



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

**MINUTES OF THE
CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HELD MARCH 27, 2024 AT 4:00 PM
OKANAGAN LAKE ROOM (COUNCIL CHAMBER)**

PRESENT: Donna Bartel, Community at Large Rep.
Mayor Cumming
Councillor Guy, Council Appointed
Buffy Baumbrough, Science & Technology Rep.
Patrick Riley, Okanagan Indian Band Rep.
Jordan Hart, Business and Commercial Services Rep.
Sid Kwakkel, Educators, Post Secondary Rep., *Chair*
Fawn Ross, Community Stewardship Rep.
Barry Dorval, Educators, Primary and Secondary Rep.
Stephanie Hendy, Community at Large Rep.

ABSENT: Jenna Boone, Youth Rep.
Jenn Comazzetto, SD22 Rep.
Casey Neathway, Health & Social Services Rep.
Casey Bain, Youth Rep.

STAFF: Kevin McCarty, Specialist, Climate Action
Jennifer Pounder, Records/Committee Clerk

ORDER The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

**LAND
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** *As Chair of the City of Vernon's Climate Action Advisory Committee,
and in the spirit of this gathering, I recognize the City of Vernon is
located in the traditional territory of the Syilx people of the Okanagan
nation.*

**ADOPTION OF THE
AGENDA** Moved by S. Kwakkel, seconded by B. Dorval:

THAT the agenda of the March 27, 2024 Climate Action
Advisory Committee meeting be adopted:

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Moved by B. Dorval, seconded S. Hendy:

THAT the minutes of the January 31, 2024 Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting be adopted:

CARRIED

The Chair welcomed B. Baumbrough to the Committee. This was followed by roundtable introductions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

COUNCIL UPDATE

Councillor Guy provided the following update on City Council business:

February 12, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting

- I reported that I participated in the Okanagan Transit Challenge. I rode buses both here, and in Vancouver; There are big differences in service levels and ridership.
- Council authorized stay to apply for a \$30,000.00 grant from UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness fund to buy a computer for GIS analysis for the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and to provide training to EOC personnel.

February 26, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting

- Staff recommended that Council adopt Level One (measure only) of the 4-step Zero Carbon STEP Code. The report also recognized that our 2024 Housing Plan needs to square with our Climate Action plan, and recommended that we assess how we manage growth in buildings while meeting our climate targets.
- Staff reported that a stormwater management plan and bylaw would be coming to Council soon.
- BC Transit has introduced a new tap-in card – “Umo”, and expects to soon offer credit card tap-in as well.
- The e-scooter pilot project will continue for another four years; April 5, 2024 to April 5, 2028.
- Council supported a motion to request that SILGA and UBCM no longer accept funding from the oil and gas sector at conventions.

March 11, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting

- Staff reported that we were unsuccessful in our grant application to the Accelerator Fund, which would have provided significant funding to support delivery of our Housing Action Plan.

- Kevin McCarty presented the plan that this Committee had considered and approved on January 31, 2024. Council supported the plan and expanded it.
- Mayor Cumming reported to Council on a plan to set up a Watershed Plan to manage the Aberdeen Plateau (which is our water source) to protect water and cultural and heritage values above timber values. The work would involve near-term work to reduce fire risk, then working with partners and stakeholders to develop a long-term management plan and setting up a governance structure to oversee the management. The ultimate goal is to transfer jurisdiction to GWW and the OKIB for managing timber on the plateau.

March 25, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting

- Terry Barton, Director, Planning and Community Services, announced that two vacant positions had been filled, both by internal applicants. The new manager of Transportation, Daniel DeVries, and the new manager of Planning, Roy Nuriel. A new Planner, Lydia Korolchuk, was also introduced.
- Barbara Everdene, Long Range Planner, and Danielle DeVries, Manager, Transportation, reviewed the Engagement Plan for the Official Community Plan (OCP) and Transportation Master Plan (TMP) updates that are getting underway.

It was further noted that the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program has developed a new wetland prediction model which could be useful in the natural asset inventory work that will begin soon. Also, the BC Utilities Commission has made several decisions recently related to BC Hydro and FortisBC that are relevant to the City of Vernon as we push to meet the provincial zero carbon step code and move towards zero carbon transportation.

The following questions/comments were received:

- It was asked if there any timelines around decision making on cataloging wetlands?
 - Timelines might help speed it up. Sooner would be better as subdivision applications are rampant. It is within the scope of the plan Council approved on January 31, 2024.
- Can this Committee do anything to help the process?
 - The City is going through zoning amendments to change properties to parks. It was suggested to Council to not develop on the lands that could potentially be wetlands.
- In response to a question, it was recommended that this Committee pass a motion to recognize the urgency of recognizing

wetlands. We need a current inventory to compare with the old inventory, and present Council with a list of assets lost.

- How are the current tools and policies regarding wetland assets not working?
 - The City of Vernon does not currently have a wetland policy. There needs to be mechanisms in place to stop building on wetlands to force Council to act and put policies in place.

**MOTION
(WETLAND ASSETS)**

Moved by B. Dorval, seconded by B. Baumbrough:

THAT the Climate Action Advisory Committee, recognizing the value of wetlands to biodiversity and climate change adaptation and mitigation values, recommends that the City urgently prioritize the identification of wetland assets.

CARRIED

STAFF UPDATE

- K. McCarty provided the Committee with the following updates:
- Council authorized the allocation of \$259,000 from the Local Government Climate Action Program fund to proceed with the seven climate initiatives outlined in the memorandum titled “Climate Action Plan Implementation” date February 28, 2024.
 - The Sustainability Grants program is opening for applications on Earth Day (April 22), until June 15, 2024.
 - The Tree Voucher Program will be opening for applications on Earth Day (April 22), until June 13, 2024.
 - Kevin participated in the Thompson Okanagan Climate Action Network workshop sustainable building workshop in Salmon Arm.

**MOTION
(SUSTAINABILITY
GRANTS)**

Moved by B. Dorval, seconded by B. Baumbrough:

THAT the Climate Action Advisory Committee recommends that Council increase the amount of money accessible through the sustainability grants program.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS:

**SUBCOMMITTEES /
WORKING GROUPS**

S. Kwakkel and B. Dorval presented the Committee with the subcommittee/working groups that will be created (Attachment 1). Members volunteered for subcommittee groups as follows:

Communication and Engagement:

- Barry, Fawn and Mayor Cumming.

Official Community Plan:

- Buffy, Stephanie, Jordan, Councillor Guy, Barry and Fawn.

Metrics and Reporting:

- Patrick, Donna, Sid, Kevin.

Consideration of Future Climate Aspects:

- Councillor Guy, Sid, Fawn and Buffy.

It was requested that the subcommittee groups bring an update on their work to each Committee meeting.

CREEK SAMPLING PROGRAM

K. McCarty provided the following information on the Creek Sampling Program:

- The water quality creek sampling initiative is a pilot program lead by the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) and Interior Health to assess the impacts of urbanization on our creek systems. One hydrometric station was recently installed at the BX Sediment Pond to monitor turbidity, temperature, and conductivity. This station is monitored by Water Survey of Canada and subsidized by the Okanagan Basin Water Board. There is consideration for installing two more this year, but this has not been confirmed.
- The City of Vernon is not involved with this initiative, aside from helping to identify the location for the hydrometric station.

TRANSIT CHALLENGE UPDATE

S. Hendy provided an update to the Committee on the Transit Challenge. The following points were noted:

- The challenge went well. Several communities took part. Councilors and Mayors from Kelowna, West Kelowna, Penticton, Salmon Arm and Summerland participated in the challenge.
- The reason for the program was to gather perspectives on the strengths and weaknesses of BC Transit.
- The next Okanagan Transit Alliance campaign is aimed at getting free fare for riders under the age of 18.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting for the Climate Action Advisory Committee is set for May 29, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Climate Action Advisory Committee adjourned at 6:12 p.m. by call of the Chair.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


_____ Chair