

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee - Minutes

Present:

Councillor Starchuk, Chair
J. Zelazny
L. Bykowski
M. Sharma
S. Mossop
S. Sabharwal

Regrets:

D. Skaey, Vice-Chair
G. James
K. Otting
N. Hogan
S. VanKeulen

Staff Present:

A. Mathewson, Manager, Sustainability
M. Gaboriault, SNG LRT Communications Lead,
Engineering
N. Aven, Parks Manager, Parks, Recreation and
Culture
S. Godwin, Environment Manager, Engineering
S. Neuman, SNG LRT Project Director,
Engineering
C. Eagles, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. The minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting, held September 20, 2017, to be adopted.

It was

Moved by S. Mossop

Seconded by S. Sabharwal

That the minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held September 20, 2017, be adopted as presented.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. **Brookwood Aquifer**
Margaret McDonald and Murray McFadden, MD, Resident
File: 5280-01

The delegation provided a presentation on the concerns about air emissions and water quality in Campbell Heights Business Park and Township of Langley.

The following comments were made:

- The delegation noted that pollution is the largest environmental cause of disease and premature deaths in the world today.
- The Brookwood aquifer delivers private well water to local farms and local organic food businesses. The delegation noted the Brookwood aquifer is at great risk to contamination because it is unconfined and near surface.
- The delegation noted that both Ebco Metal Finishing Ltd. and Weir Canada Inc. aquifers obtained building permits and were constructed before applying for environmental pollution permits and consultation with neighbouring businesses. The delegation noted that the gas released by these companies contradicts the MVRD Bylaw 1082.

- The delegation noted the high concentration of small PM found in the emissions can be detrimental to human health.
- The delegation expressed environmental and ground water concerns of spills, fires, and if proper risk assessments were being conducted. The delegation noted that there are thousands of residents living near the industrial zones.

2. Proposed Upper Serpentine Regional Irrigation System

Aplin Martin

File: 5600-01

The delegation provided a presentation on the environmental review for the proposed Irrigation Enhancement Project for North Serpentine Lowlands.

The following comments were made:

- BeachWestgard Developments is developing a comprehensive agricultural compensation and enhancement strategy to compensate for the proposed removal of land from Surrey's ALR. The Proposed Irrigation System will withdraw water from the Fraser River and be discharged to approximately 2,300 acres of farmland in the North Serpentine Agricultural Area. The system is designed to incorporate future expansion of the irrigation network from 2,300 acres to an additional 4,900 acres.
- The delegation noted that the demand for water has increased for the following reasons: no issuance of new Water Licenses, lack of irrigation water such as ground water supply, and that seven existing water licenses allows for only 150 acres of irrigatable land.
- Irrigation water will be pumped from the Fraser River at 189 Street utilizing an unopened road dedication where a pump station can be located, which is estimated to be $0.5 \text{ m}^3/\text{sec}$, and would meet the maximum irrigated demand for the proposed area during dry conditions. A pressurized pipe system will run along 189 Street, 98A Avenue, 192 Street, 88 Avenue and Harvie Road within the road right of way and release the water into three major lowland areas: Upper Serpentine, Fry's Corner, and Fry's Corner North Lowlands. The pipe length from the ALR boundary is approximately 3,600 metres and within the lowlands area is 4,000 metres.
- Automatic control gates and stop logs will be used to stop the water from draining into the Serpentine River and retain the water in the ditch system for irrigation use. The control structure will be automatic to release summer storm events and allow the pump station to address drainage needs. The intake structure will include fish screening and primary filtration to remove coarse sediment.
- The delegation noted that the irrigation system would strengthen and sustain Surrey's agricultural capacity, enhance regional food security by improving current irrigation, and support local farming.

- The environmental effects and mitigation include three main components: Fraser River intake, the pipeline, and the irrigation ditch system. The intake system will be screen to prevent entrainment or impingement of fish in the Fraser River, the pipe will be located in existing road right of ways, and the water levels in the ditch system will be managed by an automatic control to prevent water from overflowing into the Serpentine River. The quantity of water diversity from the Fraser River is small in comparison to the Fraser River Low Flows.
- The delegation noted that because the project is below the 10 million m³ per annum it does not trigger a Provincial or Federal environmental assessment. The project flow for phase 1 is approximately 3.9 million m³ per annum. The *Water Sustainability Act* will be the primary regulatory process and the *Fisheries Act* will be another regulatory process.
- The delegation noted that once the project is complete, the City of Surrey would be the owner and operator for the irrigation district.
- The Committee expressed concerns of transferring lands out of the Agricultural Land Reserve and the spread of fish diseases as water is being pumped out of one area to another, which can increase the spread of viral bacterial transmission and parasites.
- A member asked if the water would be metered somehow and if farmers would subsequently be responsible to pay for the water usage. The delegation confirmed that farmers would be charged per metre of water but that the cost is unknown at this time.

The Committee is supportive of providing farmers with water to enhance local farming production but is not supportive of removing lands from the ALR.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. LRT Project Update

Scott Neuman, SNG LRT Project Director, Engineering, Melanie Gaboriault, SNG LRT Communications Lead, Engineering, and Don Klimchuk, TransLink
File: 8701-01

Staff were in attendance to provide an update on the LRT Project and to outline public and targeted stakeholder engagement opportunities. Staff noted they are assessing the environmental process.

Staff verified the LRT is a low impact project and that TransLink is conducting an environmental and socio-economic review. The Committee expressed concerns on wildlife at crossings such as Bear Creek and on the delay of the LRT construction. Staff verified that there is a wildlife passage under the bridge and noted there are few water course crossings along the King George Boulevard line.

Staff noted that members can submit comments and complete an online survey at surreylightrail.ca/community.

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**1. Verbal Update**

Staff clarified the Committee's concerns that were expressed at previous meetings:

- There is currently no ban on styrofoam at landfills in Metro Vancouver.
- The Pop-Up Junk Program was widely successful, staff will continue to offer the service in 2018.
- Staff clarified that when street trees are removed for road improvement projects the City is replacing the trees where appropriate.

2. Economic Assessment of Urban Forests

An outcome of a meeting with concerned residents in South Surrey was the desire for the City to develop a strategy for the City's urban forest.

Staff will report back to ESAC commenting on the City's existing Strategies in place and determine what Strategies have not yet been developed. Staff will report on what options the City can pursue in developing a Urban Forest Management Strategy.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**F. CORRESPONDENCE****1. Delegation Request**

File: 0550-20-10

Correspondence was received from SEVA Initiative requesting to appear as a delegation to provide a presentation on the goal to encourage patrons and vendors at Vaisakhi Celebrations in Surrey to incorporate environmentally friendly serving products that end up in landfills and are biodegradable.

It was

Moved by S. Mossop

Seconded by J. Zelazny

That the delegation request from the Surrey

Environmental Vaisakhi Action Initiative (SEVA) Project be considered at an upcoming Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting.

Carried

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Agricultural Food Security Advisory Committee (AFSAC) Update

An update from the previous AFSAC meeting to be provided.

No update was provided.

2. Coastal Flood Adaptation Strategy Update

No update was provided.

3. Grandview Heights NCP #3 Citizen's Advisory Committee Update

No update was provided.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Proposed 2018 Meeting Dates

File: 0540-20 V

The Committee is requested to pass a motion adopting the 2018 Meeting Schedule as presented.

It was

Moved by S. Sabharwal

Seconded by J. Zelazny

That the Environmental Sustainability

Advisory Committee adopt the 2018 Meeting Schedule as presented.

Carried

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at 6:00 pm in 2E Community Room B.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by M. Sharma

Seconded by J. Zelazny

That the Environmental Sustainability

Advisory Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Starchuk, Chair