

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee - Minutes

Present:

Chair – Councillor Hayne
B. Campbell
A. Fasciani (YR)
G. James
W. Mbaho
J. Purewal
S. Sabharwal
D. Skaey
B. Stewart (ESAC Rep. to AFSAC)
J. Stewart
S. Van Keulen (AFSAC Rep.)
A. Zhang (YR)

Regrets:

G. Sahota (ESAC Rep. to DAC)

Guests:

Shirley Samples, PipeUp
Michael Hale, PipeUp
Lynn Perrin, Pipe Up

Staff Present:

C. Baron, Manager, Drainage & Environment
N. Aven, Manager, Urban Forestry &
Environmental Programs
A. Mathewson, Manager, Sustainability
O. Croy, Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
J. Gallinger, Legislative Services

A. INTRODUCTION – Introduction of the Youth Representatives appointed to the Committee by Council.

The Youth Representatives were welcomed by the Chair and each gave a short biography of themselves. Committee members introduced themselves.

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee Minutes of April 23, 2014 to be approved.

It was

Moved by B. Stewart

Seconded by W. Mbaho

That the minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held on April 23, 2014 be adopted.

Carried

C. DELEGATIONS

1. PipeUp – Shirley Samples, Lynn Perrin and Michael Hale of PipeUp, before the Committee to present concerns regarding the proposed Kinder Morgan Pipeline Project. The following comments were made:

- PipeUp was formed in 2012 and is comprised of a group concerned citizens from Surrey to Hope.
- In 2012 an oil spill occurred in Sumas and PipeUp became involved with Kinder Morgan (KM) at that time.
- In 2007, a spill of diluted bitumen (dilbit) occurred in Burnaby and it took over 2 years to clean up the property. It is important to note that to transport the viscous/dense bitumen produced at the Alberta Tar Sands, the bitumen is diluted with other products such as refined naphtha or

synthetic crude to enable it to flow through pipe systems. This composite product is more difficult to clean in spill situations than normal bitumen.

- Many spills have occurred including:
 - A Sumas tank farm spill in 2012 was discovered by nearby residents. It took KM over six hours to attend the spill.
 - In 2010 a spill occurred on the Kalamazoo River and it was 18 hours before the spill was discovered. Dilbit was being transported when the rupture occurred. Ecological damage was great and the spill is still being cleaned up to this date. This spill was the costliest in history for Enbridge at an estimated cost of \$1,039,000,000.
 - In 2005 a spill occurred near Kilgard Creek near Abbotsford. The response to the spill was delayed because of a lack of effective leak detection equipment and an effective response to odour complaints.
- On April 10, 2014 an emergency preparedness exercise was held by KM to practice deploying an effective booming strategy for the recovery of oil on the Fraser River. No protective gear was worn by the participants.
- The City's proximity to the Fraser River as well as the tanker routes raises great concerns. The Fraser River tidal boar goes as far as the Mission Bridge and ecological damage could be astronomical. The Salish Sea is a diverse and unique area which has a lot of rich life in sponges, fish, crabs, orcas etc. with eelgrass being abundant in Mud Bay. Should a spill occur marine life will suffer as well as the Surrey coastline will be severely damaged.
- It is expected that, should the pipeline be approved, tanker traffic will increase from the current 70 per year to 400+ per year and of note is the fact that once approval is received KM can apply to again increase the tanker traffic.
- Resident Orca Pod 81 was affected by the Exxon Valdeese spill in 1989. As a result 9 Orcas died and no calves have been born since. Today only 7 Orcas remain in original pod of 22.
- The Chair noted that KM is looking at tripling the volume of dilbit and asked how increasing to 400 tankers works out if the quantity of dilbit is only tripled. The delegation responded that it would not all be dilbit but an increase of 300,000 barrels a day. About 30% will be dilbit and KM will increase the total input of oil by adding another pipeline. The pumping stations have the capacity to increase the flow of oil.
- It is important to note that only 5 to 15% of dilbit/oil is ever recovered after a spill.
- KM will be transporting dangerous substances through the most populated areas of BC and will pass very close to 23 schools in the lower mainland.
- KM has stated that they will be responsible for oil spill cleanups and reports that there is very little risk of an oil spill.
- As the Coast Guard Station in Vancouver has been closed by the Federal Government the responsibility for oil spills has fallen to those in Quebec.

- China wants the material in a crude form so it can do the refining overseas. There is no economic benefit to BC and the new pipeline would only provide 100 permanent jobs within the province.
- KM stated in an August 2012 press conference that dilbit floats. It has been proven that dilbit does not float as it is heavy and contains volatile off gases and sinks as tar does.
- In short the transportation of dilbit will contribute to:
 - The destruction of boreal forests which are impossible to reclaim is real;
 - Affecting indigenous rights which alter First Nations' way of life and has health effects of the communities; and
 - Increasing climate change by not meeting current climate targets primarily due to tar sands extractions and it will add .4 degrees to the global temperatures. Currently, we are at 2 degrees and scientists confirm that this cannot continue.
- The Trans Mountain (TM) project means approximately 100 permanent jobs for BC; job creation will see approximately 13,700 jobs in 2016, dropping to 11,950 in 2017 and dropping again to approximately 100 jobs in 2018.
- Subsidies to fossil fuels are currently \$34 billion; ending subsidies for fossil fuels is required.
- Conventional oil is required; however the pipelines are being used to transport dilbit. Chevron's Burnaby plant does not receive enough product through the pipeline and has to transport it by rail or truck.
- Canada/BC needs an energy plan. There is still time to make the transition to renewable energy, electric transportation and to be energy efficient and energy conservative. Canada has an advantage with abundant hydro and could become a renewable energy superpower.
- China, the US and Europe are working with their energy plans.
- Ways to refine oil in Canada need to be found and there are alternatives such as renewables and fossil fuels. Germany now produces 25% of its power from renewable energy sources – China is the largest manufacturer of renewable systems.
- Hard hitting questions on marine life, human health and ecology need to be posed. Seismic activity is also an issue. TM has had 80 spills with 6 occurring while KM has had the responsibility. Claims of being spill proof are highly questionable.

The Committee made the following comments:

- Vancouver and Burnaby have declined to support the pipeline based on climate change and noting that a spill would be catastrophic to the area.
- It was noted that as intervener the City is only allowed to make information requests at this point. In September the City will again be able to ask questions.
- It was noted that KM's responses received to questions posed did not really say very much. One question is raised, as to how serious KM is taking the protection of the region's coastline. Constitutional rights are being denied

as to speaking to KM in regards to the pipeline. Over 2,000 applications were submitted to be heard at National Energy Board (NEB) hearings and 468 of those who applied can't pose questions or write protest letters.

- In response to the question as to what recommendation would PipeUp like ESAC to make to Council, the delegation responded that they would like Surrey to be more vocal in opposition like Vancouver and Burnaby in regards to more discussions and studies on spill risks, affects and climate change.
- PipeUp to provide a list of questions, which will be mixed in with the City's questions with the second round of comments in the NEB hearings on the project.

The Chair thanked the delegation and stated that he looks forward to receiving the list of questions from the delegation.

2. **"Green Surrey" Program** - the Manager of Parks appeared before the Committee to provide an update on the Green Surrey Program. The following comments were made:

- The Program presents a way of looking at greening initiatives in Surrey. Information has been gathered and a workshop was held with Council.
- The Program is a successor to the Build Surrey Program. It is endeavors to promote and educate the public on environmental initiatives in Surrey which are aligned under the Environmental Pillar of the Sustainability Charter.
- Branding is required for community education, understanding of the program and promotion of the City's actions. Opportunities for community participation need to be identified.
- Conservation, Investment and Engagement are the themes.
- Categorizing is also required as to what is new, what is in progress and what has been completed. Celebrating what has been done right and acknowledging that Surrey is a forward looking community will be important.
- **Conservation:**
 - New includes, but is not limited to, Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, riparian area bylaw and sensitive ecosystems development permit areas;
 - In-progress includes density bonusing opportunities in the West Clayton NCP area and the Walking/Cycling/Greenways plans; and
 - Completed consists of ecosystem management study and alternate fuel infrastructure at service stations.
- **Engagement:**
 - New – facilitating eco-gifting and donations with non-governmental organisations (e.g. a Green Surrey endowment);
 - In-progress – annual Party for the Planet/Earth Day celebrations, stewardship programs and Surrey Nature Centre education programs; and

- Complete - broadening EAC to ESAC, EnergyShift and Rethink, the City's Waste Action Program (SWAP) and Green Bricks (Blocks).
- **Investment**
 - New – acquire new lands for biodiversity conservation purposes;
 - In progress – district energy, organic biofuel facility, planting of 75,000 street trees, research chair in energy systems for Smart Cities and Fergus Creek conservation area; and
 - Completed – acquisition of over 725 acres of parkland in the last 10 years and electric vehicle charging stations.
- Interested in what other initiatives and programs the committee would like to champion or highlight.

The Committee made the following comments:

- In response to how far along the branding was, the Manager responded that only a small amount of work has been done. This is the first part of the public engagement strategy and input from committees. After review of the input, we will move onto website, social media, bus shelters, cards, digital signs and City Speaks.

The Chair noted that part of the marketing strategy will be aimed at the development community and that there was an additional 1,000 acres that need to be required to meet the City's goal. A number of different revenue sources will be required to purchase the land and will take a number of years.
- More technology-related greening initiatives need to be included in the branding.
- Although the outline is great – active conservation, investment and engagements – what does the City want and what can Surrey residents do? The call to action will be different for every aspect and the actions will have to be focused on each point. It was suggested that an adoption program would engage citizens of Surrey to get involved in the program. The citizens and the development community need to be involved in the program. The more you engage the more it snowballs.
- The whole issue of natural areas contributing to the health and well-being of citizens needs to be part of the program. This will help in getting health community workers involved with the program.
- The name Green Surrey Program is simple wording but is not a brand. Ideas are welcome in regards to naming the program.
- Regarding the question as to what is wanted from residential versus business, and what is the call to action for various groups, the Manager responded that tailoring will be required and that it is a work in progress.
- It was suggested that an adoption program could be put into place ie. adopt a fish/tree.
- Emphasis should be made for educational programs to engage students to form a connection to nature. Encouragement of teachers to teach about the environment needs to be done. Emphasis on education not just in elementary schools but in high schools was suggested. Fostering a

connection to nature and include a health component to be rolled out in curriculum may encourage students

- The Manager requested that Committee members contact him with any and all ideas regarding the program name and what should be included in the program.

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. **Environmental Award submissions** - The Manager Sustainability provided an update on the submissions for the Environmental Awards. The following comments were made:

- The call for nominations for the Green City awards was sent out April 22. As of June 11 no applications have been received.
- Ads are being run within the community. Last minute applications are expected. .
- Help from Committee members is needed to help generate interest in the community. .
- On July 23rd, after the regular meeting, the Committee will go into a Closed Session to review the submitted nominations and to select recommended winners.

The Committee made the following comments:

- It was questioned whether the award should be shelved for a while, since no interest has been generated. The Manager responded that at this point there has been no interest shown but last minute submissions are expected and it is important to note that the Board of Trade environmental awards will be awarded in September which may have caused the lack of nominations for the City award.
- There are a lot of groups/organizations that should be nominated. Research needs to be done to find these people. Clean-up programs could be investigated. Schools are eligible to be included in these awards.
- Citizens have to be encouraged to submit nominations. The need for recognition and to award individuals is important.
- It was suggested that a pin, in recognition of efforts, be given with the award.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. The three part Community Climate Action Strategy was distributed to committee members.

F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

There were no items referred by Council.

G. CORRESPONDENCE –

1. **Letter from the Corporation of Delta to Port Metro Vancouver** – regarding the Independent Interagency Review Committee regarding Coal Transportation and Handling.
2. **Letter and response from/to Surrey White Rock Pesticide Free Coalition to/from Manager of Forestry and Environment Programs** – regarding the trial use of Orthene in the area of 160th Street and 12th Avenue.

The correspondence was received by the Committee.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. The progress of the Orthene injections was questioned and the Manager of Forestry and Environment Programs responded that injections in a couple of species of trees had already been done. Monitoring and resident feedback is being put together. He noted that monitoring will be over a 2 year period as a tree can only be injected every two years.

The Chair requested that, once information is available, that a report on the project be brought back to the Committee.

I. INFORMATION ITEMS**1. Agricultural Food and Safety Advisory Committee (AFSAC) Update**

The AFSAC Representative reported that he did not attend the June 5 meeting and provided information from the May 1, 2014 meeting stating that:

- A discussion on the source of water for irrigation for the arable land in Surrey had been held and that there are no more water licenses to be issued as the rivers are currently oversubscribed.
- If all the arable land in Surrey is irrigated, it is estimated that 25 million m³ would be required. At the present time, only 8 million m³ of water is available from the rivers. With only 8 million m³, it is clear there is a deficiency on irrigation demand. .
- An application to build a house on agriculture property was received. The Ministry of the Environment (MoE) stated a setback from ditches was required. The City negotiated a compromise with the applicant. The site was also found to fall within Pacific Water Shrew habitat. The Pacific Water Shrew is currently a federally listed species at risk thus requiring protection. The building applicant may have to revise the building footprint to accommodate the needs of the shrew habitat. The Ministry of Environment is working on the requirements.
- Stephen Godwin is to be invited to speak at the July 23rd meeting on the Pacific Water Shrew issue.

2. Development Advisory Committee (DAC) Update

The ESAC Representative to DAC was absent from the meeting and no report was given.

J. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, July 23, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. 2E - Community Room A, City Hall.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by J. Stewart

Seconded by W. Mbaho

That the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Hayne, Chair