

Community Development Forum, Halfmoon Bay
Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting
Tuesday 06 February, 2024, 5:30-7:30 PM
By Zoom

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 pm

PRESENT: **Committee Members:** Darlene Tymo (Chair), Alistair Higson (Deputy Chair), Laurie Bates-Frymel, Linda McMahon, Don Cunliffe; **Volunteers:** Bill Henwood, Andy Jones-Cox, Ellie Lenz, Marcus Stein, Megan Martin, Jeff Muckle, Barbara Bolding (Recorder); **Area B Director** Justine Gabias; **Invitees:** Guest speaker: Peter Hews; Halfmoon Bay Environmental Society Members Mary Beth Knechtel & Dana Janzen

1. Introduction:

- a. Minutes of the previous [monthly meeting on 05 December 2023](#) were accepted.

2. Landfill Options Under Consideration For Lower Sunshine Coast (Guest Speaker, Peter Hews)

- a. Brief profile of Peter Hews
 - Currently a semi-retired professional geologist living between Calgary and Halfmoon Bay.
 - 40+ years as a geologist in the oil and gas industry, who also teaches.
 - (He didn't tell us at the time) Credited with discovering the horned skull of a previously unknown dinosaur in southwestern Alberta which has been named [Regaliceratop Peterhewsi](#).
- b. Recent background to selecting a new landfill site (available in the [SCRD Board Agenda \(pp. 3-64\)](#))
 - At the 25 January 2024 Committee of the Whole (CoW) meeting, the Board received a presentation from consultant Tony Sperling, Chief Engineer of Sperling Hansen Associates (SHA) on the landfill options under consideration for the lower Sunshine Coast. Details summarizing the consultants' work and recommendations are attached to the CoW meeting agenda (pp3-48), as is a Staff Report addressing *Future Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Options – Project Update* (pp 49-53). A *Landfill Siting Assessment Report* from Tony Sperling to Renko Rosenboom, SCRD Manager of Infrastructure Services (pp 54-57) is also attached.
- c. Mr. Hews made a [presentation](#) followed by discussion
 - Available information on the two options in Halfmoon Bay raise a number of concerns including: a lack of field inspections, inconsistent/unknown assessment criteria among the sites reviewed, unsuitability given provincial guidelines, and the limited number of sites that were reviewed. The analysis currently appears incomplete, which raises concerns about decisions based on it.
 - Perspective: Unsuitable sites in Halfmoon Bay should be ruled out. In choosing a solution to the landfill problem on the Sunshine Coast, the SCRD Board must ensure that any site makes sense, meets Provincial criteria, is based on complete information, and follows a consistent and transparent process.
ACTION: Peter Hews' comments on the latest consultant's report to be shared with the Halfmoon Bay Community Association and Halfmoon Bay Environmental Society (PH) and [posted on hbesc.ca](#).

3. Area Director's Update (JG)

- a. Update on current landfill plan—arising from 25th Jan 2024 CoW meeting
- b. Board considering new approaches to budgeting for next year i.e. focus on projects before budget. Staffing needs and budgets should flow from approved projects.
 - Some money from Growing Communities Funding may help to reduce property taxes
- c. Discussion of issues raised by meeting attendees:
 - Legislative reform
 - Expansion of Dock Management Plan beyond Pender Harbour
 - Wording of “Climate Emergency” motion currently before the Board

4. Overview of Biodiversity Mapping Workshop in November 2023 (LBF)

- a. Brief [presentation](#) of [workshop highlights](#) of relevance to Halfmoon Bay and broader Sunshine Coast
 - Maps pertinent to the Sunshine Coast should be available by the end of March 2024
 - Some learnings from other workshop participants who are further along in the process:
 - Share information early
 - Communicate clearly with land owners
- b. Interested in At-Risk Coastal Douglas Fir Ecosystem overlaid on Halfmoon Bay properties? See [CDF website](#).
ACTION: (1) Wait until April 2024 when maps are ready to consider delegation (with CDFCP) to SCRD on preserving Coastal Douglas Fir (DT/AH) **(2)** Consider sharing the maps directly with SCRD Board who in turn could share with other Electoral Area community groups for OCP renewal work (DT/AH)

5. Update: West Coast Environmental Law (WCEL) Grant (AH)

- a. 3rd application for a grant for an additional 66 hrs of legal support was not approved. While [WCEL](#) remains supportive of the Forum’s workplan, they felt that the scope of the grant request had become too large for the intent of the [EDRF](#), which is primarily for dispute resolution.
- b. However, and per WCEL feedback, if an immediate need arises for help with dispute resolution, the CDF can apply for emergency funding.

6. Provincial Increase to Maximum Bylaw Fines for Regional Districts (AH)

- a. Recent [Provincial legislation changes to the Community Charter](#), made to address the housing crisis and short term rentals, significantly increased the maximum fine Regional Districts can now set in their bylaws.
- b. The SCRD Bylaw Department does not currently have any plan to review penalties. They usually take direction from the SCRD Board or other SCRD Departments.

ACTION: Research and communicate a proposal to the SCRD to increase penalties relevant to the scope of the Forum’s work (AH, DT, KD)

7. Any Other Business

- a. Opportunity to comment on upcoming changes to the Provincial Land Act closes 31 March 2024. Land Act affect forestry, mining, recreation among other areas

ACTION: Share a synopsis with Forum volunteers (JM, AH)

8. Next CDF meeting:

- Tuesday 5 March 2024 5:30-7:30 pm Via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned: 7.35 pm