



**MINUTES of THE (FESC)
FISCAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SELECT COMMITTEE
Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2007 at 7:00 pm
School House, 1589 Millstream Road**

PRESENT: Karen Burns, Chair
Bob McMinn, Vice-chair
Marcie McLean, Recording Secretary
Paul Weyer
Warren Lee
Vicky Husband
Bev York

REGRETS: Hans Waelti, Kenn Faris

STAFF: Chris Coates, CAO

COUNCIL LIAISON: Councillor Mendum

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:07.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: Vicky Husband **Seconded by:** Warren Lee

That the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF OCT, 10, 2007

Moved by: Paul Weyer **Seconded by:** Vicky Husband

That the Oct.10, 2007 minutes of the Fiscal & Environmental Select Committee meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

3. UPDATE FROM LIAISON/STAFF : Chris Coates. CAO

1. FESC Recommendation to Council re: Pacific Centre Family Services Association, Council referred to the District's 2008 budget.
2. FESC Recommendation re: West Shore Economic Development Association, Council denied any further funding to WEDA.
3. FESC Recommendation re: UBCM Community Tourism balance of funding of \$1,349.18 to Highland Heritage Park Society for signage at Caleb Pike Homestead. Council supported, HHPS to work with staff for grant application.
4. FESC request for additional information surrounding the subject of CRD Management Program for Onsite Systems, Council supported the request, and directed staff to bring back the information to our Committee.

5. Regional Growth Strategy Amendment-Highlands

The CAO advised the Committee of the following:

- staff report received
- 120 days referral period, response expected Feb.10, 2008, or, receipt of all municipal responses
- Oak Bay has advised the CRD of their non-acceptance with 4 reasons
- there is a dispute resolution process, CRD expects a facilitator to be hired very soon
- if binding process there are 3 options, the arbitrator will select one
- a municipality chooses to be involved in the process, and if so, then the municipality also participates financially
- participating municipalities must all agree to the dispute resolution process
- there will be future Highlands Council discussions regarding who will represent Highlands, and how many reps? Possibly 2 reps, and 2 alternates?
- Council also has to accept or not accept the RGS Amendment

6. At a Special Council meeting, Council endorsed the release of a statement synopsis regarding the RGS, Bear Mountain Bylaws, and District of Highlands & Bear Mountain Master Development Agreement in respect to legal opinion from the Municipal legal counsel.
7. Committee members were reminded that they may submit an quick email if they would like to be reappointed to the Select Committee for Council's consideration.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) **CRD Environment of the Round Table Climate Change and Community Energy Plan (CEP)**

Bob McMinn had circulated an email to FESC members and staff to be added to the agenda, suggesting that:

"rather than a sub committee of FESC looking at the applicability of CRD's, CEP to the Highlands, the topic should be the overall topic of "Community Sustainability" and the most suitable vehicle to further that concept". "The CRD Community Energy Plan is a useful starting point for considering the sustainability of communities. Highlands has signed onto the premier's initiative for carbon neutrality. Water availability and land use planning are other aspects of sustainability of communities."

Bob suggested we might recommend to Council a Task Force be established with people appointed from the community at large for sustainability of this community.

Moved by: Bob McMinn **Seconded by:** Paul Weyer

That FESC recommends Council approve the establishment of a Community Sustainability Task Force to produce a report within 6 months suggesting potential community sustainability initiatives and objectives.

CARRIED

4 b) From a Recommendation to Council on the topic of CRD's Onsite Septic Management Program, information requested by FESC.

The CAO handed out the following material to the Committee: CRD Report to Environment Committee Meeting of Wed. 24, Oct. 2007-Management of Onsite Systems-Approval to Proceed, Health Act Regulation-Sewerage System Regulation-May 31, 2005, CRD Bylaws Nos. 3478, and 3479.

The CAO provided the following information verbally:

-District of Metchosin: their Council is not opposed to the educational components, however, they are opposed to mandatory pump outs; they prefer to deal with it as they have been, they are not participating in the CRD Program.

-If Highlands does not opt into the CRD Program, nothing occurs, there is no requirement to opt in, Highlands was not part of the CRD Liquid Waste management Plan. Highlands could do something, or do nothing.

-CAO's opinion: to participate with the Region is beneficial, the costs are high though if there is a desire to participate. Best to standardize, so same playing field throughout the Region, current lack of enforcement.

-On opting in or opting out? Highlands could opt in with the consent of the CRD member municipalities. Opting in would increase the CRD budget.

If Highlands was participating in the CRD Program and wanted to opt out, that request would also require consent of the CRD member municipalities.

If a municipality is permitted to opt out there would be less funds in the CRD budget.

As the FESC had not been provided with an opportunity to review the material which was handed out on the topic at the meeting, the Committee decided they would review the material, and, have the matter brought forward for their next FESC meeting.

Action item: Committee to review material, and staff to place subject on the next FESC meeting agenda.

4. c) District of Highlands Draft Grant In Aid policy, and Draft Grant In Aid Application

The Committee assumed no comments had been sent around via emails to members as had been requested at our last meeting, when we did not have enough time left in the evening to reasonably deal with the material on these matters. At our last meeting, Kenn had offered to compile comments and prepare a potential revision. Kenn was absent from tonight's meeting.

The Committee discussed various aspects of the draft materials, asked questions etc. It was thought that also though the application and guidelines need to provide an opportunity for applicants to be accountable, the application should not be too onerous.

After lengthy discussion. The Committee asked the COA if he felt he could take their input and comments away and prepare revised drafts for Council's consideration in the near future? The COA agreed to this.

Action item: COA to take away committee comments, and intentions, prepare a revision, and take the drafts forward to Council.

It was also suggested that once adopted by Council, the policy and application could appear on the Highlands website? The CAO indicated this would be feasible.

Marcie was thanked for the research and work she had done in preparing the draft material to date.

5. New Business

None

6. Pending Referrals:

a) Council Resolution 168/07-Trail Maintenance

(Being withheld pending a staff report)

7. Adjournment: Meeting ended 9:26.

Note: Next meeting? Based on the Select Committees' Terms of Reference-Proceedings, the Committees "may stand adjourned during July, Aug., and Dec. except to meet at the call of the Mayor". Therefore, we would not be scheduled to meet until Wed., January 09, 2008.

Please contact the chair Karen Burns and inform her if you are unable to attend, in order to ensure that we will have a quorum for the meeting.

Chair: Karen Burns

Recording Secretary: Marcie McLean