



**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND
AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES EXECUTIVE
HELD FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2021
BY ZOOM**

IN ATTENDANCE: Director Ian Morrison, Cowichan Valley RD, President
Director Penny Cote, Alberni-Clayoquot RD, 1st Vice President
Councillor Hazel Braithwaite, District of Oak Bay, 2nd Vice President
Councillor Carl Jensen, District of Central Saanich, Past President
Councillor Colleen Evans, City of Campbell River, Director at Large
Director Mark Gisborne, qathet RD, Director at Large
Director Travis Hall, Central Coast RD, Director at Large

REGRETS: Director Vanessa Craig, RD of Nanaimo, Electoral Area Representative

STAFF ATTENDANCE: Liz Cookson, Secretary-Treasurer

President Morrison called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

AGENDA

On motion by 2nd Vice President Braithwaite, seconded by Director Gisborne,
That the agenda for the April 16, 2021 meeting be adopted with an amendment to address item 5(a) on
advocacy as the first item of business after the President's Report and that the update from Director
Arbour on the Aquaculture Management Advisory Committee for Shellfish be added as item 5(b) was
CARRIED

MINUTES

On motion by 1st Vice President Cote, seconded by Director Gisborne,
That the minutes of the March 12, 2021 meeting be adopted was
CARRIED

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Morrison updated the Executive on the meeting he attended with the Honourable Nathan Cullen,
Minister of State for Lands and Natural Resource Operations. He had previously advised the Executive of
the invitation to attend this meeting at the March 12th meeting as part of the discussion on advocacy.

Minister Cullen is looking at restructuring options within the natural resource sector, including the
development of a plan for a new Ministry for Lands and Natural Resource Operations. He is meeting with a
wide range of organizations connected to the natural resource sector to better understand what is working
well in the sector and where improvements can be made. The Minister had advised that the perspectives
and experiences of participants would help determine whether land use objectives that support economic
activity, environmental sustainability and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples can be more effectively
achieved through ministry restructuring.

President Morrison provided remarks during the meeting around the Water Sustainability Act and the importance of engaging with local governments and local organizations as is currently set out in the legislation but that is not being followed. He commented that he did not provide comments on the current Fairy Creek situation because this is a complex area with diverse perspectives across AVICC membership, and the local First Nation's leaders (Pacheedaht) had asked that their right to make decisions about forestry resources in their territory be respected.

On motion by Director Gisborne, seconded by Past President Jensen,
That the President's Report be received was

CARRIED

POLICY

AVICC Advocacy Framework and Resolution

Following direction from the March 12th Executive meeting, President Morrison advised that he had met with Past President Jensen and 1st Vice President Cote as a sub-committee to discuss a framework for AVICC's advocacy role. He reviewed the two levels of advocacy discussed at the March 12th meeting:

- (i) instances when AVICC is approached to give short or one-off input on issues, and
- (ii) when AVICC is asked to take on longer-term policy work that that could have significant financial and staffing impacts.

The sub-committee reviewed the importance of communicating the costs of undertaking advocacy projects to the membership, and recognized that AVICC does not have the authority to undertake action where there is not clear direction through resolution of a majority of members. AVICC is expecting to receive additional requests for major advocacy work, and is not currently resourced to take on significant or longer-term policy work. Provincial or UBCM resources could be requested to support initiatives. In terms of prioritizing advocacy work, AVICC could work on a strategic plan that identifies issues to address.

The sub-committee's recommendation was that AVICC should wait until next year's in-person convention to get direction from the membership. They felt it would be a bad idea to try and get any sort of authorization on advocacy direction or policy or endorsement at a virtual meeting without opportunities for member discussion. The sub-committee recommended introducing a report for members to hear and digest at Convention this year, and a fulsome policy could be developed over the next year for presentation at an in-person convention in April 2022.

President Morrison could make this a cornerstone of his President's Report and also present as part of his address to members during the AGM. Another option discussed was for President Morrison to hold a brief panel discussion alongside Past President Jensen and 1st Vice President Cote on the pitfalls and benefits of AVICC carrying out a major advocacy piece.

The material presented to members would acknowledge that advocacy on a day-to-day basis is one thing but advocacy at a major project level is a very different and costly other thing. The 2020/21 Executive would be tasked with developing a policy to put before an in-person convention that would outline the impacts on the Association of major policy work. This would include the costs associated with the work, what the funding sources would be for the work, how it could impact member dues, and the demands on staff. The material presented would list large advocacy pieces that AVICC had been previously involved in, and the approximate costs associated with them.

President Morrison noted that there is a dichotomy in what members are asking for from AVICC – some members are asking for financial assistance to attend convention in order to have their viewpoints represented while other members are asking for very expensive advocacy pieces that may not reflect the wishes of AVICC’s varied membership base.

The proposed policy would require advocacy requests that go beyond the day to day to have a budget attached with sources of potential funds identified. Those requests would need to be put in front of an in-person convention for discussion, and distributed to members in advance with full information. Requests that have a large “ask” of AVICC cannot be run off of the side of the desk of one part-time staff member, and will require adequate resourcing and consultants that has to be paid for. This may be beyond the scope of AVICC’s mandate and resources.

The sub-committee felt that a proposed policy like this is not something that could be brought forward for a decision at a virtual convention. It could be developed by the 2021/22 Executive for discussion at the 2022 Convention. That would mean the policy could be put in place before the next municipal elections and will be ready for new elected officials.

UBCM Executive Director, Gary MacIsaac, joined the meeting and discussion on the advocacy framework was adjourned to later in the agenda.

RESOLUTIONS

2021 Resolutions with Comments and Recommendations

President Morrison welcomed UBCM Executive Director, Gary MacIsaac to the meeting, and thanked him for joining to assist with the discussion on the 2021 resolutions.

Liz Cookson advised that the Executive is meeting as the Resolutions Committee, and can amend the comments and recommendations provided by UBCM policy staff before endorsing the resolutions that will go forward for consideration by AVICC members. The resolutions in the Endorse block reflect previous UBCM policy, and the comments provide information on whether the issue covered in the resolution has come forward to UBCM previously, and what the decision of the UBCM membership was when previously considered.

Gary MacIsaac recommended that the recommendation for the resolution from the City of Courtenay titled *Help Cities Lead* be changed from “No Action Required” to “Endorse”. EA Representative Craig who was unable to attend today’s meeting had emailed the Executive questioning the “No Action Required” recommendation.

President Morrison queried the history of the resolution from North Cowichan on Forest Management. Mr. MacIsaac advised that a resolution on this topic was submitted by North Cowichan in 2020, and was placed in UBCM’s Part C of the resolutions package as a regionally specific resolution to be referred back to the submitting area association. North Cowichan submitted a new resolution for 2021 on the same topic. AVICC and UBCM staff contacted North Cowichan to discuss broadening the resolution to make it provincial in scope so it would be considered by the full UBCM membership. The North Cowichan Council reconfirmed by resolution that they did not wish to broaden their resolution. As a result, it is unlikely to be admitted for debate at UBCM and will be referred back to AVICC. The ask for AVICC is to request the Province to appoint a Forester General for the region to take on specific actions outlined in the resolution. It does not request that AVICC carry out the forestry specific work, only to make the request

of the Province for an appointment. The recommendation for the resolution was maintained as “No Recommendation”.

2nd Vice President Braithwaite queried why the resolution titled *Re-instate Three Year Terms of Office* had a “Not Endorse” recommendation and noted that EA Representative Craig’s email to the Executive had also asked this question. Gary MacIsaac noted that the recommendation was based on current policy that comes from what the membership had voted for on this topic the last time. Liz Cookson advised that a similar resolution to change the term back to 3 years had also been debated at the AVICC Convention in 2018, and was not endorsed by the membership and therefore did not go forward to UBCM. The Executive determined that a “Not Endorse” recommendation would go forward in the Resolutions Package for this item.

The Executive discussed the resolution from the Central Coast RD requesting funding for small and remote communities to attend AVICC. UBCM did not provide a recommendation on this resolution, but recommended “No Recommendation” for a similar resolution about providing funding for small and remote communities to attend the UBCM convention. The Executive considered whether the comments for the AVICC specific resolution should note that there is currently no source for the funding, and that providing these funds would require finding additional revenue through member dues, increased convention registration fees, or perhaps a request to the Province for funding. Several members noted that this would be in keeping with the discussion earlier on advocacy resolutions where members would be advised of the costs of their requests to the membership before voting.

The Executive noted that it is important to hear the voices from all members across the region, and recognized it is more expensive for some to attend and that this can present a barrier to those members participating. If there is funding it should be consistently available each year. The Executive also raised questions about how small and remote would be defined under this funding stream, and what type of costs would be covered. Gary MacIsaac advised that a levy is collected from members to fund small communities attending FCM.

The Executive determined that the comments prepared regarding members attending UBCM would be added to the resolution about members attending AVICC. The comments would be expanded to advise that if the resolution passes, the AVICC Executive would be tasked with reviewing what would be considered small and remote communities, as well as exploring funding options for those eligible to travel and attend the convention. The AVICC Executive would bring forward a report on options for consideration of the membership in 2022.

Finally, the Executive considered the City of Victoria’s resolution titled *Climate Leadership*. Liz Cookson advised that as a regionally specific resolution, UBCM had not prepared any comments or a recommendation on whether or not the resolution should be endorsed. She noted that the resolution asks for AVICC members to endorse in principle the directions laid out in the “Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Climate Action Goals Working Draft”. The 25-page draft document was submitted as background information on the resolution and would need to be read in conjunction with the request in the enactment clause.

One of the goals in the working draft documents asks for work to be carried out by AVICC. Goal one under the section on buildings reads: “*create an advocacy, education and action plan for all local governments through AVICC, including hazard mapping to support appropriate land use and resilience planning*”. President Morrison spoke with the VICC-CLP elected officials to get more clarity on this statement and their perspective was that there was no ask for AVICC to take action.

The Executive was unclear what the goal is asking AVICC to take on. Based on this, the Executive determined that the recommendation should be “No Recommendation”, and that the comments should note that there was not sufficient information to provide a recommendation, and the City of Victoria will be asked to clarify the following questions during their 3-minute address on the resolution:

- What is the specific ask of AVICC?
- What is the anticipated cost?
- What are the implications to AVICC?

On motion by Director Evans, seconded by Director Gisborne,
That the report on the 2021 Resolutions with comments of the Resolutions Committee be received was
CARRIED

That the resolutions with comments and recommendations be approved for distribution incorporating the changes as directed to staff was
CARRIED

President Morrison thanked Gary MacIsaac for his assistance, and Mr. MacIsaac left the meeting.

Confirm Resolutions Process, Update Executive Policies

Liz Cookson advised that the Convention Rules for 2021 need to be amended to reflect the process adopted for the virtual convention. The order of the ballots was discussed, and the preference was to have the ballot for the elections for the AVICC positions listed before the ballot for resolutions.

On motion by Past President Jensen, seconded by 1st Vice President Cote,
That the Executive review the proposed timeline for the resolutions process, and set Wednesday, May 26th as the deadline for on-line voting;

That the Executive confirm the resolutions procedures in the Executive Policies will be amended for 2021 as follows:

- AVICC will not accept late resolutions and off-the-floor resolutions.
- Resolutions as set out in the Resolutions Package cannot be amended.
- All resolutions will be voted on separately, and there will be no Endorse Block.
- The sponsoring local government of a resolution may request withdrawal of their resolution through a Council or Board resolution submitted to AVICC by May 14th.
- Resolution sponsors will be able to record a speech of up to three minutes in length that will be made available through the AVICC website for other delegates to view, and

That AVICC advise members of the procedures to be followed for the 2021 AGM and Convention, including notice that voting will be held on-line prior to the May 28th session was
CARRIED

Gold Star Resolutions

On motion by President Morrison, seconded by Director Gisborne,
That the awarding of Gold Star Resolutions winners be deferred to the next Executive meeting to be scheduled in May was
CARRIED

CONVENTION

2021 Convention Update

Liz Cookson reviewed her report on the convention update. She advised that Telus had agreed to sponsor the virtual convention platform as an in-kind sponsorship. They will be listed as Platinum sponsors with an opportunity to address the membership, and to appear as a delegation at a future meeting of the AVICC Executive.

She noted that the original decision not to hold live debate on resolutions was in part related to the cost and the technical difficulty. With the support of Telus through a virtual platform, this option could be considered. However, it would require substantial changes to the program, and registration is already open. The large number of resolutions received would require several hours of resolutions debate making changes to the program difficult. By comparison, NCLGA received 17 resolutions from its members and is allowing approximately two hours to debate and vote. With 46 resolutions received, AVICC would not be able to devote enough time to debate all the resolutions. The Executive confirmed the decision to have on-line voting in advance of the AGM and Convention without live debate during the Convention.

The Executive discussed options for social connection and networking during the Convention. President Morrison asked for volunteers to work outside of the meeting on the events. 1st Vice President Cote, 2nd Vice President Braithwaite, Director Evans and Director Gisborne will work with staff on ways to improve social connection during the AGM and Convention.

President Morrison spoke about the COFI convention, and that the major sponsors had been given the opportunity to introduce the next segment. The Executive supported this approach for the AVICC Convention to give high-level sponsors a chance for exposure.

On motion by 2nd Vice President Braithwaite, seconded by Director Gisborne,
That the 2021 Convention Update report be received;

That a social event on Thursday evening be developed; and

That gold-level sponsors be offered the opportunity to introduce segments of the Convention was
CARRIED

2021 Additional Sponsorship Request from Trans Mountain for \$2,000 Bronze Sponsorship

Liz Cookson referred to AVICC's sponsorship policy, and advised of the new request from former sponsor Trans Mountain Corporation to be a sponsor of the 2021 Convention at the Bronze Level.

On motion by Past President Jensen, seconded by Director Gisborne,
That Trans Mountain Corporation be approved as a Bronze level sponsor of the 2021 AVICC Convention
was
CARRIED.

POLICY

AVICC Advocacy Framework and Resolution

The Executive returned to this item from the start of today's meeting, and President Morrison recapped the key points from the discussion. He added that the sub-committee had discussed how a new policy

could have an impact on the resolutions process, by ensuring that members know that resolutions may have additional costs and burdens prior to the vote on a resolution.

On motion by 2nd Vice President Braithwaite, seconded by Director Evans,
That there will not be an Executive Resolution on AVICC advocacy at the 2021 virtual Convention;

That the topic of AVICC advocacy will be a cornerstone item of the president's remarks at the 2021 Convention; and

That the 2021/22 Executive will be tasked with developing a framework and policy for consideration by the membership at the in-person 2022 Convention was CARRIED.

Update from Director Arbour on Aquaculture Management Advisory Committee for Shellfish

The update from Director Arbour on the Aquaculture Management Advisory Committee for Shellfish was distributed to the Executive, and will be added to the AVICC website.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter dated March 19, 2021 Re: Regional Hospital Boards – Responsibility for Capital Costs from Brad Sperling, Chair, Peace River Regional District

On motion by Director Gisborne, seconded by 2nd Vice President Braithwaite,
That the correspondence from the Chair of the Peace River Regional District be received was CARRIED

Letter dated March 31, 2021 Re: Support for Laid-Off Hotel and Tourism Industry Workers from Lisa Helps, Mayor, City of Victoria

On motion by Past President Jensen, seconded by 1st Vice President Cote,

That the correspondence from the City of Victoria be received, and the City be advised that AVICC would be holding its next two Conventions in facilities owned by the City of Victoria and the City of Nanaimo respectively was CARRIED

Letter dated April 9, 2021 Re: Advocacy for Fairy Creek and Other At-Risk Old-Growth Forests from Lisa Helps, Mayor, City of Victoria

On motion by 2nd Vice President Braithwaite, seconded by Director Gisborne,
That the correspondence from the City of Victoria be received was CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

The date for the next meeting was set for May 17th from 2 pm to 3 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:45 am, on motion by Past President Jensen, seconded by 2nd Vice President Braithwaite,
that the meeting be adjourned was CARRIED

Ian Morrison
President

Liz Cookson
Secretary-Treasurer