



**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND
AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES EXECUTIVE
HELD AT THE NANAIMO REGIONAL DISTRICT OFFICES
6300 HAMMOND BAY ROAD
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2009**

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Christopher Causton, Oak Bay, President
Chair Joe Stanhope, Nanaimo RD, First Vice-President
Councillor Barry Avis, Qualicum Beach, Second Vice-President
Councillor Merv Unger, Nanaimo, Director at Large
Councillor Kenn Whiteman, Port Alberni, Director at Large
Director Mary Marcotte, Cowichan Valley RD, EA Representative
Councillor Ronna-Rae Leonard, Courtenay, Director at Large
Mayor Barry Janyk, Gibsons, Past President (10:00-11:00 via teleconference)

STAFF ATTENDANCE: Iris Hesketh-Boles, Executive Coordinator

GUESTS: Graham Bruce, General Manager, Island Corridor Foundation
Ryan Greville, Navigable Waters Protection Program
Mayor Janet Evans, Sooke
Evan Parliament, Sooke

President Causton called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

DELEGATIONS:

10:05 a.m. - Graham Bruce, General Manager, Island Corridor Foundation

President Causton welcomed Graham Bruce who provided an overview of the various activities and initiatives being pursued under the auspices of ICF including the following key areas: the Nanaimo train station restoration project, the new passenger service plan, the excursion train plan, tourist feature train, coal train, aggregate train, the Annacis Island rail barge terminal, the ICF/SVI long-term operating agreement, the BC Transit study, the Ministry of Transportation study, the trails program, and land-use forums. An outline of the presentation was distributed and questions were answered as they arose. Some of the key issues raised by members included:

- Where is \$15 million expected to come from for the new passenger service plan? Combination of federal, provincial and Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET).
- Is the Coal Train project likely to proceed? Very positive response has been received; there are operations elsewhere in Canada.
- Where will passenger service rate if coal is the major economic driver? Can be scheduled; is workable to offer both; will need to negotiate with various partners or contract with Southern who would facilitate the negotiation.
- How big and what type of coal mine is being considered? Underground that would span 20+ years.
- Will it be necessary to have trucks to transport to the rail access? Spur options to avoid this are being investigated.

- What is the likely timeframe for something concrete relative to the coal project? There is genuine interest that is gaining momentum, but no defined timeframe. The significant concerns about environment issues with respect to a coal project: waste generation in a small area, pollution of aquifers. etc. were raised.
- What has been the response by First Nations noting specifically the issue of ownership of the Wilcox property? The relationship with First Nations is critical and they have been significantly involved; the requirement of ensuring returns to their communities is understood; negotiations are underway with respect to the Wilcox property.
- When will the Ministry of Transportation study be released? Expected to be November 2009.
- With respect to the trails program, would it help if the energy could be more coordinated? There has been lots of coordination and cooperation, but would like to bring groups together.
- The suggestion was made to consider widening the trails sufficiently to accommodate electric vehicles to be able to get vehicles off road, potentially by using part of the rail line. Need to benefit as widely as possible and cognizant of various interests.
- Has the idea of building in capacity on trains for bike storage been considered? It is on the radar and expected to be able to be incorporated.

As the issue is of wide interest to members, Mr. Bruce positively responded to Executive's invitation to present a pre-conference session to the 2010 AGM/Convention. Staff will follow-up with Mr. Bruce.

11:10 a.m. - Ryan Greville, Navigable Waters Protection Program, Marine Safety Branch; Janet Evans, Mayor and Evan Parliament, District of Sooke

President Causton welcomed the three guests giving a brief outline of the issue of derelict vessels seeking Mr. Greville's response from the Navigable Water Protection Program perspective. Mr. Greville commented that different levels of government have differing responsibilities, that there is no pot of money to deal with the issue of derelict vessels, and that all levels are aware of the issues involved. There is a federal fund of \$350 million set aside for ship source oil pollution cleanup, but in the example of the Sooke vessel, it was deemed not to be polluting as is the case for most derelict vessels. The question was raised as to whether access to the funding could be widened? Most recovery of large vessels is in the 6 figure range (the Sooke example was \$120,000 with no salvage value). Ryan to investigate and advise Sooke whether the 2 year timeframe it was given in November 2007 to deem the Florence Filberg as abandoned at which point the Receiver of Wrecks would remove it is still valid. The question of whether it is better to be proactive than reactive with respect to the debris from derelict vessels causing issues in navigable waters was raised noting specifically the liability issues. Mr. Greville responded that natural debris was as hazardous as that from derelict vessels.

The long-term effect of not dealing with the issue is to encourage boat owners (and in particular US owners) to leave unwanted vessels in Canadian waters. The US has an annual boat registration that provides a fund to deal with this issue. It was noted that the role of the federal government is not clear at the operational level; as well there is awareness of needed policy development. Mr. Greville mentioned that an inter-agency Derelict Vessel Working Group has been established. When asked about representation, it was noted that it is a grassroots effort to date and does not include MP's. Mr. Greville was asked to investigate and advise how island mayors and councillors could obtain representation on this Working Group.

AGENDA

The agenda was approved by consensus with the following addition:

5 (g) Cost Increase: PRIME BC Police Records Management System

1. MINUTES

On a motion by First Vice President Stanhope, seconded by Second Vice President Avis,
That the minutes of the June 26 regular Executive meeting be adopted was CARRIED

On a motion by Second Vice President Avis, seconded by First Vice President Stanhope,
That the minutes of the September 11, 2009 teleconference meeting be adopted was
CARRIED

2. REPORTS

a. President's Report

President Causton commented on a number of issues related to the UBCM Convention resolution session noting that UBCM will be seeking input from area associations on improving the process and that there is a lack of understanding around block resolutions. He also noted that there is an online evaluation process that local governments should utilize.

b. Executive Coordinator's Report

Staff provided a brief overview of the report that was distributed. No noteworthy comments or concerns arose.

3. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATION

a. Financials to September 30, 2009

On a motion by First Vice President Stanhope, seconded by Director Avis,
That the September 30, 2010 financial statement be received was CARRIED

Staff was asked to review the Executive meeting expenses line as it looks like it will be over budget.

b. Auditor for 2009

President Causton excused himself noting a potential conflict of interest. First Vice-President Stanhope took the Chair. The two proposals were reviewed with the following being key considerations: the proposals are in the same range as the current provider, KPMG is auditor for UBCM and is already familiar with AVICC.

On a motion by Second Vice President Avis, seconded the Director Whiteman,
That KPMG be retained as auditors subject to a firm quote being received that is comparable to the other two proposals was CARRIED

President Causton rejoined the meeting resuming the role of the Chair.

4. CONVENTION

a. Debriefing UBCM & AVICC Luncheon

The consensus was that the AVICC Luncheon was well received.

Comments included an overall disappointment with the energy, attendance and process of the Resolutions Session with the question arising whether the Trade Show is a negative influence; the Industrial Taxation discussion was energizing; short timeframe of the RD Taskforce session was frustrating, felt was given a short shrift, needs to come to each area association; many people were expecting to come to the new Convention Centre even though it was communicated in the literature that it would not be; Conference Centre East and West is confusing; Premier's Reception was difficult to find as a result of lack of signage; and the Richmond Oval Tour and Agricultural Tours were exceptional. Comments with respect to the UBCM Convention will be brought forward by President Causton to the November UBCM Executive meeting Convention debrief.

b. AVICC Convention

The format and draft program of the Convention was reviewed with the following discussion/decisions noted:

- Issues related to travel were discussed; participants will be surveyed as to their travel plans during the registration process in order to ensure that those needing shuttles can be accommodated; participants will be encouraged to carpool
- Thursday, April 8, 12:30 pm Executive lunch and meeting
- Thursday evening – Executive Dinner
- Friday morning – pre-conference session: invitation to be extended to Graham Bruce plus spokesperson from FN and Southern Railways; expenses to be paid; staff to draft letter of invite
- No conference theme
- The opening will be extended to accommodate Powell River's request for a dynamic welcome
- Keynote speaker: Dr. Andrew Weaver with University of Victoria to be invited
- The Provincial Climate Action Manager will be requested to provide an update following the keynote
- BC Hydro will be asked to address new energy sources/technology
- Mike Corrigan of BC Ferries will be invited to provide an update at 4:40 pm on Friday
- Terasen Gas will be asked to provide a presentation on Gas Franchise Fees on Saturday
- The UBCM 1 hour session on the proposed amendments to the Resolutions process will be scheduled for 2:00 pm Saturday
- Two concurrent sessions are planned:
 - HST and effects for local governments and their communities – accounting firm perspective as opposed to government – Randy Decksheimer, KMPG suggested
 - Island and Coastal Communities – Past, Present and Future: or Investment into Agriculture -- Director Leonard and Second Vice President Avis to work together to identify the potential of involving both John Watson and Chris Chad or alternatively having John Watson doing the workshop and Chris Chad taking 30 minutes on Sunday morning if the sessions would be significantly different
- Friday morning will start at 7:30 with breakfast and adjourn by 10:45 am to allow delegates to catch ferries
- Powell River's plan for a Partners Program is encouraged as long as it is no cost to the Association

- Powell River is requested to put together a budget proposal for the variety show entertainment plan for consideration at the January meeting
- The only limitations for booths is space availability

5. **POLICY**

a. E&N Corridor

See Delegations item above for notes related to Graham Bruce's presentation on this subject. As noted under Conventions, Mr. Bruce will be invited to do a pre-conference session on Friday, April 9, 2010. AVICC's role was discussed with Director Leonard volunteering to pull together a meeting of the five regional districts and 10 municipalities affected.

b. Gas Franchise Fees

Director Unger reported briefly on the meeting held during the UBCM Convention with Minister Bell noting that Minister Bell was receptive to the suggestion that consultation be held with stakeholders prior to a new agreement being struck with Terasen Gas.

c. Derelict Vessels

See Delegations item above for notes related to this item.

d. Destaffing of Lighthouses

Based on the brief report provided, Executive agreed that no further action was warranted.

e. BC Ferries Schedule Changes (Nanaimo/Horseshoe Bay)

Director Unger outlined the issue and advised that a meeting with BC Ferries had been sought and that a media event had taken place on October 13.

On a motion by Director Unger, seconded by Second Vice-President Avis,
That President Causton write a letter on behalf of the Association supporting the City of
Nanaimo's response was CARRIED

Director Unger to forward a copy of the news release to the AVICC Office and President Causton to facilitate drafting of the response letter.

f. VI Spine Trail

In addition to the Gil Parker's Report on the VI Spine distributed with the documentation, Director Whiteman distributed a Status Report on the Trails including the Alberni Inlet Trail, the Runners Trail and the Log Train Trail to Comox Valley.

On a motion by Second Vice President Avis, seconded by Director Whiteman,
That a complimentary booth at the 2010 Convention be offered to the VI Spine Trail
Association was CARRIED

g. Cost Increase: PRIME BC Police Records Management System

Director Unger distributed the letter received by the City of Nanaimo from Minister Heed regarding increasing the cost of the PRIME BC police records system. Discussion included concerns with respect to the lack of consultation, the minimal notice provided, the timing with respect to the budget process and the increasing staff resources required to support the system resulting in further downloading of costs to local government.

On a motion by First Vice-President Stanhope, seconded by Director Unger,

That President Causton write a letter to Minister Heed on behalf of the Association noting the concerns about notice and continued downloading of costs was CARRIED

6. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Land Trust Alliance (July 14, 2009 Letter)
Re: Introduction to Organization and *"The Kingfisher"*
- b) City of Merritt (July 15, 2009 Email)
Re: Heavy Industry Mill Rate Resolution for Area Association Consideration
- c) Moralea Milne, Metchosin Councillor (July 16, 2009 Email)
Re: Investigating Possibility of Membership in AVICC by a First Nations Community
- d) City of Port Alberni (July 28, 2009 Letter)
Response to Memo: Report on Working Roundtable on Forestry
- e) District of Sooke (August 12, 2009 Letter)
Re: AVICC Convention
- f) District of Ucluelet (September 16, 2009 Letter)
Re: AVICC Convention Expression of Interest
- g) District of Saanich (October 5, 2009 Letter)
Re: Derelict and Live-Aboard Vessels in the Saanich Inlet
- h) Architectural Institute of BC (October 9, 2009 Email)
Re: Proposal for 2010 AVICC Convention Session

On a motion by Director Unger, seconded by EA Representative Marcotte,
That the following correspondence be received was CARRIED

7. INFORMATION

- a. Update on International Training Centre
Director Leonard shared John Watson's offer to provide an update.
- b. Port Alberni - Potential Host for 2011 Convention
Director Whiteman advised that regrettably Port Alberni is unable to volunteer to host AVICC for 2011.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

9. NEXT MEETING

10:00 am, January 22, 2010, Nanaimo Regional District Office

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:20 pm.

Mayor Christopher Causton
President

Iris Hesketh-Boles
Executive Coordinator