



**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND
AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES EXECUTIVE
HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2014**

- IN ATTENDANCE:** Mayor Larry Cross, Sidney, President
Councillor Cindy Solda, Port Alberni, First Vice-President
Councillor Barbara Price, Comox, Second Vice-President
Director Mary Marcotte, Cowichan Valley RD, EA Representative
Councillor Jessie Hemphill, Port Hardy, Director at Large
Councillor Claire Moglove, Campbell River, Director at Large
Councillor Andrew Mostad, Lantzville, Director at Large
Chair Joe Stanhope, Nanaimo RD, Past President
- STAFF ATTENDANCE:** Glen Brown, General Manager of Victoria Operations, UBCM
Iris Hesketh-Boles, Executive Coordinator
- GUESTS:** Paul Murray, Administrative Officer, District of Saanich
Jerry Berry, Consultant

President Cross called the meeting to order at 9:05 am and welcomed members, staff and the two guests in attendance.

AGENDA

On a motion by Director Moglove, seconded by EA Representative Marcotte,
That the agenda be adopted with agreement that Item 3 (b) Update from the AVICC CAO Natural Gas Working Group and Gas Operating Agreement Process be moved up to the top of the agenda was
CARRIED

POLICY

Update from the AVICC CAO Natural Gas Working Group and Gas Operating Agreement Process

President Cross invited Paul Murray, Administrative Officer with District of Saanich and Chair of the AVICC CAO Natural Gas Working Group and Jerry Berry, FortisBC's Consultant on this file to provide an update.

Executive was advised that word has been received that the provincial government is expecting to consider revisions to the legislation to facilitate eligible AVICC local governments to be able to begin receiving operating fees during the fall legislative session. The consultant noted that as a separate issue from the coordinated work undertaken over the years between AVICC and FortisBC, the status quo for five major island industrials is being maintained by including a regulation exempting the five major industrials on the island from paying operating fees leaving an inequity within this group as industrials elsewhere in the province will continue to pay operating fees.

The schedule of reductions in gas rates was highlighted noting that the 20-25% rate reduction would

be phased in over 3-4 years with the first one of 7% being effective January 1, 2015. It was noted that the first opportunity to apply operating fees would be March 1, 2015.

There has been one minor change to the operating agreement template that was distributed previously. A template staff report, policy paper and the template operating agreement will be forwarded to the 20 affected local governments in October encouraging local governments not to delay in getting them signed so that they are in position to implement operating fees as soon as all the pieces are in place. Paul Murray indicated that he plans to attend the UBCM Convention and has offered to make himself available to CAO's to address any questions or concerns.

A "good news" meeting with the government during UBCM Convention is still advised. An earlier request to meet was not initiated as a result of an oversight during AVICC staff transition this past summer. As meetings with the government during the UBCM Convention can only be requested by local governments, Past President Stanhope will ask RDN CAO, Paul Thorkelson to initiate a request to the same group as last year.

A short update to the membership will be incorporated into the AVICC luncheon program on September 24.

AVICC Executive extended a sincere thank you to Past President Stanhope, Jerry and Paul for their leadership in managing this file and getting the process to this point. The recognition was acknowledged, but was qualified that the work is not yet complete and noted time sensitivities with getting agreements in place to be ready. Paul Murray left the meeting at this time.

Solid Waste Management

Before leaving the meeting, as contracted facilitator for the September 4 workshop on this topic, staff asked if Jerry Berry's might also be requested to provide a short update. The update noted that approximately 70 participants attended, that the session was well received, that attendees felt they lacked understanding of the subject, that exploration of what can be done collectively would be beneficial and that a request to AVICC Executive to facilitate further action will be forthcoming.

ADMINISTRATION

AVICC/UBCM Contract

In follow-up to the discussion initiated at the June Executive meeting, Glen Brown, UBCM Victoria Operations Manager advised that he would be bringing a decision item to the October Executive meeting that will be proposing that the UBCM contract to provide support to AVICC should be increased to .83 FTE from the current .6 FTE based on the amount of time devoted and actual costs incurred over the past three years. Up-to-date financial reports and the impact on budget will be available. In responding to a question about proposed increased costs, Glen noted that this would result in about a \$19,000 increase and that a one year pilot of the proposed changes will be recommended to ensure that the proposal is workable for both parties. Executive noted that in light of the increased policy support in the recent past and that is anticipated to continue into the future, that this discussion is timely. Glen cautioned that because of the very technical nature of policy support, the expectations of the Board in this area may not be able to met within the role of the executive coordinator that is allocated to support the contract.

UBCM CONVENTION

Area Association Luncheon at the UBCM Convention

First Vice-President Solda assumed role of Chair as President Cross excused himself from consideration of this item. Staff provided a brief overview of the proposed program that was approved at the June meeting noting that the addition of an update on the Gas Operating Agreement as discussed earlier would be added, and raised the topic of life membership for President Cross.

On a motion by First-Vice President Solda, seconded by Director Moglove,
That an AVICC life membership be awarded to Sidney Mayor Larry Cross in recognition of his service to local government and the Association, and that the award be made during the AVICC luncheon was CARRIED

Director Moglove expressed regrets that President Cross will be leaving local government service and thanked him for his leadership. The process for succession in this circumstance and in relation to other vacancies that might result from the November local government elections was clarified noting that the table officers would move up and that vacancies would be filled with appointments. Further discussion about process to be used for appointments will be held at the October meeting.

POLICY

BC Ferries

President Cross highlighted the key points of the communications plan related to the policy paper and report titled *Boatswains to the Bollards, A Socioeconomic Impact Analysis of BC Ferries* that will be coming forward to the UBCM Convention. He advised that the timing of release was important and that as a joint endeavour he and Director Moglove as UBCM's delegate would be the approved spokes people and that media requests were to be directed to Paul Taylor allowing for considered responses. The Tuesday afternoon workshop was highlighted. The policy paper and resolution will be considered at the Wednesday morning resolutions session.

Private Managed Forest Land

Staff advised that because of availability of provincial staff over the summer, scheduling of a follow-up meeting has been delayed. Executive availability for the week of September 15-19 has been provided to FLNRO staff, Vera Vukelich. The Village of Cumberland's request to participate in follow-up meetings was acknowledged. Executive agreed that attendance by some key senior local government staff would be valuable, but noted the challenge of initiating their involvement without having a meeting date requesting staff to confirm date and time by noon on September 11 if possible as calendars were filling in.

CORRESPONDENCE

On a motion by Past President Stanhope, seconded by EA Representative Marcotte,
That the correspondence be received and acknowledgements sent as appropriate was CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

11:00 am – 3:00 pm, October 30, 2014
Nanaimo

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:55 am, on motion by Past President Stanhope, seconded by EA Representative Marcotte,
that the meeting be adjourned was CARRIED

Mayor Larry Cross
President

Iris Hesketh-Boles
Executive Coordinator