

LCA OCP Steering Committee - 1st Community Forum
Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Mitigation
Saturday Nov 17th 2018 noon-3pm Lasqueti Community Hall

Present:

Kathy Rogers – chairperson

Nadine Simpson – speakers list

Hilary Duinker – notetaker

other LCA OCP steering committee members- Andrew Fall, Shoshanah, Marti, Jordan B, Colin Ewan

public- Doug Hopwood, Dave Rogers, Wendy Schnieble, Michael Wood, Dave Olsen, Nikki Darwin, Ian, Camino, Tom Weinart, Susan Morrison, Sirett, Arne, Susan Ellard, Ross, Wendy B, Alex Bain, Peter Johnson, Sean Bibby, Sean Terrell, Amy Anderson, Duane & Tenjomaya, Moey Bain, Noel Washburn, Tim Peterson, Valeria, Ezra & Melinda, Greg Seaman, Sue Wheeler, Willy & Lesley, David Slik, Jodi, Gordon Scott, Dave Ambry, Mary Ange
(37 ppl + 8 committee members = 45 total)

Tim Peterson – msgs from IT staff:

-director trust area services -policy statement review this year, would appreciate us submitting our comments

-director planning services, phone or email Qs to staff, also willing to come to meetings if we want them here.

Kathy – welcome, intro committee, acknowledge Coast Salish territory, goal/structure 4mins each until everyone has had a chance, respectful tone, goal of committee = get your community interests for our OCP, more forums coming

current OCP objectives:

1 – “To assist, where possible, in the establishment & maintenance of. Ecological Reserves.”

Doug Hopwood – not making “Ecological Reserves” anymore – need to change wording to include other forms of protection

Sirett – what are the eco reserves?

- big one, Kwel, Johnny Osland,+Squitty Bay park

AndrewF- use word Conservation (such as eco reserves, parks)

What is meant by maintenance?

Susan M – IT has management plans, monitoring, also

Na – keep as eco reserve, (don't develop)

2 – “To encourage that the renewable resource base is maintained in a sustainable manner.”

Tom W. Are animals considered renewable resource? Make explicit

3 – “To encourage & promote the protection of foreshore & marine areas for public enjoyment, public access & conservation.”

Susan M -away from public enjoyment, towards conservation

Marti – conservation first

Ezra – agrees, public enjoyment shouldn't be first

Amy – semantics, doesn't say one before the other

Sue – good to encourage public beach access

Lesley – beach access important

Tom W – ongoing issue, many official accesses aren't actually accessible

Colin – what is process for that?

Willy – Tucker Bay – courts

Andrew – access created through subdivisions – MoT road accesses

4 – “To promote the preservation of fresh and salt water purity.”

no comments

5 – “To promote the retention of native flora & fauna and areas of both typical and unique ecosystems.”

Andrew – strengthen wording – ensure rather than promote

Noel – issue with Pete's lake type situation – province requiring treatment if we say 'ensure'

Colin – important to choose words carefully, who's definition?

Ezra – can we even ensure? We can't guarantee

Ross – suggests 'ensure we don't contaminate'

Noel – interest is keeping contaminants out of water and ensuring healthy water ecosystems

Camino – water really important – Pete's Lake under scrutiny, others with own system not, need to specify public water

6- “To promote a safe and healthy environment for all residents.”

Ezra - our own def, don't want to live like on other side

Willy – worry of regulations about outhouses

Peter J – take out residents, leave at all

Valeria – too vague, explain or eliminate

Colin – maybe we need to come up with definitions for words commonly used in OCP – eg 'safe and healthy'

Nikki D – make an addendum

Willy – glossary before

new interests:

1- “To value non-human life on Lasqueti.”

Sirett – personal, not a community interest

Willy – value as food source vs spiritual, meaningless to just say value

Colin – OCP interfaces us with IT, broad shared values to be included

Susan – better to say we value the natural enviro

David S – asked Andrew to share impact on qRD –

Andrew- policies created from objectives, policies limit creation of new bylaws, must be consistent, objectives need to be clear so they can inform policies but can be aspirational

Tom – phrasing too general, intent is to recognize interconnectedness of human and non-human life keep system of life here whole

Camino – ask Sirett is his comment just about hunting?

Sirett - No

Gordon – replace non human life with “biodiversity” - support adaptation to climate change

Ezra – including this statement doesn't do anything, could take it out with no impact

Noel -to value is a personal thing, doesn't mean anything

Willy – back to #5 – this is redundant maybe say ensure instead

Wendy – include habitat

Ezra – this is a new interest that's already in the OCP, don't need to add it

2 – “To support initiatives to clean up public areas, such as shorelines.”
yes, wide support

3- “To maintain intact forest land.”

Sue – what about farms? This is too vague

Tom – tax incentives, zoning, need ways to do this , maybe add proactive measures in LUB

Susan M – crucial we put this in somehow, we are last big chunk of Coastal Douglas Fir ecosystem

Willy – would like to see all crown land protected from logging, partial to idea of allowing only a % of property to be logged

David Slik – maintain is key word, IT has done extensive mapping, might be a useful tool to develop policy

Wendy B – Q about what this is – brainstorming..

Andrew clarifies – not proper wording, just trying to establish support, not formatted yet, interests from initial meetings

Tom – Crown land not logged recently – easy to write up zoning – eg 'water protection zone” to limit logging of crown land, “cast a shadow of protection”

Marti – likes concept of restricting amount of land that can be logged

Doug – forests store huge amounts of carbon, logging emits carbon – goal to minimizing deforestation on island. Cutting down 1 hectare of forest = more that 250 flights here to Australia, Denman Trust Committee brought in a bylaw like what proposed (regulating forestry on private land, limit %allowed to be cleared), was overturned by courts, can't do it.

Camino – echo Wendy, lots of interests expressed are already in OCP

Arne – confused 2 different readings maintain intact, vs maintain intact forest , maintain intact ecosystems, much of our forests aren't intact, thinning might be helpful

Ezra – wonderful notion but have to stop and think what it means – we all live in clearcuts, if we continue to live with same pattern will have more small clearcuts on 10-20 acres, or do we want to encourage a new pattern?

Dave Olsen – is this a survey of support? YES details are helpful? YES the wholeheartedly supports more forest, so maintaining existing yes please

Gordon – what works is incentives – help people to do the right thing more effective that telling them not to. Each property/homeowner situation is unique, think about incentives, how to make it easy

Noel – Q – cities have tree cutting permits, so why can'twe limit tree cutting? more about healthy ecosystems, not necessarily forest

4 – “To eliminate invasive species (eg bullfrogs).”

Susan M – bullfrogs ITC starting to think twice about protecting areas heavily affected

Sue W– generally talking about animals but Plants – no native grass on Lasqueti, eliminating invasive plants nearly impossible

Andrew – this is just one/a few ppls interest expressed – need to establish what we all agree to. Saying all spp too difficult

Bibby – emphasis on education – what the spp in Q do

Gordon – not all invasive spp are a threat, ones that threaten biodiversity are an issue, are they homogenizing the enviro or adding to diversity?

David Slik – yellow iris, scotch broom, spurge laurel

Greg S – Gordon's comment re: incentive valuable , not even financial, just knowing you're doing the right thing, being informed is helpful, what is carbon value of a tree, effect of taking it down, has an effect on decision making, just having info for ppl would be helpful

Tom – doesn't like eliminate – impossible, spp will be moving in with climate change, will we eliminate everyone's garden plants?

Camino – maybe more realistic to say that we want to prevent import of new invasive spp
Sho- is there a landowner pamphlet? Yes, was one at one point
Colin- would like to be part of a group to inventory ecosystems and native spp here. Education more valuable than regulation. Resiliency is a concept we need to embrace with climate change happening
Willy - 30 yrs ago island culled wild cows and goats, with education things will just happen, don't need to include in OCP
Tim – good discussion of important stuff, education important, lists available for spp invasive in BC, there are lots of pretty nursery plants that shouldn't come home with you, need to be informed
Nikki D – what about fencing the sheep in to crown land – were lots of flowers when she was little that aren't here anymore.
Michael Wood – have to ID which spp to eliminate specifically, problematic question, spp invade to fill an empty niche. pond he dug had 30-40 bullfrogs, then cleaned out by otters and herons
Noel – how do sheep affect fire risk? Eating underbrush – does that lower fire risk? In Europe they have goats graze firebreaks around towns. We're part of ecosystem, need to eat, want local food so we keep animals, fence them in and import feed. Maybe better to eat more sheep and keep less livestock.
David Slik – willing to help out with a group to create education pamphlet re invasives. Doesn't want regulation, potential for outside agencies allowed to come onto private property and remove invasives
Wendy B – disrespectful to say again for speakers list
Doug – not all invasives only invade disturbed site eg broom (rocky bluffs), yellow flag iris (wetlands, displace waterfowl foods. Took it upon himself to stop spread of iris on Lenny Rd. Would favour having policies to prevent importing new invasives and prevent spread. Make use of BC list.
Lesley – sheep eat yellow flag iris, had some in her pond, spread and then disappeared. Scotch broom not as bad here as VI, why?
Nikki – planted yellow flag iris and sheep ate them
David – province requires a plan submitted to remove invasives (any work in a body of water), useful if IT did paperwork on behalf of islanders/ agreement with ministry
Tom – sheep won't eat things right down unless overpopulated for space, never feral, sheep could be rounded up and tame again. Our sheep don't have mad cow, all other sheep seem to
Michael Wood – sheep book by George Mon...(?), can't remember title. Talks about reestablishing old spp back to areas, scottish highlands, fencing sheep out of favoured areas. On lasqueti most of favoured flowers are spring ephemerals, along the coast in grassland/savannah brushland. Need to fence areas to keep sheep out. Shorter (4ft) fence would keep sheep out but not deer

5 -"Maintain natural environment"
already said

6- "Preserve and protect as per Islands Trust mandate."
unavoidable

7- "To reduce consumption of goods that come from conflict regions, or that helps create conflict."
David – reduce consumption period.

Sirett – broad statement, more a personal thing than a community statement

David – almost every electronic device has issues with this

Greg – conflict isn't always a negative thing, always changing, hard to define

Tom – impossible to write a bylaw, good thought but OCP can't address this

David – alot of goods from Canada are conflict good, extraction in violation of treaties etc

Colin – education again, don't know where components come from. Interested in researching this

Melinda – interested to see the work done by the committee – all trying to educate ourselves, how we live, what we do to the island. Hope what gets done today will help the OCP process. Happy to see

age range. Useful discussion today

<break>

8- “the effect of large scale pot production on the environment”

Willy – now that pot is legal, municipalities have the right to regulate. Tree elimination to get sun, ALR land. Time to look at potential even though it may not happen, consider how to control

Tom – all for large scale pot production but suspects legal production like alcohol will take 10 yrs for gov't to sort out systems. Price falling so doesn't expect this will actually be an issue

Sirett – doesn't think indoor makes sense anymore. Interested in hemp but doesn't see Lasqueti as a good place to grow it

Tim P – local gov't has no control over ALR. ALC considering pot production, to allow on ALR land or not. LTC has brought in a fees bylaw for retail establishments on island.

Doug – would be sad to see big diesel generator operations. Happy to see policy discouraging that if possible.

Sean Bibby – what would large scale pot production look like?

Wendy B – discussion pt? What is interest?

David Slik – interest is that Lasqueti is not a good place for high energy density activities

Andrew – similar. Interest is about fossil fuels, generators etc, high impact agriculture not suitable, whether large scale pot production or hot house tomatoes

9 – “Wildfire on this island is the number one threat to the eco-system – environment of Lasqueti island”

Andrew- wildfire is part of CDF ecosystem, not a threat

Willy – sheep help to reduce understory

Marti – interested to learn more about relationship between sheep, deer and fire. Grass and forest are mutually exclusive.

Doug – sword fern natural understory, eliminated by sheep – expose deadfall, dries out more – more fire hazard? No question that with hotter, drier climate, wildfire will be more and more of a concern.

After 2050 risk of major forest fire on Lasqueti will be much much higher. Need improved fire fighting capability, fire proofing our homes, not useful to argue about effect of sheep

David – time to detection and time detection to response and initial response magnitude are key factors for impact/size of fire. Hard to detect fires when smoke present from distant fires. Issues with dispatch, reliability of phone services etc. Need to ensure that outside fire fighters will come to help. we all need personal evac plans . Also we're so good at preventing fires that we've disrupted natural fire cycle. Need to talk about this more as a community.

Michael Wood – lightning strikes more common now with climate change

Tom – because wildfires are a threat to the enviro, start from that. Self protection most important – clear firebreak, non flammable plants around house.

Amy – most homes built out of kindling – expecting homes to be saved is unrealistic

Andrew – was councillor in highlands after Kelowna fires – importance of community fire plan, education about construction materials. Some houses didn't burn – metal roofs, cleaned gutters out, appropriate veg around house. Don't need to follow everything to the letter, but consistent effort to do next most important thing has big impact

David – best to evacuate if big wildfire, protection of your home will be passive not active protection. Insurers won't insure interface properties anymore.

Several slides about sheep.....

“Sheep management”

“Sheep reduce fire hazard by less undergrowth”
“Sheep as a community resource”
“Human management (more damaging than sheep)”
skipped, discussed already

Any other interests?

Nikki – would like to promote organic food production
in another section of OCP already

Dave Olsen – transportation
coming up with climate change

climate change objectives from current OCP

1- “To promote the use of renewable energy and the development of renewable energy sources, and consider the impacts of climate change in all land use decisions.”

Peter – LTC has little impact on land use decisions, ppl do what they do on their land.

Doug – this would come into play if LTC was looking at creating a dense subdivision away from services = more traffic

2- “To maintain Lasqueti Island's lower than average greenhouse gas emissions and seek out new means of further reducing greenhouse gas emissions through reduced fuel consumption and shifts to alternative forms of energy. While a detailed inventory is required to fully measure greenhouse gas emission rates on the island, an aspirational target of maintaining Lasqueti Island's greenhouse gas emissions at or below 50% of the Canadian per capita average rate is set, to be verified in 2020 and 2050.”

David – have we ever measured and determined that our ghg emissions are lower?

Peter – there was a survey 10 yrs ago, not everyone participated, ppl were unwilling to share how much fuel they used, so not extensive or very reliable

If we don't know, might make decisions that aren't correct, eg Doug's comment about impact of logging vs flights

Ross – should just take out a bunch of this.

Jodi – new batteries at the hall (June), + waterwheel, diesel consumption way down – maybe 1/3rd of how much used before.

Andrew – first part is either true or not but we don't know. Good to say we would like to seek out new means of reducing ghg emissions through reduced fuel consumption and shifts to alternative energy.

Colin – being a Canadian, you have a say over only 10% of fuel used, other 90% of per capita fuel consumption is used just because you can go to the store and buy stuff etc. Look for incentives to support shift away from fossil fuels.

Doug – it's really hard. Lots of embodied energy in goods you buy – esp batteries, several years of use before less impact than burning diesel. Can't just buy your way to a low carbon life. Impact of bringing gravel over for the road – huge impact.

Colin – most of Co2 emissions come from agriculture, esp meat production.

New Interests brought up

1 - “Rideshare program”

David – we have something other communities don't have – regular pattern of movement with ferry traffic – feasibility of shared transport increased. High cost of maintaining a vehicle here. BCAA estimates \$10,000/year on otherside.

Ian – is there anywhere that has studied how this works in small community?

Tim – Gabriola – study, trial, reassessment, reliant on vol drivers, all business that use cooking oil donate their oil for fuel.

Jodi – somebody tried to establish bus service, wasn't economical. Hitchhiking works well.

Sean Bibby – community is our biggest asset, hitchhiking easy, especially around ferry times, using email list, planning rides

Nadine – runs taxi service, only residents, mostly folks who live way off main road, not a money maker, at best a break even venture. Unlikely that a bus service would have enough ridership to pay expenses.

Andrew – LCA formed a rideshare committee. hard to categorize interests – this could go under services too.

Marti – need a cultural shift back to when less cars, neighbours calling each other to share rides when going over or to island events

Dave – ferry dock is a great community resource – will last longer with less vehicle traffic on it. What if we limited dock to only human traffic and moved all freight up the hill to some further spot for distribution there. Roads also a great community resource at this point we still have lots of fossil fuels to work on roads, but what about future. And even now, maybe we could do things to extend life of our roads

2 - "to reduce fossil fuel use."

no comments, already discussed

3 – "To encourage use of low-impact, natural building materials and discourage over-use of high impact materials (eg concrete)."

Sirett – again more a personal thing, ppl will do what they want. We're running out of sand to make concrete with.

David – useful to include this for when RD wants to build things. Eg large concrete pad at recycling

Colin – interested in pooling knowledge with local builders to create a library of building techniques, impacts, longevity, recyclability, toxicity, establish best practices

Nadine – when establishing best practices, builders maybe aren't best source, trying to make a living, will do what owners want

Dave Rogers – low impact/high impact complicated – etc. Metal roof - high energy input to make, but need to consider fireproofing – impact of rebuilding if it burns, longevity

David Slik – type of building on Lasqueti is influenced by cultural norms. If reason people are coming here is to build a city style house, can't do much, but if coming because they've seen local low impact houses and want to build one for themselves...

Sirrett – his experience in construction industry here leads him to believe people coming here are building typical structures to code. Amt of concrete on Lasqueti now is miniscule in grand scheme of things.

Sho – bigger issue is number of woodstoves, probably #1 emitter of particulate. Would like to encourage use of high efficiency stoves, limit # of stoves/property

Amy – wonders how individual independent systems compare to big centralized systems in terms of ghg emissions

Colin – more important to build less drafty homes, more insulated so they don't need as much heating, more important than high efficiency stoves, would like to help people insulate - work parties

Marti – policy in OCP already about high efficiency stoves, insulation etc.

Doug – need to say high efficiency and low emission woodstoves. No good to bank down stove just to give everyone cancer.

4 – “Support growth that is not dependent on fossil fuels.”
no comments

Call from Wendy S the next day – balance between enviro, community, economy, all good to protect enviro but we still have to make a living. don't want to eliminate sheep but want forest to rebound/prosper. maybe something like 'management of invasive species where they interfere with ecological integrity' about a balance rather than all or nothing