



CARING FOR OUR NATURE: MAPLE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Council Workshop

 C B A CATHERINE BERRIS ASSOCIATES INC
Land Use + Environmental Planning ■ Landscape Architecture

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A photograph of a dense forest with tall trees and green foliage, serving as a background for the title.

Environment Management Strategy (EMS) Update

Agenda

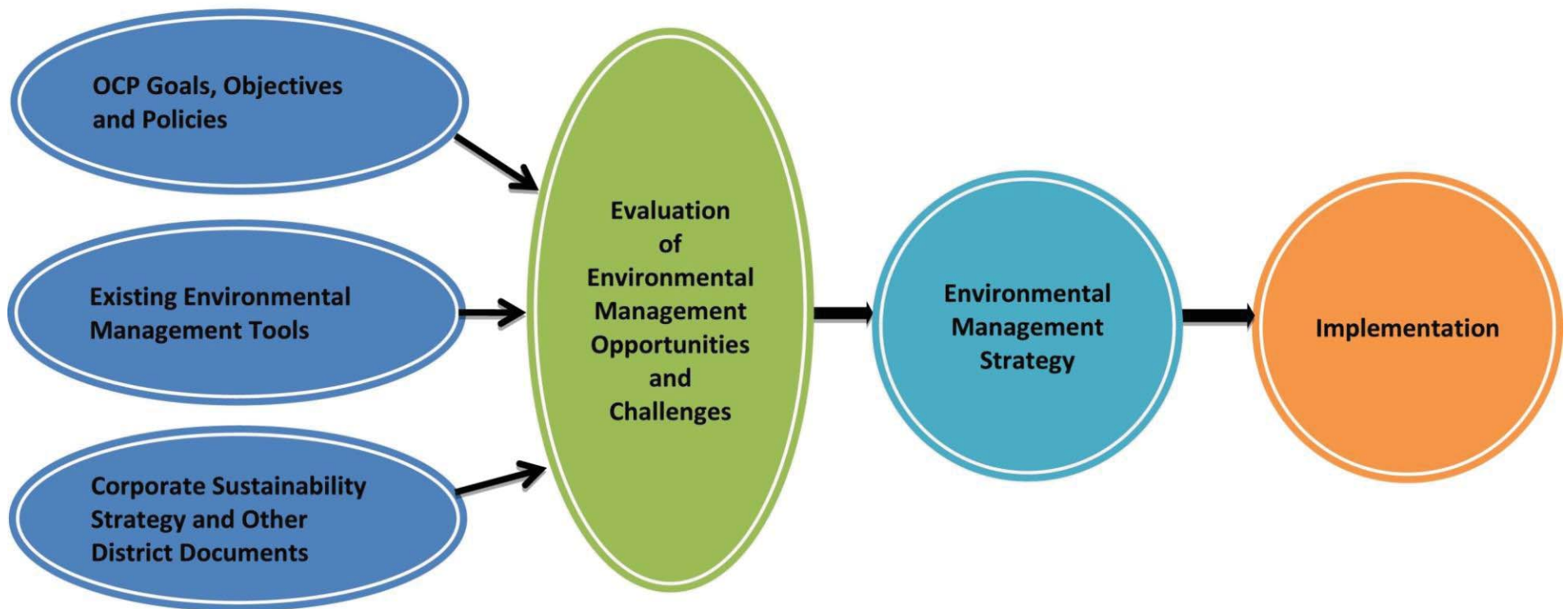
EMS Context

Stakeholder Workshop Update – What we Heard

Preliminary Policy Recommendations

What's Next

What is the EMS?



OCP Context

Environmental Management Model – Goals

1. Protect significant ecosystems
2. Anticipate and respond to impacts of climate change
3. Determine appropriate DP guidelines and bylaws
4. Identify requirements for environmental studies or impact assessments
5. Maintain and improve ecosystem health and human safety





Top Reasons for the EMS

Planning for Change

- Sustainable management of the natural resources that provide our community with social, economic, and ecological benefits
- Continue to attract and invest in sustainable growth
- Build a resilient community in the face of climate change
- Maximize efficiencies and cost savings associated with infrastructure services provided by the natural environment
 - **Essentially it is for our long-term sustainability**

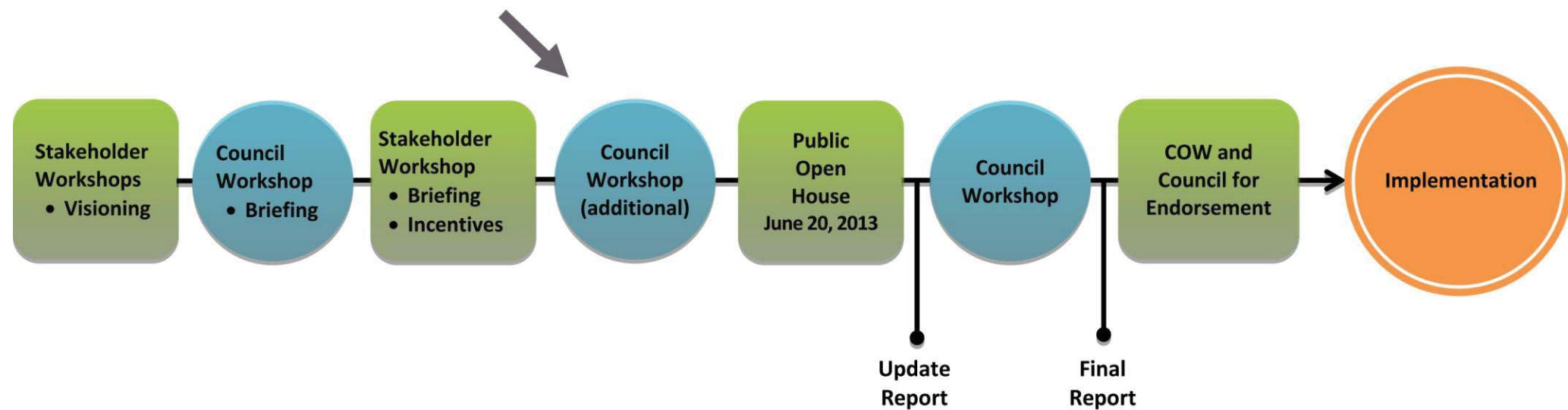
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Council Direction

Council Resolution February 2013

- THAT the Environmental Management Strategy consultation program and timelines outlined in the Feb. 4, 2013 report entitled “Environmental Management Study and Review Update” be endorsed

EMS Process – Council Endorsed



Stakeholder Workshop

Format

Presentation on the OCP context, background, policies, principles and objectives

Description of EMS purpose, process, findings to date, goals, potential strategies

Workshop



Stakeholder Workshop

Participants

District of Maple Ridge Committee members	2
Other Government, e.g., Fed, Prov, Metro, Munic	3
Environment Stewardship Group	9
Community or Neighbourhood Group	8
Economic or Local Business Group	5
Private Development, Real Estate Company	12
Consultant	12
Recreation User Group	1
Total	52

Assigned tables with mix of groups at each



A horizontal banner image showing a dense forest with tall trees and green foliage, serving as a background for the title.

Stakeholder Workshop

Workshop Process

Goal A: Conserve and manage our natural assets

Goal B: Design and build sustainable neighbourhoods

Goal C: Improve communications and environmental awareness

Questions on potential strategies for each goal

Groups worked on every goal



Stakeholder Input – Goal A

Goal A: Conserve and manage our natural assets

- Extremely strong support for protecting and managing environmental health and diversity
- Include the significant watershed areas and habitats governed by the District and the partnerships required for management
- Municipal mapping is good but desire for additional information
- Strong support for incentive strategy for land owners to protect significant natural areas and features



Stakeholder Input – Goal B

Goal B: Design and build sustainable neighbourhoods

- Extremely strong support for sustainable neighbourhoods, including a healthy urban forest and rainwater management
- Maximize clarity, effectiveness, and communications/awareness about environmental management review processes, environmental initiatives, and stewardship opportunities.
- Key needs include updating existing bylaws and more enforcement

A background image of a dense forest with sunlight filtering through the trees.

Stakeholder Input – Goal C

Goal C: Improve communications and environmental awareness

- Stakeholders have a strong interest in communication and education programs
- Mixed response regarding Environmental Advisory Committee - need to be very clear on membership, role, agenda, and terms of reference

Preliminary Recommendations





Broad Policies

- Broad policy context is generally good
- More focus on:
 - Broader scale planning – watersheds, Crown lands, hillsides, major watercourses
 - Evaluation of values and benefits of natural assets
 - Performance monitoring and enforcement
 - Incentives



Bylaw Strategies

- Strengthen or update design standards or best management practice requirements re: rainwater management on-site source controls
- Improve tree management to more fully protect the existing and future tree canopy throughout the District & address impacts
- Improve policy and regulations related to filling and environmental practices on agricultural and rural lands - review and update Soil Deposit/Removal Bylaws
- Prepare groundwater management plans for designated OCP 'vulnerable' aquifer areas



DP Strategies

- Explore how the Natural Features Development Permit can be improved with respect to clarity and effectiveness.
- Prepare a new Natural Hazards Development Permit that focuses on hazards related to slope stability, flooding and wildfire

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OCP Mapping

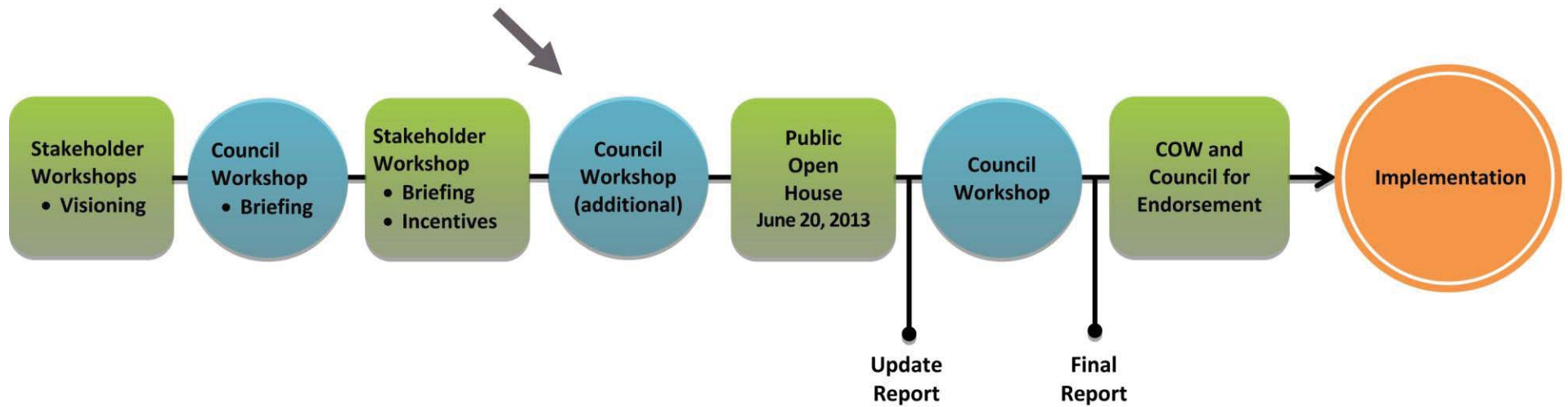
- Update the Natural Features OCP map so it is current with respect to addition or removal of watercourses
- Prepare a new map for the Hazards DP



Other Preliminary Recommendations

- Develop a communications and awareness strategy as the stakeholders and public have expressed a strong desire for more of this
- Explore environmental incentives strategy
- More monitoring and enforcement resources
- More research on Environmental Committees

Next Steps



A photograph of a dense forest with tall, slender trees. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating dappled light on the forest floor. The text "Comments and Questions" is overlaid in white, bold font in the center of the image.

Comments and Questions

THANK YOU