



City of Port Moody

Minutes

Environmental Protection Committee

Minutes of the electronic meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee held on Monday, June 15, 2020 via Zoom.

Present

Councillor Amy Lubik, Chair
Margaret Birch (arrived at 7:29pm)
Elaine Golds
Andrew MacLellan
Javney Mohr (arrived at 7:23pm)
Gregory Pepler
Damian Regan
Jutta Rickers-Haunerland
Connie Smith
Judy Taylor-Atkinson

Absent

Councillor Meghan Lahti, Vice-Chair
Don McKendrick (Regrets)

In Attendance

Lesley Douglas – General Manager of Environment and Parks
Philip Lo – Committee Coordinator

Also In Attendance

Sarah Dal Santo, Natural Resources Planning Manager,
Tsleil-Waututh Nation (re item 4.1)
Anuradha Rao, Water Quality Objectives Project Lead,
Tsleil-Waututh Nation (re item 4.1)

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:09pm.

EPC20/010

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT Environmental Award be added to the agenda as item 4.3.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes

2.1 EPC20/011

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the minutes of the Environmental Protection Committee meeting held on Monday, May 11, 2020 be amended by removing “Safe” and adding “Salmon”

Amend: 4.1, fourth bullet – Salmon safe instead of safe-safe.

THAT the minutes of the Environmental Protection Committee meeting held on Monday, May 11, 2020 be adopted as amended.

3. Unfinished Business

4. New Business

**Tsleil-Waututh First
Nation Burrard Inlet
Action Plan and
Burrard Inlet Water
Quality Objectives**

4.1 Presentation: Anuradha Rao and Sarah Dal Santo

Representatives of Tsleil-Waututh First Nation (TWN) Burrard Inlet Action Plan (BIAP) gave a presentation regarding the Plan, noting the following:

- the TWN Burrard Inlet Action Plan is a science-based, First Nations-led initiative to improve the health of the Burrard Inlet ecosystem by 2025;
- the TWN has strong stewardship policies and connections to the land and waters;
- update of Burrard Inlet Water Quality (priority action 1) includes: relationship building, a multi-stakeholder roundtable with a technical working subgroup, assembling Inlet water quality information that had previously resided in various silos, and translating traditional indigenous values into water quality values;
- install scientific water quality monitoring instruments (priority action 2) includes: a sea floor observatory, water action monitoring buoys, underwater noise monitoring, and identifying and tracking emerging issues;
- Identify and reduce pollution from stormwater (priority action 3) includes ongoing monitoring of E.coli and coliform bacteria, and other contaminants;
- Map nearshore habitats and forage fish spawning beaches (priority action 4) includes eelgrass mapping and the Salish Sea nearshore habitat recovery project;
- Conserve critical nearshore habitat complexes (Maplewood Flats Pilot) is priority action 5;
- Recover Shellfish Beds – Indian Arm Pilot (priority action 6) includes monitoring and restoring bivalve shellfish ecosystems;
- monitoring ocean acidification one of the things is within the scope of the BIAP;
- other BIAP implementation include an oil spill response plan and creosote pilings removal;
- many agencies have contributed to improving the health and ecology of the Burrard Inlet; and
- key BIAP action priorities for upcoming years include improving oil spill prevention and response planning, ongoing creosote pilings removal, and other actions;

- positive changes from the BIAP include the discovery of herrings eggs in Indian Arm, and the return of anchovies and marine life.
- Salish Sea Nearshore Habitat Recovery Project – Burrard Inlet Region is based on three pillars: eelgrass restoration, marine riparian restoration, and marine debris removal;
- regional focus for Port Moody includes marine riparian restoration (forage fish spawning habitat) at Rocky Point Park;
- other possible areas for restoration include Old Orchard, the Old Mill site, and the 1st Avenue Creek Estuary; and
- two eelgrass surveys were done by the partnership of TWN and Sea Change Marine Conservation Society.

Staff and the TWN representative noted the following in response to questions from the Committee:

- mitigating future creosote pilings will require funding; the regulations which enable them to be used will need to be changed; ongoing conversations with various jurisdictions in collaboration with First Nations about this problem are ongoing;
- poor sediment and water quality, and steep slopes in intertidal zones in Port Moody are challenges for eelgrass; eelgrass may not have been sourced and planted correctly as well;
- an example of a non-vulnerable habitat is an areas that has been restored, with eelgrass that provide habitat for forage fish;
- no site has been specifically designated to date for shoreline softening; areas subject to erosion are typical candidates for softening in a way that can enable natural systems to continue to function and also allow for sea level rise to happen at the same time;
- project prioritization depends on resourcing and funding criteria; water quality updates, removal of contaminants, eelgrass mapping, forage fish habitat restoration are priorities;
- the historical baseline for water quality monitoring is established through archaeological examination and using radio-carbon techniques on shellfish to determine the water conditions and how water quality has changed over time; and
- the foreshore is outside of City's jurisdiction; the Port and the DFO have jurisdiction over the foreshore.

The Committee noted that the City wrote a motion to UBCM supporting West Coast Environment Law and advocating for province-wide shoreline protection strategy with legislation.

Staff will provide input to the consultants regarding the designated anchorage area for Deep Cove.

The TWN representatives noted the relationship with City has been great on the projects, and that past learnings will be applied to future work.

Invasive Pests Update

- 4.2 Staff gave a presentation regarding invasive pest species of interest in the region, noting the following:
- Asian giant hornets were first observed in BC in 2019 are a threat to honey bee hives, and will continue to be monitored along the Canada/US border;
 - Japanese Beetles were first sighted in 2017, have no natural predators in North American, are major threats to the agriculture and landscape industries, and are continuing to spread across North America; these beetles are quite well established in the maritime provinces; a partnership of different agencies and organizations was formed to prevent their spread, and there has been an 86% reduction in their population since treatment began;
 - gypsy moths are not established in BC, but have many hosts including valuable ornamental trees; eradication can be done using pheromone traps, aerial sprays, and spot treatment with pesticides; and
 - chaffer beetles infestations are highly cyclical, and will continue to be monitored.

Environmental Award

- 4.3 Staff advised that the nomination process for the 2020 Environmental Awards is now open, with a deadline of July 31, 2020, and that information is available via the City's website. Staff noted that the award dinner has been tentatively scheduled for January 2021.


5. Information

Staff Updates

5.1

6. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:00pm.



Councillor Amy Lubik,
Chair



Philip Lo,
Committee Coordinator