

- l) Promote the development of a regional multi-modal transportation plan;
- m) Develop an environmental education plan with a focus on water, biodiversity and climate change;
- n) Develop a regional energy strategy to identify regional sources of green energy; and
- o) Develop a comprehensive external communications plan

ACTION: Jacob Ellis will compile a list from this meeting's discussion of items that he, Warren Jones, Brian Dennison and Tom Anderson feel would be of merit and be of interest to the Environment Commission to have input on.

8:05 pm

Jacob Ellis, Warren Jones, Tom Anderson and Brian Dennison left the meeting.

**BUSINESS ARISING
OUT OF MINUTES**

B1

Motion regarding the work of the Green Team and surplus funding was accepted by the Regional Board on October 12th, 2011.

B2

Location for Environment Commission meetings – tabled to 2012 when new members join.

B3

Building Sustainable Communities Conference in Kelowna – February, 2012. Judy Stafford, Peter Keber, Roger Wiles have requested to go to this conference. New members might also be interested. Web site for info is: <http://www.freshoutlookfoundation.org/events/bsc/2012/2012-building-sustainable-communities-conference> . Funding to be set aside from the current EC budget to attend and register in the early bird period.

B4

Update on the joint EDC/EC meeting – Phil Kent stated that there is value to holding a joint meeting to discuss the definition of sustainability. It will be postponed until at least December. Kate Miller will schedule a date with Chair's approvals.

REPORTS

R1

Land Committee – no report

R2

Communications Committee – Video Contest – Kate Miller explained the criteria of the contest, with a deadline of December 1, 2011, and prizewinners to be announced before Christmas. Plan to have a public screening at end of contest.

It was moved and seconded to approve the plan for the video contest as presented by Kate Miller, with the subject being the environment of the Cowichan Valley, and with a budget of \$5000.

MOTION CARRIED

Information will be given regarding the video contest to the CVRD Board of Directors and heads of the local governments.

R3 **Water Committee** – Bruce Fraser explained his paper regarding a proposal to the Commission for stimulating development of a collaborative watershed governance mechanism along the lines of the Cowichan Stewardship Round Table, Cowichan Watershed Board and Technical Committee. The Watershed Board agreed to work on this issue.

R4 **Agriculture** – Judy Stafford explained that partnerships are available to support more research on irrigation, to help create a tool to learn what happens with water used in irrigation, and how to best use our water resources. The project involves mapping agricultural lands and irrigation methods in the CVRD. The project is larger in scope than just the CVRD; partners include the Province of BC's Ministry of Agriculture, Nanaimo Regional District, CAVI, and CVRD Economic Development. Necessary funds (\$20,000) are required for the CVRD to participate in this initiative on behalf of the Environment Commission Agricultural Committee. Judy Stafford requests that the Environment Commission contribute dollars (\$10,000) as one of the partners, which will help with the project and with the engagement of the farmers. The other local partners identified are the CVRD Agricultural Commission (2012 supplemental request \$10,000) and the Cowichan Watershed Board (unknown contribution). Additional program funds are also requested to support the work of the Environment Commission Agricultural Subcommittee, to communicate program and program objectives to the agricultural community (\$8,000).

A handout titled "BC Irrigation Scheduling Calculator" from the Waterbucket website was distributed as background material.

It was moved and seconded to contribute \$18,000 for the research into best agricultural practices and the subsequent communication strategy, subject to the money being available in 2011.

Motion tabled until further information is available at next meeting

CORRESPONDENCE

C1 Email from Director Iannidinardo dated October 14, 2011, regarding over-lighting at CVRD facilities. Director Giles will ask the manager of the Water Management Division to explain why the lighting is so strong overnight at pump stations and other facilities, and if we could reduce light pollution and also reduce energy by having facilities' lighting be more environmentally cautious, be less intrusive, or be motion sensitive.

ACTION: Kate Miller will bring a report on LEED standards on lighting to the next meeting as an example of new policy direction with regards to lighting and dark sky issues.

C2 Email from Rosemary Quinlan, dated October 19th, 2011, regarding air quality. It will be referred to the Town of Lake Cowichan.

**RESOLVE INTO
CLOSED SESSION
9:00 pm**

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with the Community Charter, Part 4, Division 3, Sections 90 {(1) (a)}.

MOTION CARRIED

**RISE FROM
CLOSED SESSION
9:10 pm**

It was moved and seconded that the Committee rise without report.

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.

NEXT MEETING

November 17th, 2011

Chair

Recording Secretary

Dated: _____