



**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND
AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES EXECUTIVE
HELD FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2022, 10:00 am
Regional District of Nanaimo, Committee Room & via Zoom**

IN ATTENDANCE: Director Penny Cote, Alberni-Clayoquot RD, President
Councillor Ben Geselbracht, City of Nanaimo, 1st Vice President (at 1:15 p.m.)
Director Vanessa Craig, RD of Nanaimo, 2nd Vice President
Director Ian Morrison, Cowichan Valley RD, Past President (at 10:20 a.m.)
Director Donna McMahon, Sunshine Coast RD, Electoral Area Representative
Councillor Sarah Fowler, Village of Tahsis, Director at Large
Director Travis Hall, Central Coast RD, Director at Large
Councillor Tony St-Pierre, District of Sooke, Director at Large

STAFF ATTENDANCE: Theresa Dennison, AVICC Executive Coordinator

President Cote called the meeting to order at 10:06 am.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

a. AGENDA

On motion by Director Hall seconded by Director St-Pierre
THAT the agenda for the December 16, 2022 meeting be adopted was CARRIED

b. MINUTES

On motion by Director Hall, seconded by 2nd Vice President Craig
THAT the minutes of the October 28, 2022 meeting be adopted was CARRIED

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Cote expressed that the new staff is doing a great job, working towards getting the convention planned. There have been a few requests that have come to AVICC, such as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Net-Pen Transition Plan engagement, which was sent out to members for participation, and the Oceans Protection Plan Dialogue Forum's agenda advisory panel, which is included later in this agenda.

On motion by President Cote, seconded by EA Representative McMahon
THAT the President's Report be received was CARRIED

3. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATION

a. Financial Update

Theresa Dennison provided an interim report on the AVICC finances to November 30, 2022. An update year-end financial report will be presented at the January meeting. The interim reports included with the report showed an anticipated profit for the year, and it was noted that there are still several expenditures that have not yet been reflected. The Association is in a strong financial position, and an updated year-end report will be provided after fiscal year-end. There

are \$44,665 in funds left over from the Treaty Advisory Committee (TAC) that was in place in 1999/2000. The Province has recently released these funds to be used to offset the costs of future reconciliation initiatives, for example, funding presenters at future conventions on this topic, providing courses to members, or providing initial free membership to new first nations members. There is also \$12,374 in contributions from regional districts being held by AVICC (“Other Deferred Revenue”) that is reserved for the activities of the Special Committee on Solid Waste Management to be discussed later in this meeting.

Past President Morrison joined the meeting at 10:20 am.

A conversation took place regarding the TAC funds. Director Hall recommended that that AVICC offer an invitation to the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) to present a panel at convention; to talk about issues between first nations and local governments and to hear it from their perspective; to discuss how to open the communications about UNDRIP. Director Hall offered to connect AVICC staff with UBCIC to connect to open up the conversation. It was also discussed that information about archeological sites may be relevant to communicate out to the members. Currently local governments are referring residents to the provincial archeology branch to consult on archeological matters. Perhaps AVICC should have a workshop, or lunch-and-learn to provide our members with information about how First Nations want potential archeological sites handled.

On motion by Director St. Pierre, seconded by EA Representative McMahon
THAT the Financial Update report be received was

CARRIED

A conversation took place regarding AVICC’s August 1, 2023 transition away from UBCM. It was recommended that staff look at banking, accountant/bookkeeping, and audit options prior to transition. Staff have not made any decisions or conducted any in-depth research about these options yet, as the focus has been on convention planning.

Staff was asked to investigate the timing in AVICC’s policies that indicate when AVICC must send out a request-for-proposal on the audit. Members of the Executive also wanted to ensure that there was a conversation about advocacy work, and how to budget for that in 2023. AVICC should take on an information-sharing, communications role with respect to advocacy. The AVICC members endorsed a resolution at the 2022 AGM and Convention that outlined the and defined the type of advocacy that should come from AVICC.

b. AVICC Secretary-Treasurer and Banking Information

Theresa Dennison advised the AVICC Executive that to appoint the Executive Coordinator as the AVICC Secretary-Treasurer, and to update the designated signing officers for the Coast Capital Savings banking account, that the AVICC Executive must approve this by resolution.

The AVICC Executive discussed that the organization will need to look at how signing authorities are set up after the transition. The AVICC Executive expressed a desire to move to a more electronic signing process.

On motion by 2nd Vice President Craig, seconded by Director St-Pierre

THAT the Executive appoint the Executive Coordinator, Theresa Dennison, as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities; and

THAT the AVICC Executive Coordinator, Theresa Dennison, be made a designated signing officer for the AVICC bank account, replacing the former AVICC Executive Director, Liz Cookson was CARRIED

4. CONVENTION

a. 2023 Convention: Keynote Speaker

Theresa Dennison communicated the results of the research on potential Keynote Speakers for the 2023 AVICC AGM and Convention, based on the direction provided at the October 28th, 2022 meeting. There are five options available, that are within the budget of \$5000, and that are available on April 14, 2023 to deliver a keynote speech at the convention:

- Tomson Highway
- Diane Kalen-Sukra
- Ivan Coyote
- Alan Mallory
- Stephen O’Keefe

Information was included for each available option, including a biography, presentation summary, and a link to a sample presentation. The two speakers that were most highly rated by the Executive were Tompson Highway and Diane Kalen-Sukra.

On motion by 2nd Vice President Craig, seconded by Director Hall
THAT the AVICC Executive direct staff to confirm Tomson Highway as the Keynote Speaker for the 2023 AVICC AGM and Convention was CARRIED

On motion by Past President Morrison, seconded by Director St-Pierre
THAT the Executive direct staff to reach out to Diane Kalen-Sukra as a second choice as the Keynote Speaker for the 2023 AVICC AGM and Convention was CARRIED

There was a recess at 11:11am, and the meeting was called back to order at 11:17am.

b. 2023 Convention- Program Planning

Theresa Dennison presented a report to the Executive that provided some background on how the program for the convention is developed. The final decisions on sessions are normally made at the January meeting of the Executive Committee. This report included 19 proposed session submissions for a preliminary review of the sessions to determine if additional information is required before the January 13, 2023 meeting. There is an additional meeting on February 3, 2023 to finalize the program, in advance of registration opening in mid-February. There was some discussion about the format of the program and it was determined that we should follow the same basic format as the past conventions.

There was a discussion about advocacy, and how it needs to be further defined. It was confirmed that the AVICC Executive could submit a resolution for the AGM, should they choose to, that they want to advance to UBCM. UBCM is the advocacy organization, and AVICC membership resolved at the last AGM that AVICC should create the space for discussion, provide the information, and have UBCM be the advocate with the province if needed.

The “open space” session format was discussed to provide an opportunity for people to get together; potentially with the EA forum and Mayor/Chair forum. The purpose of the “open

space” should be focused on creating the space for conversation, but not on the generation of the new resolutions that come from these sessions. When the “open space” format was used in the past, it became difficult to control the conversation. As a compromise, a request for agenda items and conversation topics were sent out in advance of the EA and Mayor/Chair forums to ensure the conversation remained focused. “Speed Dating” was discussed to include an interactive component. It was also discussed that it may be a good idea to have a conversation or session with members that provides information about what happens to our resolutions after they are endorsed by AVICC members at convention. Last year there was a session regarding the resolutions process that was hosted by UBCM.

Would it be possible to give the presenters the ability to travel from one session to the next during concurrent sessions rather than making the delegates choose which session to attend? This would result in presenters having less time to present on their topic. We do have to ensure that the program flows and that the timing works for the delegates.

It was noted that engagement and collaboration with our Indigenous neighbours was missing from the session submissions. We should ensure that we should reach out to local governments who have positive relationships with their Indigenous neighbours to share that experience. Alert Bay is an example of people helping people. The “sister communities” concept is also a great format; matching up communities to share information, resources, etc. It would be relevant to have someone speak about financing reconciliation. There could be a conversation about positive relations for communications between Indigenous communities and local governments, and between regional districts and municipalities. There are a lot of legislative barriers with regional districts and municipalities on working together with local indigenous communities. There was a suggestion that a valuable session could include different models of inclusive governments on a panel. Examples could include the ACRD Board, Powell River/qathet and/or the Central Coast Regional District. Some of the nations are involved in the treaty process, and the reconciliation process is unique to each situation. UBCIC is required to recognize and accept all of the different engagements in different formats, some treaty, some not.

The Executive were asked to provide their feedback on the session proposals submitted, by rating the submissions on a scale of 0-3, with a score of 0 indicating no interest in a proposal, and 3 indicating a strong interest in a proposal. The scores were added up to provide a quantitative value on each of the proposed sessions.

The sessions were provided with the following scores (out of a possible 21 points). The top ten scoring sessions have been provided in order of highest to lowest scores:

- Regional District of Nanaimo, Legislative Reform Initiative: Building the Case (120 mins)- **SCORE 21**
- EA Representative Donna McMahon, Managing Emergencies and the Increasing Impacts on Regional Districts- **SCORE 21**
 - Staff was asked to work with Past President Morrison and EA Representative Mc Mahon on developing this panel. It should include:
 - EMBC Update- New program information- what are the rules and costs?
 - Fire Services Act Update
 - Incorporate Indigenous knowledge
 - Regional District CAO who has experience in activating EOCs
 - Local government responsibilities

- Mayor Merlin Blackwell, District of Clearwater, Traditional and Social Media Tips and Tricks for Electeds (60 mins) **SCORE 19** (preference for breakfast or lunch speaker)
- MIABC, Three Emerging Risks Affecting Every Local Government Today (60-90 mins) **SCORE 19**
 - Staff was asked to find out more about what these three risks are
- CEA/ VICC-CLP, Regional Collaboration in the Decade of Climate Action (60 mins) **SCORE 17**
- Meteorological Service of Canada, Predicting and Alerting for Coastal Flooding (45-60 mins) **SCORE 17**-(preference for plenary)
 - Staff was asked to confirm if they could waive their travel costs- this organization presented at UBCM, but it was noted that AVICC convention may be a better fit
- Regional Districts of Nanaimo and Comox Valley, Advancing Climate Resilience in Coastal Communities: The Tale of Two Regional Districts (60 mins) **SCORE 15**
- Regional District of Nanaimo, Working in Our Lanes: A Governance Conversation (60 mins) **SCORE 15**
 - It was noted that this may be one to defer to next year, or perhaps broaden the conversation, given that similar information will be provided at LGLA
- VIRL, GVPL & Powell River Public Library, Top 5 misconceptions about public libraries - what you need to know about their real impact! (60 mins) **SCORE 15**
 - Ensure that they are given a booth at the tradeshow
- Community Health Network (CHN), The Evolving Role of Municipalities in Community Health (60 mins) **SCORE 12**
- Ship-source Oil Pollution Fund, From abandoned boats to tankers: Who pays for an oil spill in Canadian waters and how can you access compensation (60 mins) **SCORE 12**

Staff were asked to get more information on the following sessions that require some additional work and were not assigned scores:

- Young Agrarians, Growing New Farms on Vancouver Island (60 mins)
 - Staff was directed to work with Director Fowler to revise this panel to include:
 - information about the new ALC legislation
 - the local government focus on food security
- Wiser Projects, Attainable Housing Inspiration from Vancouver Island Communities and Young Anderson, The Evolution of Tent Cities.
 - Staff was asked to work with the proponents to revise this panel to potentially include:
 - New home builders association, or builders in a rural area
 - New provincial housing regulations
 - Municipal housing corporations
 - Retired CAO of the CRD, Bob Lapham and Seniors Advocate, Isobel McKenzie were on a panel at the UBCM convention (Called Role of LG in Supporting Seniors); perhaps something similar

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:30pm and was called back to order at 12:50pm.

It was also identified that the following could be interesting to include in the 2023 AVICC AGM and Convention:

- An update from UBCM
- An update from Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Daniel Arbour, who sits on the FCM Board of Directors, and is also an elected Director on the Comox Valley RD

- ICET update- reach out to ED (Brody)
- A session on the challenges of small communities and RDs to provide services

On motion by Director Fowler, seconded by EA Representative McMahon
 THAT the report on program planning be received was

CARRIED

c. 2023 Convention: Sponsorship Update

Theresa Dennison provided an update on sponsorship for the 2023 AVICC AGM and Convention, including the Sponsorship Policy update that was approved at the October 28, 2022 Executive meeting. Formal sponsorship letters on behalf of the AVICC President are sent in January of each year, followed by sponsorship agreements.

The meeting was extended to 1:30pm by the Executive.

Staff have been approached by the BC Dairy Association, who would like to consider becoming a sponsor at the 2023 convention. The BC Dairy Association falls in “Group 2” of the AVICC Sponsorship Policy, and therefore, participation is at the prerogative of the Executive and requires approval.

On motion by Director Fowler, seconded by 2nd Vice President Craig

THAT the update on 2023 Convention Sponsorship be received for information was CARRIED

On motion by Director St-Pierre, seconded by Director Fowler

THAT all previously approved 2022 sponsors be approved to continue their sponsorships in 2023; and

THAT the BC Dairy Association be approved to provide sponsorship at the 2023 AVICC AGM and Convention, based on the convention being held as an in-person event was CARRIED

1st Vice President Geselbracht joined the meeting at 1:15pm.

5. POLICY/ ADVOCACY

a. OPP Dialogue Forum’s Advisory Panel

President Cote provided an update on an invitation received by the AVICC from the Oceans Protection Plan (OPP) to participate in an advisory panel for the development of the 2023 OPP Dialogue Forum’s agenda. The Forum will take place on February 22 and 23, 2023 in Vancouver, and it is anticipated that there will be 2000 in attendance. She attended an agenda advisory panel meeting on December 13th, 2023 that was broad, and discussed potential agenda items. Another agenda planning meeting will take place in January.

On motion by President Cote, seconded by Director Fowler

THAT the verbal report on the OPP Dialogue Forum’s Advisory Panel be received for information was CARRIED

2nd Vice President Craig left the meeting at 1:30pm.

The meeting was extended by the Executive for an additional 5 minutes

b. AVICC Special Committee on Solid Waste Management

Theresa Dennison provided background information on the AVICC Special Committee on Solid Waste Management (the Committee) that was established in 2015. The Terms of Reference for the Committee require that the term is extended annually, and since the term was not extended beyond 2021, the Committee no longer exists. This is consistent with the direction provided by membership that was endorsed by resolution at the 2022 AVICC AGM and Convention, to "...not take on the roles of: lead/organizer for committee work and initiatives..."

The funding model for the Committee included contributions from each participating Regional District, and was calculated with a \$500 flat contribution, as well as a contribution based on the % of waste disposed by each Regional District. The final contributions were made in the summer of 2019, with a total contribution amount of \$12,500. AVICC is currently holding \$12,374 in reserved contributions from participating regional districts that is restricted for the activities of the Special Committee on Solid Waste Management. There are two options on how these funds could be used:

1. To fund workshops to help transition this committee to a member led committee; or
2. returned to the regional districts that participated on the committee based on the funding formula.

On motion by 1st Vice President Geselbracht, seconded by Director St-Pierre,
THAT the AVICC Executive receive this report for information; and

THAT the report on the AVICC Special Committee on Solid Waste Management be deferred to the next meeting was CARRIED

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Executive is set for January 13, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. by Zoom

ADJOURNMENT

At 1:36, on motion by Director St-Pierre, seconded by Director Fowler

THAT the meeting be adjourned was CARRIED