

City of Maple Ridge
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee, held in the Blaney Room at Maple Ridge City Hall, 11995 Haney Place, Maple Ridge, British Columbia, on July 16, 2018 at 7:02 pm

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Robert Masse	Council Liaison
Leanne Koehn, Chair	Ridge Meadows Recycling Society
Betty von Hardenberg	Thornhill Aquifer Protection Study (TAPS)
Cheryl Ashlie	Alouette River Management Society (ARMS)
David Neufeld	Environmental Professional
Dennis Kinsey	Member at Large
Gerry Pinel	Community Education on Environment and Development (CEED) Centre
Janice Jarvis	Environmental Professional
Jessie Lees, Vice Chair	Member at Large – Youth Representative
Ross Davies	Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society (KEEPS)

GUESTS

Cheryl Power	Alouette River Management Society (ARMS) - Alternate
Ken Williams	KEEPS - Alternate
Kim Day	Ridge Meadows Recycling Society - Alternate
Klaus von Hardenberg	Thornhill Aquifer Protection Study (TAPS) – Alternate
Martin Dmitrieff	CEED Centre – Alternate
Taylor Robinson	Ridge Meadows Recycling Society Summer Student
Jamie Robinson	Ridge Meadows Recycling Society Summer Student

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Rodney Stott	Staff Liaison / Environmental Planner
Amanda Allen	Committee Clerk

ABSENT

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Dan Ruimy	Member of Parliament
Lisa Beare	MLA – Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows
Bob D’Eith	MLA – Maple Ridge-Mission
Katzie First Nation Representative	
Kwantlen First Nation Representative	
BC Conservation Officer Service Representative	
Metro Vancouver Representative	

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

There was a roundtable introduction of members.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

R/2018-013

It was moved and seconded

That the July 16, 2018 Environmental Advisory Committee agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

Note: Janice Jarvis joined the meeting at 7:09 pm.

3. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

R/2018-014

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the Maple Ridge Environmental Advisory Committee meeting dated May 9, 2018 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. **DELEGATIONS**

4.1. **Wildlife and Vector Control Bylaw Update;
Zone Amending Bylaw to Secure Waste Management Area in New Developments**

- Dan Mikolay, Wildsafe BC Coordinator for Maple Ridge

Mr. Mikolay gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2017 Plan to Achieve Bear Smart Community Status for Maple Ridge. Mr. Mikolay advised that the Wildsafe BC program is now a year round education program and that the City of Maple Ridge has taken steps to reduce human-bear conflict by reducing wildlife attractants in public areas. He reviewed the intent of the Wildlife and Vector Bylaw and the education and enforcement behind the bylaw. Mr. Mikolay advised that the City of Maple Ridge is reviewing an amendment to the Zoning Bylaw to include wildlife resistant storage in new developments. He reported that the establishment of a Glean Team which gleans fruit from local spots that act as a wildlife attractant. Mr. Mikolay answered questions from the Committee.

5. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

5.1. **Ridge Meadows Recycling Society – Position Statement on the Reduction of Single Use Plastic Item**

Kim Day reviewed the position statement on the reduction of single use plastic items and the goal of the Ridge Meadows Recycling Society education campaign to reduce all single use disposable items. The Chair advised of the recent City of Vancouver single-use reduction strategy and shared a guide on steps that restaurants and eateries can take to reduce plastic. Links to these and other resources can be found www.rmrecycling.org.

Ridge Meadows Recycling Summer students, Taylor Robinson and Jamie Robinson advised of their participation in the 'Plastic Free July' challenge and their experiences to date. There

was discussion on the world wide use of plastic and how recycling can remain a priority in a garbage plebiscite.

R/2018-015

It was moved and seconded

That the members of the EAC support the position paper of the RMRS and look forward to supporting where possible any of the outcomes of the paper directed from Council in the 2019 EAC Business Plan.

CARRIED

6. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

6.1. **Green Infrastructure and Natural Asset Inventory and Evaluation**

The Staff liaison reported on the recent presentation by subcommittee Chair, Bill Hardy, on the Green City philosophy and advised that Jessie Lees has been elected subcommittee Vice Chair. The Staff liaison noted an intent of the subcommittee is to bring in a series of local experts to speak to global and local ecosystem services to engage and inform discussion on options appropriate for Maple Ridge; the subcommittee looks to formulate ideas on how to move forward in the short, medium and long term.

6.2. **OCP Aquifer Mapping and Natural Features Development Permit Review**

The Staff liaison reported that a bylaw amendment paper, which comprises housekeeping items moved forward by the Province including updates to the status of aquifers and raising sensitivity of the community to aquifers, has been drafted for subcommittee review. The amending bylaw is tentatively planned to proceed to Council in the Fall. Klaus von Hardenberg reported on subcommittee discussion around how increased knowledge will help to decrease conflict in the community and how including aquifers on the Natural Features Development Permit guidelines will raise awareness on the effect of development on an aquifer. Councillor Masse noted the possibilities of how proper natural asset management can reduce costs and the Staff liaison discussed the efforts made to date on an outreach program to raise awareness on how groundwater is important to the community.

6.3. **Communications and Outreach - Nil**

6.4. **Watercourse Protection Bylaw Review**

The Staff liaison provided an update from the June subcommittee meeting. The Staff liaison is preparing a report with information gathered from City staff and field consultants to improve efficiency and clarification of the Watercourse Protection bylaw.

7. **STAFF LIAISON UPDATES**

7.1. **UBC/BCIT Project Work – Urban Forestry and Ecosystem Evaluation/iTree Work**

The Staff liaison advised that UBC are students currently conducting a gradient study from the UBC Research Forest to downtown Maple Ridge. The research study consists of

analyzing land use in the area with respect to green infrastructure, particularly urban forestry, and the service it provides and the costs if it is not established. The research will provide local data of potential impacts on both a quantitative and qualitative level. BCIT is working in locally with LiDAR technology and other forest inventory mapping techniques. Their research is focused on how to best inventory and manage urban forests.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

8.1. **Upcoming Events**

August 18, 2018 9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Repair Café Memorial Peace Park (11900 224 Street) Organizer: Ridge Meadows Recycling Society
September 15, 2018 10:00 am -2:00 pm	GETI Fest 2018 Memorial Peace Park (11900 224 Street) Organizer: Golden Ears Transition Initiative
September 15, 2018 10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Repair Café at GETI Fest Memorial Peace Park (11900 224 Street) Organizer: Ridge Meadows Recycling Society

9. **ROUNDTABLE**

Ross Davies reported on the July 15, 2018 open house at KEEPS and advised of the Daytime Astronomers open house on August 26, 2018. KEEPS will be hosting a Bear Awareness open house in September with Dan Mikolay. Ken Williams spoke to the three land acquisitions along Kanaka Creek by Metro Vancouver.

David Neufeld shared his recent involvement on a green infrastructure project in a nearby community.

Gerry Pinel reported that 'The Great Canoe Race' CEED Centre fundraiser held July 7, 2018, went very well. GETI Fest is scheduled September 15, 2018 at Memorial Peace Park and the theme this year is 'Live More with Less'. Mr. Pinel noted the Wild Salmon Defenders Alliance paddle from Harrison Bay to Chilliwack on August 12, 2018 is a 'last stand for wild salmon' fundraiser and they are seeking financial support and paddling participants.

Leanne Koehn reported that the Recycling Depot is hosting their third year of summer depot tours conducted by their Summer students and that another tour date, August 12, 2018, has been added as the previous two have sold out. Ms. Koehn advised that flexible plastic packaging that is not stretchy is a new item now accepted at the Recycling Depot.

Dennis Kinsey shared his observation with regards to the clear spring time air and queried whether the air is less smokey due to the chipping program.

Betty von Hardenberg reported on recent issues TAPS has been fielding, including calls about Japanese Knotweed, the smell of marijuana in the area, and a well that has run dry for the first time in 45 years. Mrs. Von Hardenberg advised of the regatta TAPS will be hosting in August at Whonnock Lake and that the Thornhill pumpkin growing contest is now growing to include more families in the community.

Jessie Lees reported that she has joined the Green Infrastructure and Natural Asset Inventory and Evaluation subcommittee and is pleased with the adoption of the Wildlife and Vector Control bylaw.

Councillor Masse reported Council will be reviewing an electric vehicle charging report and auto wrecking discussion at the July 17, 2018 Council Workshop meeting.

Cheryl Ashlie advised that ARMS will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary at River's Day on September 30, 2018 and preparations for the event are underway. Work is progressing on securing a long term strategy for water licences and completing a fish passage. Summer programs are underway at ARMS.

Janice Jarvis noted how a flow agreement, established in the 1990's, helped the fish in the Alouette River and turned the area into a popular tubing attraction.

Rod Stott advised of his recent work with a Metro Vancouver regional planning subcommittee on wildlife connectivity and suggested they be considered as a Delegation at a future meeting. Mr. Stott enquired about Committee interest in participating in a field trip to learn, grow and interact with the environment and it was agreed to add as a discussion item on the following agenda.

10. **QUESTION PERIOD - Nil**

11. **ADJOURNMENT - 8:40 pm**



L. Koehn, Chair

/aa