

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the Comox Valley Water Committee held on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 in the boardroom of the Comox Valley Regional District offices located at 550B Comox Road, Courtenay, BC commencing at 2:30 pm.

MINUTES

Present:

Chair:	D. Frisch	City of Courtenay	
Vice-Chair:	W. Morin	City of Courtenay	
Members:	B. Wells	City of Courtenay	
	M. Swift	Town of Comox	
	D. Hillian	City of Courtenay	
	K. Grant	Town of Comox	
	E. Grieve	Puntledge/Black Creek (Area C)	
	D. Arbour	Baynes Sound-Denman/Hornby Islands (Area A)	
	A. Hamir	Lazo North (Area 'B')	
	Non-voting Members:	D. Allen	City of Courtenay Administrator
	R. O'Grady	City of Courtenay	
	S. Ashfield	Town of Comox Engineer	
Staff:	R. Dyson	Chief Administrative Officer	
	M. Rutten	CVRD General Manager of Engineering Services	
	B. Dunlop	Corporate Financial Officer	
	J. Warren	General Manager of Corporate Services	
	J. Martens	Manager of Legislative Services	
A. Baldwin	Legislative Services Assistant		

RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES

The Chair acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the unceded traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation.

MANAGEMENT REPORT:

B. Wells/K. Grant: THAT the Comox Valley Water Committee management report dated September 2019 be received.

Carried

REPORTS:

COMOX VALLEY WATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

D. Arbour/A. Hamir: THAT the following items be received:

- Minutes of the Comox Valley Water Management Advisory Committee meeting held August 1, 2019; and

- Minutes of the Comox Valley Water Management Advisory Committee meeting held August 29, 2019.

Carried

UTILITIES GOVERNANCE – RECOMMENDATIONS TO COMOX VALLEY WATER COMMITTEE

B. Wells/A. Hamir: THAT the report dated September 13, 2019 regarding options for advancing the utilities governance topic at the Comox Valley Water Committee be received.

Carried

J. Warren, General Manager of Corporate Services, presented information regarding options for advancing the utilities governance topic at the Comox Valley Water Committee.

B. Wells/K. Grant: THAT the Comox Valley Water Committee endorse the implementation of the ‘staff-based actions’ as noted in the staff report dated September 13, 2019 in order to address issues associated with political interests, technical expertise and accountability, trust and confidence;

AND FURTHER THAT staff report on the results of the ‘staff-based actions’ following the 2020 financial planning process to determine any improvements to the issues noted and to identify any future improvements or changes to the administrative structure for the service.

Carried

E. Grieve/K. Grant: THAT the Comox Valley Water Committee support the development of a policy that seeks public engagement and third-party professional oversight for larger projects to increase accountability and confidence in the project;

AND FURTHER THAT staff provide a draft policy that considers thresholds for projects where such a policy would apply, including thresholds related to project dollar value, impact on the public, project complexity and environmental sensitivity.

Carried

W. Morin/K. Grant: THAT the Comox Valley Water Committee welcome the K’ómoks First Nation (KFN) to continue its involvement with the committee as an observer, at this time;

AND FURTHER THAT any additional supports, background information and orientation is provided to the KFN in the interest of providing the KFN with a role in decision-making that is related to the water supply system.

Carried

WATER COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS

B. Wells/W. Morin: THAT resolutions of the Comox Valley Water Committee be read aloud for clarity and meeting recording purposes.

Carried

COMOX LAKE WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

A. Hamir/D. Hillian: THAT the report dated September 11, 2019 regarding an update on implementation of the Comox Lake Watershed Protection Plan be received.

Carried

Z. Norcross Nu'u, Engineering Analyst, presented information regarding an update on implementation of the Comox Lake Watershed Protection Plan.

Meaghan Cursons and Tina Willard-Stepan, consultants for outreach and education for watershed protection & water conservation, presented information regarding outreach and education in support of watershed protection and water conservation in the Comox Valley.

CUMBERLAND COMMUNITY FOREST SOCIETY REQUEST FOR LAND ACQUISITION FUNDS

D. Arbour/K. Grant: THAT the report dated September 12, 2019 regarding the request from the Cumberland Community Forest Society for financial support to assist with acquisition of 91.7 hectares of land alongside and including Perseverance Creek from Allen Lake to Comox Lake Road be received.

Carried

K. La Rose, Senior Manager of Water/Wastewater Services, provided an overview of the report regarding the request from the Cumberland Community Forest Society for financial support to assist with acquisition of 91.7 hectares of land alongside and including Perseverance Creek from Allen Lake to Comox Lake Road.

D. Arbour/B. Wells: THAT the meeting adjourn to reconvene immediately following the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for September 17, 2019 at 4:00 pm.

Carried

Time: 3:56 pm

The committee reconvened its meeting at 8:01 pm.

B. Wells/A. Hamir: THAT Meaghan Cursons of Cumberland Community Forest Society, be permitted to address the committee and respond to questions regarding the society's request for financial support to assist with the acquisition of land alongside and including Perseverance Creek from Allen Lake to Comox Lake Road.

Carried

B. Wells/E. Grieve: THAT the committee adjourn to an in-camera session pursuant to the following subsection of section 90 of the Community Charter:

90(1)(e) The acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the committee considers that disclosure might reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality;

AND FURTHER THAT Director Ketler and Meaghan Cursons, Cumberland Community Forest Society, be

invited to attend the in-camera portion of the meeting.

Defeated *NAY: D. Frisch; D.
Hillian, D. Arbour, M.
Swift*

D. Hillian/A. Hamir: THAT the Comox Valley Water Committee support in principle the contribution of \$750,000 toward the acquisition of land by the Cumberland Community Forest Society, as outlined in their letter dated May 20th, 2019, for the purposes of watershed protection, subject to the CVRD participating in the development of the conservation covenant and management plan for this land that ensures the protection of the Comox Lake watershed;

AND FINALLY THAT staff work with the society and other potential partners and report back to the committee in a timely manner for a final decision.

Carried

TERMINATION:

E. Grieve/B. Wells: THAT the meeting terminate.

Carried

Time: 8:38 pm.

Confirmed by:

David Frisch
Chair

Certified Correct:

Jake Martens
Manager of Legislative Services

Recorded By:

Antoinette Baldwin
Legislative Services Assistant

These minutes were received by the Comox Valley Regional District board on the _____ day of _____, 20__.