



**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND
AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES EXECUTIVE
on FRIDAY, October 11, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
Held at the Regional District of Nanaimo- Arbutus (Committee) Room
at 6300 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo BC & electronically via Zoom**

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Ben Geselbracht, City of Nanaimo, President
Director Vanessa Craig, RD of Nanaimo, 1st Vice President
Councillor Sarah Fowler, Village of Tahsis, 2nd Vice President
Director Penny Cote, Alberni-Clayoquot RD, Past President
Director Travis Hall, Central Coast RD, Director at Large
Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton, City of Courtenay, Director at Large
Councillor Tanille Johnston, City of Campbell River, Director at Large (virtual)
Director Donna McMahon, Sunshine Coast RD, Electoral Area Representative

STAFF ATTENDANCE: Theresa Dennison, AVICC Executive Coordinator

President Geselbracht called the meeting to order at 10:02

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA & MINUTES

- a. On motion by Director Hall, seconded by Director Cole-Hamilton
THAT the agenda for the October 11, 2024 meeting be adopted as amended to add the following items to take place after item 5 (c):
- Provincial UBCM Electoral Area Forum; and
 - Provincial bus travel in remote communities was CARRIED
- b. On motion by 2nd Vice President Fowler, seconded by Director Hall
THAT the minutes for the August 8, 2024 meeting be adopted was CARRIED

2. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Geselbracht reported on the recent UBCM Convention – the Minister meetings went well. The meeting with Minister Cullen on watershed security and land conservation had very few new updates – the Ministry recommended that we collaborate with other areas of the Province with unique issues. They did not confirm when the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* will be reviewed. There were six great candidates from AVICC for the UBCM Executive but no one was elected from the region and the UBCM Executive is very Northern-centric this term. We are now under represented (as is the LMLGA), which is concerning because of how can our voices be heard at that table. There are also only two EA Directors on UBCM. The LMLGA Past President is asking for UBCM to have a governance review. We should also discuss how can we provide guidance in our own processes to avoid too many candidates from our region so the vote gets split. We should also encourage our members to vote in the UBCM election. Indigenous people are also underrepresented at the UBCM Executive table. It was recommended that we should add an agenda item at the next meeting with more concrete actions. The Legislative Reform Initiative has been advancing through participation with the other Area Associations. A meeting will take place next month that includes representatives from other Area Associations to discuss next steps towards an engagement session in February.

On motion by Past President Cote, seconded by Director Hall
THAT the President’s Report be received was CARRIED
Minutes of the October 11, 2024 Meeting of the AVICC Executive

3. ADVOCACY

a. 2024 and 2025 Virtual Education Sessions Discussion

DELEGATION: Tracey Lorenson, Paragon Strategic, was invited to join the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

At the June 14th Executive meeting, there was a conversation on advocacy planning for the term. The Executive considered the results of a survey completed by members throughout the month of April. The AVICC Executive has determined that as part of our advocacy role for our members that we host virtual education and discussion sessions. The Executive directed Staff to confirm Tracey Lorenson to facilitate a virtual education session for late November to follow up on the session she presented to AVICC members at the 2024 convention called *“Striking the Balance: Engagement and Respect.”* Ms. Lorenson has been contracted to facilitate a virtual session for up to 60 delegates called *“Finishing Strong: Confidence & Courage in Turbulent Waters”* on November 28 from 11:30am- 1:30pm. The Executive have been provided with a proposed session outline and timeline and Staff and Ms. Lorenson requested feedback and direction with respect to the session.

The Executive provided the following feedback:

- Identify things to watch out for and provide tips on how to be effective in the last two years without creating chaos in the community
- Invigorate us again – there is an opportunity to set the stage for our members to finish strong.
- Especially important with the provincial and federal elections that are distracting and hyper-politicized.
- Having to have “thick skin” as an indigenous person is challenging – our reaction is still a choice.
- Some communities are struggling with extremely divisive issues – for elected people trying to deal with that in their community it’s a big challenge. So many of our members are overwhelmed – the budget process is coming up, and there are so many other issues taking up time, including that taxpayers are moving towards the stage of revolt.
- Address or acknowledge the importance of connectedness. Be mindful of the elections that are taking place in the First Nations communities in our regions as they take place throughout the year on alternating schedules. Know when your First Nation elections are taking place and think about how you can help.
 - Ensure that First Nation attendees feel seen through the process;
 - Be aware of the partnerships have to be renewed/ revitalized;
 - Discuss how to create partnerships and how to get funding to develop relationships
 - Has your Council demonstrated anything to advance reconciliation?
- Tips on how to step in and set boundaries in situations of conflict.
- If you have complicated multi-year priorities, now is the time to start them – do not wait for the next Council or Board to be elected.
- Be courageous. If you know something – say it. Respect each other.
- People can be hyper-sensitive – we are hard on each other while we are just doing our best.
- We are in an era of reconciliation – the word insinuates that two parties have done wrong to each other, when in fact it is one-sided. “Go back and make things right”, yet reconciliation is another tool created by the colonial body.
- Words are powerful – how can we correct each other appropriately...
- Govern well for the next two years so that “good” people want to represent their communities at the next election

- What do you do when the Chair or the Mayor is not doing anything about decorum or if the Chair/Mayor are the problem? How do you identify behaviors appropriately? Empower bystanders – this is the next layer of governance – calls to courage.

President Geselbracht thanked Tracey Lorenson for attending the meeting, and she departed the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

Staff and President Geselbracht provided an update on the Legislative Reform initiative and next steps. Since the letter that was sent out after the last meeting, the other four area associations have all expressed interest in participating. The proposed next steps are as follows:

1. The original Legislative Reform Working Group plans to meet in early October to discuss the best path forward when incorporating the Area Association representatives in the process. Initial conversations to take place about the intended outcomes of the collaborative planning of the session with the other Area Associations, as well as the session itself
2. The working group, including the Area Association reps to meet late October/ early November to discuss the logistics, strategies and intended outcomes of the session(s) to take place in late January.
3. The session would take place in late January or early February (depending on what is determined by the Working Group.) The session would be facilitated through guidance from the Working Group with administrative support from AVICC, RDN, and a third-party facilitator (to be determined by the working group and the area association reps).
4. Input gathered from the session would be used to support a possible resolution and backgrounder for the Executive from each area association to submit for consideration at each area association's 2025 AGM, asking for UBCM to form a province-wide working group to inform reforming the LGA, that includes representatives from local government and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. If endorsed, the resolution would be forwarded to UBCM for consideration at their 2025 convention with the intent to get support from UBCM to move this initiative forward.

Staff also provided an update on advocacy activities since the last meeting. Activities at UBCM included the luncheon with the Q & A from Minister Fleming, and a minister meeting with Minister Cullen on regional resolutions regarding watershed security and land conservation in the region. As a follow up to that meeting, President Geselbracht and Staff are working on communications with resources to members, and a press release about the unique situation on the Island. Staff also reported out about ICET, and the communication that was sent to members and posted on the website.

On motion by Past President Cote and Director Cole-Hamilton
 THAT that the October 11 report on Advocacy be received was

CARRIED

b. RESCIND DECISION: 2024-OF1: Addressing the Risk to Wild Salmon

Resolution OF1, sponsored by the Village of Tahsis, submitted off-the-floor at the 2024 AVICC AGM & Convention. After a few rounds of debate, both in support and against endorsing the resolution, the resolution was referred to the AVICC Executive for consideration. At the August 9,

2024 meeting, the AVICC Executive carried a motion to defeat the resolution and recommend that the sponsor submit another resolution for the 2025 convention. AVICC President Geselbracht has indicated that he would like to make a motion to rescind the August 9, 2024 motion, due to previous policy as supported by our members, requiring a 2/3 majority vote.

On motion by President Geselbracht, seconded by Director Hall

THAT the following motion from the August 9th, 2024 AVICC Executive meeting be rescinded:

“THAT the resolution OF1: Addressing the Risk to Wild Salmon referred to the AVICC Executive at the 2024 AVICC Convention be defeated and that Staff work with President Geselbracht communicate to the Sponsor that this is an important issues, and recommend that the sponsor update and resubmit the resolution for the 2025 AVICC Convention to allow for full debate by our members or off-the-floor at the 2024 UBCM Convention” was CARRIED

The Executive considered past Policy, and current initiatives on this file, and acknowledged that a draft net-pen transition plan has been released, and that engagement will be conducted by the Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada.

On motion by 1st Vice President Craig, seconded by 2nd Vice President Fowler

THAT the resolution OF1: Addressing the Risk to Wild Salmon referred to the AVICC Executive at the 2024 AVICC Convention be endorsed as amended as follows:

Therefore be it resolved, that UBCM ask the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to ~~do~~ ~~what is in the best interest of local salmon health and the economy of the region~~, that open-net fish farms either be decommissioned or moved towards ~~closed-containment~~ methods that completely eliminate outbreaks of sea lice and other fish pathogens within the natural environment; and

THAT a note be added that the AVICC Executive endorsed this with a focus on the science and past policy, acknowledging that economic impacts exist was CARRIED

c. Appointment to Shellfish Aquaculture Management Advisory Committee

The Shellfish Aquaculture Management Advisory Committee (SF-AMAC) was established by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Pacific Region to provide advice to the Department and make recommendations related to planning, policy and operational decisions for aquaculture management in British Columbia. AVICC holds a seat on the Committee, and our current representative, Director Daniel Arbour of the Comox Valley Regional District has indicated that he is no longer available to participate and has asked that AVICC make an alternate nomination for this appointment.

On motion by President Geselbracht, seconded by 2nd Vice President Fowler

THAT Staff be authorized to nominate Director Travis Hall to be appointed to serve on the Shellfish Aquaculture Management Advisory Committee was CARRIED

The Executive took a break from 11:22-11:26 a.m.

4. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATION

a. Interim Financial Report to September 30, 2024

Staff shared the Association's interim financial statements, updated convention budget actuals, and an updated forecast to the end of the year with the Executive. The convention returned a slightly better profit than budget at \$38,512, and the forecasted deficit for the year is now \$6,000, which is an improvement of \$9501 as compared to budget.

On motion by 2nd Vice President Fowler, seconded by Director Cole-Hamilton
THAT the Interim Financial Update to September 30, 2024 be received was CARRIED

b. Statement of Investment Policy & Investment Considerations

At the October 13, 2023 Executive meeting, following AVICC's transition away from UBCM, the AVICC Executive were presented with options for increasing or diversifying the Association's investments. The Executive directed staff to work on a Statement of Investment Policy (SIP), using UBCM's as a guide, upon consultation with several members of the AVICC Executive.

AVICC's Financial Consultant, Kathleen Spalek, is the retired CFO of UBCM, and she was involved in writing UBCM's Policy. She has been asked to review UBCM's Policy, and recommend how it could be simplified for AVICC, who has much less to invest. Ms. Spalek has considered the direction provided by the AVICC Executive at the August 9, 2024 meeting, and has worked with staff on the draft policy for consideration.

On motion by Director Hall, seconded by 1st Vice President Craig
THAT the AVICC Executive adopt the Statement of Investment Policy as presented at the October 11, 2024 AVICC Executive Meeting subject to the following amendments:

- That the following text be added to 4.2(b): "MFABC is the main lender to all local governments in BC and consideration should be given to investments with MFABC because supporting them is in line with AVICC's mission to support our members";
- That the following text be added to 2 (c): "and that and investments instruments should be aligned with the principles of ESG where possible and reasonable.; and
- That the word "Consideration" be removed from 4.2 (c) and "In alignment with the objectives, preference" be added to 4.2 (c) was CARRIED

The Executive were presented with options for diversifying the Association's investments within the scope of the newly adopted Statement of Investment Policy. Consideration was given to cash-flow, our current investments, and options through MFABC and Coast Capital Savings.

On motion by 1st Vice President Craig, seconded by Director Hall
THAT the AVICC Executive direct staff to update the Association's Investment Portfolio to include the following:

- \$75K in a Money Market Fund with the Municipal Finance Authority of BC
 - \$75K in a Government-Focused Ultra-Short Bond Fund with the Municipal Finance Authority of BC
 - \$100K in a Pooled High Interest Savings Accounts (HISA) with the Municipal Finance Authority of BC; and
 - \$50K in a 2-year Fixed-term GIC with Coast Capital Savings
- to be evaluated again in late-2025 per the Statement of Investment Policy; and

THAT President Geselbracht and Staff be authorized to withdraw the required funds from our current Money Market Fund and Coast Capital Savings account to meet the

direction of the AVICC Executive regarding investments at the October 11, 2024 meeting.

5. CONVENTION

a. 2025 Resolutions and Nominations Deadline

The AVICC bylaws specify that procedures for convention resolutions, including the deadline for submission of resolutions, may be determined by the Executive. Consideration was given to the historical deadlines, and timing that has worked in the past to ensure that the deadline for Resolutions finds the balance between allowing time for members to submit, and to allow for the review before Convention. Staff shared the Resolutions Call-out document and the AVICC Executive Nominations document for consideration.

On motion by Director Hall, seconded by 1st Vice President Craig THAT the AVICC Executive direct staff to set the Resolutions and Nominations deadline as February 6th, 2025, and to communicate the deadline to members including the updated documents attached to staff's report on "2025 Resolutions and Nominations Deadline" with the following amendments:

- Late Resolution bullet (c) be added to the end of the section as a second sentence; and
- Bullet 4: Remove the words "for review" from the sentence "AVICC will forward any responses to the regional resolution sponsor ~~for review.~~" was CARRIED

The Executive took a break from 12:04 to 12:17pm.

b. 2025 AVICC AGM & CONVENTION PLANNING

Theresa Dennison provided an update on planning for the 2025 AVICC AGM & Convention, taking place in Nanaimo April 11-13, 2025, hosted by the City of Nanaimo and the Regional District of Nanaimo. To date, the venue, catering, and hotel room blocks have been confirmed and communicated to members. The Banquet has been scheduled for April 12th and staff has confirmed the band, the [Big Easy Funk Ensemble](#).

Staff shared information about the elections, confirming the direction to offer in-person and online candidate speeches, and the ability for non-delegate members to vote, using the online voting platform. Staff shared the confirmed 2025 Convention at a Glance document that includes the basic proposed format and timing in the program. The A/V has been confirmed to include video recording of the plenary sessions. The host community will be providing study tour suggestions for consideration and approval at the December meeting.

A request for submissions on sessions for the 2025 convention will be sent to the membership and other interested parties in the end of October 2024 with a cut-off of early-December 2024 so that consideration can be given to the sessions at the December Executive meeting. Staff will be also reaching out to Islands Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) to propose a plenary session that will update our members on the engagement activities taking place with First Nations in the Region to develop a co-governance model for ICET. In addition the Community Energy Association (CEA) will propose a session on climate mitigation and watershed security, consistent with their proposal for the virtual education session shared at the August meeting.

At the August 2024 Executive Meeting, it was identified that Eli Mina may be a suitable facilitator for one of our sessions. Mr. Mina has expressed interest in hosting a plenary session on Sunday Morning on good, effective governance through today's changing culture of misconduct. He

proposes that he could do a 90-minute session entitled "Meeting, Rules, and Responsible Governance" and has also offered to host 30-minute private sessions (by appointment) on Saturday Afternoon for our members to ask for advice on specific issues in their own councils or boards while the concurrent sessions are taking place. The total cost for the plenary session plus the private sessions would be \$3000 + GST + travel and meal expenses.

Staff provided information about historical keynote speakers, provided information and video links for the available speakers as recommended by the Executive for consideration and confirmation. There was a debate as to whether BC political media commentators Keith Baldrey and Vaughn Palmer be selected, or whether First Nations activist and Olympian, Waneek Horn-Miller be selected. Everyone agreed that both would be appropriate options.

On motion by 2nd Vice President Fowler, seconded by 1st Vice President Craig
That Keith Baldrey and Vaughn Palmer be confirmed as the 2025 AVICC AGM and Convention
Keynote speakers was CARRIED
President Geselbracht, Directors Hall and Cole-Hamilton opposed

An initial draft of the proposed 2025 AVICC AGM & Convention Budget was presented, along with AVICC and the other area associations' registration fees for the past two years. Consideration was given to the host community agreements, and anticipated revenue and initial expense estimates. Staff's proposed budget forecasts a \$61K profit, which will go towards the operating budget for the year, and make up for the shortfall in the 2024 operational budget. The convention will be more profitable in Nanaimo than in Victoria, primarily due to the cost of goods and services at the venues. There was a debate about whether the cost of the banquet ticket price could be reduced, as the costs are less in Nanaimo, although significantly higher than in 2023 due to inflation. By keeping the fees the same in 2025 as in 2024, it will allow us to show less of an increase in 2026 than if we reduced fees in 2025 as compared to last year.

On motion by Past President Cote, seconded by EA Representative McMahan
THAT the registration fees remain the same for the 2025 AVICC AGM & Convention as in 2024
was CARRIED
President Geselbracht, 1st Vice President Craig and Director Cole-Hamilton opposed

On motion by 1st Vice President Craig, seconded by 2nd Vice President Fowler
THAT the AVICC Executive direct staff to communicate the opportunity for complimentary student business session registration at AVICC to all members, and offer to assist with a 50% travel and accommodation reimbursement for up to \$1000 per student participant to assist with the student's travel costs; and

THAT AVICC is not responsible for the student delegate at the convention was CARRIED

On motion by EA Representative McMahan, seconded by Director Cole-Hamilton
THAT the October 11, 2024 report on 2025 Convention Planning be received for information was CARRIED

On motion by 2nd Vice President Fowler, seconded by 1st Vice President Craig
THAT the meeting be extended to 1:30pm was CARRIED

c. 2026 Convention Host Community

In 2022, It was determined that since convention attendance has been increasing to 300 or more people, that it had become necessary to host our convention in either Victoria or Nanaimo, as all other communities in our region are unable to accommodate that number of delegates. Since the 2025 AGM & Convention will take place in Nanaimo, the 2026 AGM & Convention should be planned for Victoria so that the location alternates. Staff reached out to VCC Staff to confirm available dates for 2026, and our usual second or third weekend in April are not available due to other bookings, and Easter falling in the middle of April in 2026. Available options were presented, with a recommendation that we host the event April 24-26, 2026.

On motion by 1st Vice President Craig, seconded by Director Cole-Hamilton
THAT the AVICC Executive direct staff to work with the City of Victoria to confirm the 2026 AVICC AGM & Convention to be held on Friday April 24- Sunday April 26, 2026; and
THAT Staff tentatively block off preferred dates with Victoria and Nanaimo for convention to 2030 was CARRIED

6. IN-CAMERA

On motion by 1st Vice President Craig, seconded by EA Representative McMahon
THAT the meeting go in camera to discuss a personnel matter was CARRIED

Theresa Dennison left the meeting at 1:07pm for the in-camera portion of the meeting
The meeting went out of camera and Theresa Dennison returned to the meeting at 1:16pm.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. UBCM Electoral Area Forum Dates

UBCM's Electoral Area Forum does not coincide with the LGLA Forum this year, and now which will make it difficult for EA Directors to attend both the EA Forum and the LGLA Forum due to the travel expenses required to travel to both. Historically these events have been planned concurrently to make it more affordable for the EA Directors to travel to both.

On motion by EA Representative McMahon, seconded by 1st Vice President Craig
THAT Staff work with EA Representative McMahon to communicate to UBCM that the EA Directors Forum's dates change to be at the same time and place as the LGLA Forum was CARRIED

b. Bus service for remote communities on Vancouver island and in Coastal Communities

There is a patient travel assistance program for First Nations through First Nations Health Authority (FNHA). Recently there was a patient that was left behind mid-way on a bus, the bus left her at a fuel stop. FNHA subsequently cancelled her hotel. The appointment was booked a long time in advance and could not be rebooked easily.

It was recommended that AVICC could write a letter to the Bus Service FNHA uses voicing our concerns with how transportation / travel assistance is run, and that this person was left behind. These services are life and death, and these situations happen all the time. It was noted that AVICC should ensure that if we send a letter, that it goes to the correct body, as the funding agreements are all different, and Island Health takes the lead on the program in some communities for FNHA.

On motion by President Geselbracht, seconded by EA Representative McMahon
THAT the issue is discussed offline, and tabled for the next meeting if further action is

appropriate was

CARRIED

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the AVICC Executive is set for Friday December 13, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. to be held via Zoom

ADJOURNMENT

At 1:31, on motion by 2nd Vice President Fowler, seconded by 1st Vice President Craig THAT the meeting be adjourned was

CARRIED