open communication through negotiations with other stakeholders.
- It was questioned what a private land owner can do to maintain biodiversity in their neighbourhood?
Staff replied that everyone has a part to play, can't depend on one organization whether it is the City, private owners or stewardship groups.
- It was questioned who the stakeholders are?
Staff replied, all the Surrey Committees, developers, environmental groups and farmers.
- As this strategy is developed, the idea is that each department will follow certain criteria. For example, when creating a trail, certain criteria will have to be followed.
- What is going to be in a wildlife corridor? Will it be left in a natural state or constructed as a pathway?
Depends on what we are managing for? If we manage for deer, it would be in as natural a state as possible. There are corridors for fish and there are riparian setbacks. One corridor won't fit all and it is not just maintaining a corridor, a lot is restoration.
- This is a conservation strategy not preservation. Whatever exists right now won't exist after the program. Conservation implies determining a level to maintain. What is the level trying to be conserved so it won't be what it is right now? *Staff replied that it is going to be a level that is satisfactory to stakeholder groups.*

- It was questioned if there is a policy in place now for biodiversity?
In the Anniedale NCP we are trying to incorporate some concepts of the EMS. So corridors, hubs and sites are being looked at. Cluster zoning is being applied where higher densities will be given to a developer if large sets of land set aside for environment. Normally the City can only get 5% land dedication through Single Family homes, townhouse, and condos. We are not getting much from public asset. Clustering is a difficult thing. In Anniedale, there is a huge area applying that incentive with the hope that developers get on board.
- When they cluster, the actual revenues per units are a lot less and that's what makes the motivation less.
- Once the consultant provides the report at end of year and the plan starts to be finalized, communications will be the key to the success of it. A communications strategy will be important.
- EAC will review report before it is finalized again, likely in October, 2012.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2012 EAC Workplan

The 2011 EAC Workplan was provided for the Committee to review and update for 2012. The Committee identified the following issues as priorities:

Sustainability

- EnergyShift/CEEP
- Continuing updates

Biodiversity

Solid Waste Management

- Monitor the new solid waste contract that is effective October
- Invite R. Costanzo, Deputy Operations Manager as a delegation to provide updates to the EAC in October and December.
- New item for consideration: Mansonville Plastics (BC) Ltd. is a Surrey company that accepts polystyrene for recycling. Although foam packaging is 100% recyclable, most of it is ending up in landfill sites. The cost is not expensive to put into the landfills and currently, half a million cubic feet per year is being recycled which is costing about \$22,000 per year per landfill site. There is a movement to have a full on recycling program for polystyrene, like a stewardship program put in place in the industry. A test facility in Surrey is an option to explore. It would mean a significant reduction in volumes in the landfill sites.
- Mansonville Plastics (BC) Ltd. to be invited to a future EAC meeting as a delegation for a presentation and to discuss issues that have been brought up at the EAC.

Deb Jack, Surrey Environmental Partners provided the following comments:

- Concerns had been expressed with regards to the foam packing and the particles released when the material comes apart.
- This material was used for wharfs especially on the Nikomekl River.
- What are the impacts on the environment of the polystyrene?
(This question can be directed to Mansonville Plastics (BC) during their presentation to the Committee.)

The Committee ensued discussion and made the following comments:

- A new item for consideration; a company will be providing a presentation to the City about potentially collecting consumer cooking oils. It is a problem as oil is currently being poured into drains. This company is trying to find a way to collect used cooking oils at a residential level as restaurants already have requirements in place.
- The natural gas trucks are very unique trucks that work very well. These trucks have lower fuel costs, reduced emissions and reduce dependency on foreign oil. Under the new garbage pick-up for these trucks to be put in place, they have to have a filling station. If you had a filling station here within Surrey, it should be open to the public. With the energy program, staff should look at filling stations. There are plans regarding composting and making gas as well as having a filling site at the Park's Yard or offsite. The Deputy Operations Manager is familiar with these plans.
- Compressed natural gas compared to diesel is far less beneficial compared to diesel as you burn twice as much as diesel. They are clean but less efficient. They have to heat up exhaust twice.

Neighbourhood Community Plan Reviews

- Active involvement in reviews of the NCP's

Environmental Awards

Nature Matters Programs

Tree Bylaw

- Updates on any recent findings or proposed amendments being considered

Committee comments:

- The EAC in the past has been involved with updates to the Tree Bylaw
- Recommend that Steve Whitton, Manager, Trees & Landscape be invited as a delegation to provide an update on any amendments to the bylaw as there are constant changes/ updates to the bylaw

Final approval of the 2012 EAC Workplan will be made at the March 28, 2012 EAC meeting.

2. Intergovernmental Committee Request

The Committee reviewed a list of issue papers provided by the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee and selected the following papers for review and comment:

1. Pesticide Use Control (*A. Schultze*)
2. Establishment of an Organics Biofuel Production Facility in Surrey (*G. Sahota*)
3. Sea Dyke Guidelines (*S. Van Keulen*)
4. Establishment of an energy systems engineering program at SFU Surrey in support of a clean energy hub in Surrey (*J. Stewart*)

B. Campbell left the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Not included on the list provided to the Committee:

Multi-materials BC: new packaging and printed paper legislation. Schedule 5 of BC Recycling Regulation and presentation on new program (*B. Campbell was recommended to work on this topic*)

The information (issue papers) will be forwarded to the Committee and brought forward for discussion at the next EAC meeting.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**F. CORRESPONDENCE****G. INFORMATION ITEMS****1. Agricultural Food and Safety Advisory Committee (AFSAC) Update**

At the February 9 AFSAC meeting, the Chair requested that a new item, "Integrity of the Agriculture Land", be added to all future agendas to allow members the opportunity to share any information they may have pertaining to the integrity of agricultural lands.

2. Development Advisory Committee (DAC) Update

The scheduled DAC meeting of January 26 was cancelled. The next DAC meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2012

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. The Committee discussed how information comes to the Committee and how the public formally raise issues to the EAC.

2. The Committee discussed the procedure for in-camera sessions/closed meetings.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on March 28, at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

D. Jack, Surrey Environmental Partners will appear as a delegation at the next meeting to provide the EAC the presentation that was given to the Finance Committee on January 16, 2012.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by B. Stewart

Seconded by J. Purewal

That the Environmental Advisory Committee

meeting adjourn.

Carried

The Environmental Committee adjourned at 8: 04 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Hayne, Chair