



Agenda No: 6.1

Mtg. Date: Nov 12, 2015

Regional Board Report

TO: Regional Board
FROM: Ron Fralick
Manager of Planning
DATE: November 4, 2015
SUBJECT: Environmental Advisory Commission Membership (Our File: 0540-20-01)

Purpose:

To consider appointing Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) members in accordance with the Environmental Advisory Commission Terms of Reference (amended August 2006).

Executive Summary:

EAC membership is comprised of a diversity of environmental professions, practices, and sectors which allows for a depth of knowledge and understanding to address environmental issues. Members provide technical input on development proposals and environmental initiatives. Four current EAC member terms expire in November 2015. Three current EAC members are recommended for a second three year term and one new member recommended for an initial three year term.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Regional Board reappoint Pete Spencer, Rose Gunoff, and Melony Catana to a second three-year term and Mary Ann Olson-Russello to an initial three year term as members of the Regional District Environmental Advisory Commission.

Respectfully Submitted:

R. Fralick
Manager of Planning

C. Radford
Director of Community Services

Prepared by: Margaret Bakelaar, Environmental / Land Use Planner

Approved for Board's Consideration

Brian Reardon, CAO

Implications of Recommendation:**Strategic Plan:**

RDCO Strategic Plan Vision 2020 – Planning for the Future identifies the Board's desire to be “[a] sustainable region characterized by environmental protection, responsible water stewardship and a “green” ethos”; “a region that is a recognized leader and innovator on many fronts (environmental, social, community, economic, government, etc.)”; and “[contribute] to a safe and healthy environment for residents, visitors and future generations, while maintaining and promoting a balance of responsible environmental protection”. The mandate of the EAC works toward achieving the vision of the Regional Board.

Policy:

Policies and objectives of the Official Community Plans and Rural Land Use Bylaw of the Regional District promote continuing support of an EAC. Membership and operation of the EAC is in accord with the Environmental Advisory Commission Terms of Reference.

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Membership and operation of the EAC is in accord with Section 898 of the *Local Government Act*.

Background:

The EAC is an Advisory Commission of the Regional Board. The role of the EAC is to help ensure that the region plans for environmental health and sustainability through environmentally sustainable decision-making. Further, it is the intent that the Commission support and promote Regional District environmental initiatives in a way which is complementary to the Regional District's programs. The EAC brings together knowledgeable, experienced and technically capable people to address the issues under consideration.

Membership of the EAC is to be comprised of not less than 10 or more than 18 volunteer individuals. Appointments are for a three year term, with the option to be appointed for a second three year term.

Three EAC members who have completed their initial three year term were able and willing to continue for a second three year term (Pete Spencer, Rose Gunoff, and Melony Catana). One member (Jacqueline Foley) was unable to commit the time to a second term. One new candidate (Mary Ann Olson-Russello) has applied for and is being recommended as a replacement. The appointments would keep the membership at a total of 12. Based on their qualifications and past experiences, staff is of the opinion that these individuals will be a valuable asset to the EAC.

Alternatives:

THAT the Regional Board not appoint EAC members at this time.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

- Financial Considerations
- Organizational Issues
- External Implications

Attachment:
EAC Application

Date:	2015-09-29
Application for appointment to:	Environmental Committee
First Name:	Mary Ann
Last Name:	Olson-Russello
Address:	#102 - 450 Neave Court
City:	Kelowna
Province:	BC
Postal Code:	V1V 2M2
Phone - Day:	250-491-7337 x205
Phone - Evening:	250-864-8296
Cell: (optional)	250-864-8296
Fax: (optional)	250-491-77772
Email: (optional)	mao@ecoscapeltd.com
Current Occupation:	Natural Resources Biologist
Work Experience:	Natural Resources Biologist - Ecoscape Environmental Consultants since 2007. Women in Science (WISE) - mentor / panelist Kokanee education - through RDCO Parks
Education:	B.A. - Biology (University of San Diego, CA, USA) M.Sc. - Environmental Science with Ecology focus (University of New Haven, CT, USA)
1. What skills, abilities and specialized knowledge do you have that will assist this group?	Knowledge of the environmental assessment process for local and provincial government.
2. Why are you interested in serving on this agency?	To gain additional knowledge and understanding of the environmental approval process.
3. What contribution do you believe you can make?	I will be a thoughtful and active participant that will have relevant experience and perspective.
4. What past contributions have you made to a similar group or organization?	Volunteering time with the Women in Science program at UBCO. Worked with undergraduates to promote more women staying in science.
5. What experience do you have in exchanging your views with others and in appreciating and respecting the skills, abilities and knowledge of others?	My current position is an excellent example of this. On a daily basis I am having to interact with others who may have wildly different opinions and priorities. I consider myself good at listening to others, attempting to understand their positions and forming well, articulated responses.