

**THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
RAVEN ROOM, MUNICIPAL HALL
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024**

Committee Members: C. van der Vorm (Chair), C. Castro, A. Gallet, E. Grdina, P. Hundal, P. Scholefield, F. Umedaly; and Councillor P. Lambur attended the meeting in the Raven Room, Municipal Hall. Absent: D. Bunsha.

Staff: H. Keith, Senior Manager, Climate Action & Environment (Staff Representative); G. Howard, Fire Chief; and M. Wise, Climate Action Coordinator (Committee Clerk) attended the meeting in the Raven Room, Municipal Hall.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the March 5, 2024 Environment Committee meeting agenda be amended by:

- Moving Item 7 to be considered immediately following Item 5;

AND THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the February 6, 2024 Environment Committee meeting minutes be amended by:

- Retracting the words “withdrawing the motion and” from Item 4;

AND THAT the minutes be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

REPORTS / ITEMS

4. Early Wildfire Detection Technology

Recusal from SenseNet presentation by C. van der Vorm at 4:38 p.m. C. van der Vorm recused herself from this item due to a conflict of interest as an investor in SenseNet.

Recusal from SenseNet presentation by F. Umedaly at 4:38 p.m. F. Umedaly recused himself from this item due to a conflict of interest as a contractor of SenseNet.

H. Noori (SenseNet) provided a presentation and responded to the Committee’s questions with support from staff.

Committee members provided comments and queries regarding:

- Scope of early wildfire detection work in other regions;
- Location and capabilities of sensors;
- Installation costs and annual subscription fees;
- Potential to connect early detection technology with local data sources;
- Due diligence in determining West Vancouver context and application;
- Access to BC wildfire resources during wildfire season;
- Procurement and competitive bidding process for contracts;
- Timeframes for exploring early detection implementation;
- Layers of wildfire response required for community resilience;
- Adaption of West Vancouver Fire Department to changing contexts;
- Who should bear costs for early wildfire detection technology; and
- Early wildfire detection technology funding.

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the presentation regarding Early Wildfire Detection Technology be received for information.

CARRIED

C. van der Vorm and F. Umedaly absent at the vote

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT Council direct staff to investigate wildfire detection systems for early implantation.

DEFEATED

C. Castro, A. Gallet, and E. Grdina voted in the negative
C. van der Vorm and F. Umedaly absent at the vote

C. van der Vorm and F. Umedaly re-entered the meeting at 5:51 p.m.

5. District's Wildfire Fuel Management Program

Committee members provided comments and queries regarding:

- Costs per hectare of Eagle Lake fuel treatment;
- Efficacy of treatment;
- Research on fuel treatment efficacy in Coastal Western Hemlock zone;
- Committee member P.Hundal shared an article titled "Unintended Effects of Fuel Thinning on the Microclimate in the Coastal Forests of Southwestern British Columbia, Canada;
- Fire behaviour and strategic treatment, mitigation, and adaption;
- How the District's wildfire fuel treatment costs align with other communities doing similar work;
- Types of wildfire response;
- Interface versus primary break differences;

- Wood chip density in treated areas;
- Broader community wildfire concerns;
- Importance of due diligence in assessing options;
- Protecting egresses for first responder ground crew safety;
- Liability risks regarding wildfire fuel management commitments;
- Impact of fuel management on long term forest health and succession; and
- Resilience of Douglas Fir tree species.

E. Grdina left the meeting at 6:38 p.m. and did not return.

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the discussion regarding District's Wildfire Fuel Management Program be received for information.

CARRIED

E. Grdina absent at the vote

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT Council be advised that the Environment Committee recommends Council not to finance the Eagle Lake Wildfire Fuel Management Program from the Environmental Reserve Fund and recommends that the program be put on hold until further information is examined about the effectiveness, cost, and location.

The Committee discussed the motion on the floor and decided that further discussion and information was required. Therefore, the Committee consented to deferring to a future meeting.

7. Revised Annual Work Plan

Committee discussed the work plan presentation slides and proposed changes and edits. Staff documented feedback and responded to questions.

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the revised proposed Environment Committee Annual Work Plan for 2024 be supported for Council consideration.

CARRIED

E. Grdina absent at the vote

C. Castro left the meeting at 7:09 p.m. and did not return.

6. Heat Pump Survey

Committee members provided comments and queries regarding:

- How to navigate survey mobilization;

- Additional survey questions to target rental occupants;
- Engaging broadly applicable heat pump language and framing; and
- Timing of survey mobilization.

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the discussion regarding Heat Pump Survey be received for information.

CARRIED

E. Grdina and C. Castro absent at the vote

7. Revised Annual Work Plan

Considered immediately after Item 5.

8. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Resident (name not provided) commented on a preference for more localized context regarding early wildfire detection technology.

E. McHarg queried about the workflow process for making recommendations on wildfire work.

E. McHarg posed a clarifying question about how wildfire information was being presented in the SenseNet presentation.

M. Fillipoff requested to have information on fuel treatment areas sent by staff.

L. Jones inquired about how to come forward with communications regarding water reservoir development in relation to new development areas in the upper lands and the capture of runoff water for more supply during drought periods.

D. Reinsch discussed the Five Creeks diversion and how creek diversion is addressed in environmental standards.

D. Reinsch inquired about the FireSmart Coordinator position in the District of West Vancouver.

D. Reinsch questioned who was providing students with misinformation on carbon sequestration in young trees.

E. McHarg noted that having the Fire Chief and staff expertise was appreciated and valued. They also suggested heat pump survey language include cooling needs in commercial spaces and made a request to use a diversity of local school examples when talking about District activities and engagements.

A. George suggested opening up Committee work plan language beyond corporate names regarding electric charging stations.

T. Reinsch offered information about water rain barrels and different types and styles that might be explored to support and amplify water runoff collection amid drought periods.

D. Reinsch shared points on the language of fear often engaged regarding wildlife interactions and how we can reframe the ways we think about and engage with nature for more caring and uncontentious relationships with nature.

9. NEXT MEETING

Staff confirmed that the next Environment Committee meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. and held in-person in the Raven Room, Municipal Hall.

10. ADJOURNMENT

It was Moved and Seconded:

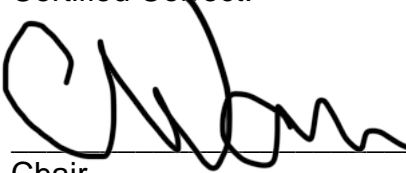
THAT the March 5, 2024 Environment Committee meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

E. Grdina and C. Castro absent at the vote

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Certified Correct:



Chair

Heather Keith

Staff Representative