



CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting – Tuesday, May 16, 2023

7:00 pm – In-Person

District of North Vancouver Hall, Committee Room

Present: Ken Ashley, Keegan Casidy, Eleanor Gill, Jennifer Johnson, Diana Leung, Mariko Michasiw, Oliver Ng, Irwin Oostindie, Lorna Pelly, Councillor Jordan Back

Staff: Caroline Jackson, Director, Climate Action, Natural Systems and Biodiversity;
Matt Mackinnon, Biodiversity Policy and Projects Manager
Bo Ocampo, Sustainability Specialist
Mary Jukich, Committee Clerk

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Cllr Jordan Back called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Territorial Acknowledgement

Cllr Jordan Back provided the territorial acknowledgement.

Adoption of the Agenda

Moved, seconded and resolved
To adopt the agenda.

Adoption of the Minutes

Moved, seconded and resolved
To adopt the September 13, 2022 minutes.

2. Election of Meeting Chairs

The following Committee members volunteered to serve as the Chair and Vice-Chairs for the upcoming meetings:

May 16 – Biodiversity Strategy – In Person Meeting
Chair – Jennifer Johnson; Vice-Chair – no volunteer

June 14 – Electric Vehicle Strategy – Hybrid Meeting
Chair – Diana Leung; Vice-Chair – Eleanor Gill

September 27 or 28 – Biodiversity Symposium
A Chair / Vice-Chair may not be necessary however, a volunteer will be required to introduce the speakers.

October 19 – Climate Adaptation and Resilience – In Person Meeting
Chair – Ken Ashley; Vice-Chair – Oliver Ng

3. Climate Action Committee: 2023 Workplan and Meeting Schedule

The 2023 meeting schedule was reviewed and discussed during the election of meeting chairs. “Save the dates” will be provided to the committee members for the upcoming meetings.

Committee members reviewed the proposed 2023 workplan.

Topic	Date	Objective
Biodiversity Strategy	May 16, 2023	To provide an overview of the District’s six key climate and environment directions and to obtain Committee input on the District’s work related to the development of the Biodiversity Strategy.
Electric Vehicle Strategy	June 14, 2023	To obtain committee input on the District’s work related to the development of an Electric Vehicle Strategy of an Electric Vehicle Strategy.
Biodiversity Symposium	Sep 27 or 28, 2023	To host an event to celebrate biodiversity in the District, to raise awareness of projects and initiatives to protect and enhance biodiversity, and to inform development of the District’s Biodiversity Strategy.
Climate Adaptation and Resilience	October 19, 2023	To obtain Committee input on the District’s climate adaptation and resilience work and to review a summary report on committee activities for the year.

4. Committee Member Updates

Committee members provided the following updates:

- The second annual Indigenous Knowledge and Sea Level Rise Symposium will be held on June 3.
- The municipalities of Delta and Surrey are partnering together to design nature-based climate solutions based on the living dyke concept at two locations in Boundary Bay. The project will mitigate river flooding and the loss of biodiversity. It will also help salt marsh habitats keep pace with rising sea levels.
- With a changing climate, the interior of BC is now at increased risk of forest fires. There is a new project in Logan Lake that is using Beaver Dam Analogues (i.e., man-made structures designed to mimic the form and function of a natural beaver dam) to increase water storage and water levels by creating a series of step pools in an effort to increase biodiversity and create fire breaks for community wildfire protection.

5. Review District Climate and Biodiversity Planning Context and Key Directions

Caroline Jackson, Director, Climate Action, Natural Systems provided an update on the Climate and Biodiversity Planning and Key Directions, and the work underway at the District, noting the goals as follows:

- Reduce emissions as a corporation in our own operations and as a community
 - 45% below 2007 levels by 2030
- Protect and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem health
- Improve our community's resilience to climate change

In addition, the six pathways in achieving the goals were noted:

- Corporate Leadership
- Low Carbon Buildings
- Low Carbon Transport and Land Use
- Zero Waste
- Climate Adaptation & Resilience
- Healthy Ecosystems

6. Biodiversity Strategy Background and Input to Date

Matt MacKinnon, Biodiversity Policy and Projects Manager provided a presentation on the background and proposed approach for the Biodiversity Strategy, noting that this is an overarching strategy for protecting, enhancing, and restoring biodiversity and natural systems in the District. The Biodiversity strategy will consist of goals, objectives, and actions for protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

The proposed approach for developing and implementing the Biodiversity Strategy would follow the ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability biodiversity planning and management framework and would include five phases as outlined below:

- Phase 1 – Initiation: build the team responsible for developing the strategy and identify existing policies, actions, networks and groups, resources, and data.
- Phase 2 – Assessment: assess the current state of biodiversity in the District, reviewing background studies and data, and consulting external datasets. Review related policies and practices to identify challenges and opportunities.
- Phase 3 – Planning: identify the goals, objectives, and actions for the strategy. Seek input from the community to help identify and prioritize actions.
- Phase 4 – Implementation: implement plan actions, providing coordination, training, and support.
- Phase 5 – Monitor and Review: track and report on plan implementation.

7. Break

8. Biodiversity Strategy Preliminary Directions – Breakout Sessions

During the Biodiversity Workshop, two breakout sessions were held where CAAC members were asked to provide specific guidance on the Biodiversity Strategy. Committee members discussed drivers and restraints (i.e., what currently exists to support and enhance biodiversity (programs, organizations, policies) and restraints (i.e., what are the biggest challenges and threats to biodiversity). Committee members also discussed strategies and tools for community engagement. It was expressed that there is a lack of familiarity with the term biodiversity and what it means. The importance of working across geographic and jurisdictional boundaries was emphasized, and it was suggested that attending existing community events and partnering with business, industry, builders, libraries and other entities would be beneficial. A more detailed summary of the discussion and feedback collected during the breakout sessions will be prepared to inform strategy development.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm.