

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH

Minutes of the **PUBLIC WORKS, TRANSPORTATION
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** Meeting
Monday, May 9, 2005 at 7:04 p.m.
Central Saanich Municipal Council Chamber

PRESENT: Councillor Susan Mason, Chair
Mayor Allison Habkirk
Councillors: Graham, Korol and Thompson
Gary C. Nason, Administrator
Trish Flanders, Municipal Clerk
Hope V. Burns, Director of Planning and Building Services
Nirmal Bhattacharya, Municipal Engineer
Brian Shields, Public Works Coordinator

ABSENT: Councillors: Haddon, King

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

664.05 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR GRAHAM
 NO SECONDER
 *That the Agenda for the Public Works, Transportation & Economic Development
 Committee Meeting held on May 9, 2005 be approved as circulated.*
 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Informational Presentation by District's Mosquito Control Program Contractor

The Administrator, Mr. Gary C. Nason, gave a brief introductory overview of the District's Annoyance Mosquito Control & Abatement Program which has been managed and maintained by D.G. Regan & Association for several years, and referred to the "West Nile Risk Reduction Initiative Funding" program which was recently announced by the Union of BC Municipalities.

Mr. Damien Regan, President of D.G. Regan & Associates, introduced Mr. John Henigman who gave an informational Power Point presentation on the Mosquito Control & Abatement Program. Mr. Henigman noted that over the past ten years the work that has been undertaken in the District has primarily been an "annoyance" program to control mosquitoes and their larvae, but that the program has been recently expanded to include monitoring for the West Nile virus. During his presentation, Mr. Henigman noted the following points:

Annoyance Mosquito Control Program, 2004

- physical reduction of alternation of larval habitats is an important aspect of the control program;
- during the past year, 545 kilograms of a biological control agenda "VectoBac 200G" were applied to 73 hectares of land in Central Saanich;
- active mosquito sites in Central Saanich include tidal ponds, ditches and depressions within salt marsh and adjacent farm land;
- larval development, monitoring and control are tied to high tides;
- there are over 100 ditches and water collection sites around local farm land which can produce mosquitoes;

West Nile Virus Mosquito Survey Results, 2004

- the program calls for public education, mosquito habitat surveys, species identification and assessment of risk posed to public;
- in Central Saanich, 19 naturally occurring and man-made open-water mosquito development sites were located and monitored, with the most common sites being storm water retention ponds, roadside ponds and ditches;
- in Central Saanich, 88% of catch basis contained water throughout the summer, and of these 87% were infested with mosquitoes;
- it is critical that Central Saanich continue to prepare for West Nile Virus – mosquito habitat surveys and public education should continue;

West Nile Virus Information Report

- West Nile Virus is a mosquito borne virus which is passed between mosquitoes and birds; the most common way of contracting the virus is through a bite from an infected mosquito;
- in 2004, Canada had one probable human case (Saskatchewan) and 35 positive bird indicators (Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan);

- West Nile Virus has debilitating affects on humans and horses;
- the local horse population is at a higher risk for contracting West Nile Virus;
- methods to reduce the threat of the virus is to drain anything that holds water, dress in light loose-fitting clothing, avoid activities at dawn and dusk, and use DEET repellent;
- continue to monitor and follow the Integrated Pest Management Plan in an effort to prevent the spread of this virus.

A brief question and answer session took place.

Dr. David A. Boag, 6746 Amwell Drive, questioned if there was any information on the long-term effects of the application of this pesticide on the environment and non-pest insects, and was advised by Mr. Henigman that there were no formal reports or studies in this regard.

Mr. Wayne Watkins, 7055 Wallace Drive, advised of his support for the continuation of the District's Mosquito Abatement and Control Program through D.G. Regan & Associates.

The Committee thanked Mr. Regan and Mr. Henigman for the informational presentation.

2. Economic Development Opportunities Blueprint

- a) Greater Victoria Enterprise Partnership Society – Economic Development Opportunities Blueprint Summary Report, October 2004 Update.
- b) Excerpt from the Minutes of the CRD Regional Planning Committee.

Mr. Bruce Carter, Chief Executive Officer – Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce advised that the Economic Development Opportunities Blueprint Project was initiated by the Greater Victoria Enterprise Partnership Society to develop an economic development strategy for inclusion in the CRD's Regional Growth Strategy. During his presentation, Mr. Carter noted the following points:

- in 2000, the Mayors of the Greater Victoria area discussed the plan for economic development in the Capital Region, and a steering committee was formed to develop a cohesive plan;
- approximately 88% of the residents in the Capital Region have indicated a desire for a regional economic development strategy;
- in early 2003, the Greater Victoria Economic Partnership Society invited municipal representatives from across the Capital Region to participate in a Workshop and provide input about the economic future of the region;
- a stakeholders meeting included CRD municipalities, MLA's, First Nation Chiefs, business operators and representatives of community organizations;
- the outcome was the development of the Greater Victoria Economic Development Opportunities Blueprint Report in November 2004;
- the final Blueprint Report was presented to the CRD Board in November 2004 with a request for inclusion in the CRD Regional Growth Strategy, and in February 2005 the CRD decided that further feedback from all Capital Region municipalities was required before any decisions would be made in this regard;
- the next step in the partnership is to endorse the recommendations contained within the report, and to request the CRD to continue the development of a regional economic development strategy as part of the Regional Growth Strategy.

In discussion around the table, members of the Committee raised the following comments and questions:

- does the Economic Blueprint have any deliverables that are measurable, as a means of evaluating progress?
- education and awareness are important components of this strategy and should be promoted;
- the strategy should focus on strengths rather than weaknesses, and efforts should be focused on building relationships among the key players in a positive way;

- appreciation was expressed for the inclusion of the agricultural sector as a key economic development opportunity in the region;
- the suggestion was made that the private sector take a lead role in the implementation of the various recommendations contained in the Report.

Mayor Habkirk commented on the recent "Municipal Report Card", prepared by the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce. She stated that although Central Saanich rated quite well in the overall results, some of the information contained in the document is clearly incorrect. Mayor Habkirk stated that the Municipal Report Card has not assisted the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce in building relationships in a positive way, and encouraged the Chamber to review the methodology it used when preparing the report.

Mr. Wayne Watkins, 7055 Wallace Drive, commented on the negative reaction to the errors contained in the Municipal Report Card, and questioned if the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce would consider correcting the document.

665.05 MOVED BY MAYOR HABKIRK
 NO SECONDER
 That It Be Recommended to Council:

That the Greater Victoria Enterprise Partnership Society be thanked for its presentation, and correspondence be forwarded to both the Society and to the Capital Regional District:

- 1. advising of Council's support for the inclusion of the agricultural sector as one of the key economic development opportunities in the region;*
- 2. requesting that the various parties to this initiative move forward with a more positive approach than that which has been evidenced in various sections of the Economic Development Opportunities Blueprint – Summary Report; and*
- 3. advising of Council's position that the private sector is most appropriately positioned to take the lead role in the implementation strategy for the various recommendations contained in the Summary Report.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee thanked Mr. Carter for his informational presentation.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion, the Public Works, Transportation & Economic Development Committee Meeting held on May 9, 2005 adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Recorded By: Trish Flanders
 Municipal Clerk