

Mayor's Task Force on Climate Change (MTFCC)

September 24, 2014 – Meeting Notes

Present: Mayor Fielding, Councillor Kerbes, Debbie Cox, Roy Collver, Councillor Condon, Bert Putt and Corine (Cory) Gain (Director of Planning).

Regrets: Frank Englehart, Wayne Powers and Mike Seibert

1. Chair opened the meeting at 1:30 p.m.
2. The minutes from the August 27, 2014 meeting were adopted.
3. **2014 First Quarter Energy Management Audit**

Discussion considered the ongoing value of quarterly reports given the information contained therein is for internal consumption only. It was determined that limited new information is being gleaned from the quarterly reports; the issues are well known and are being routinely pursued with staff as standard operating practice (i.e. turning off lights when not in use). It appears it may be appropriate to consider specific actions be undertaken to continue to influence staff behavioral changes separate from the quarterly reporting process to further influence ongoing practices. The committee did recommend that automatic sensors for lights be installed in all district facilities as opportunities present themselves over time. Staff will consider the recommendations in the last several reports and provide a summary to the committee for discussion as to possible future actions.

Future energy management reporting will be confined to annual reporting only. Discussion will be pursued with Systemetic Energy Management as to data gathering requirements on a monthly basis and how this activity may be transitioned to staff to ensure that the information required for annual reporting is gathered appropriately for accurate annual reporting. The 2013 Annual Report is expected to include a comparison of the 2012 and 2013 data. Systemetic Energy Management will be asked to focus on providing the outstanding report rather than any further quarterly reports.

The MTFCC received the report as information and endorsed the recommendation that Quarterly Energy Audits be discontinued.

4. Arterran Renewables – Site Visit Report (Mayor/Councillor Condon)

Councillor Condon provided a description of a project under development by Arterran Renewables that promises to be a viable option for bio-solids disposal. The process works even better with wood waste and cellulose as the input. Essentially, heat and pressure are applied to the raw material to create a product the consistency of ground coffee. The product can then be shaped into pellets and burned at very high efficiency; estimated to burn at an efficiency 1.5 times that of traditional wood pellets for approximately 2/3 the cost of wood pellets. The by-products are 2-3% benign ash (that may be used as fertilizer); CO₂ in an amount similar to that would be generated through decomposition of the same material; and heat from which electricity can be generated. The idea would be to secure a source of wood waste and/or cellulose to be used in a demonstration project to generate electricity that could be sold to the grid for approximately \$112/megawatt. The Mayor and Councillor Condon were shown a proforma based on a five year cycle that demonstrated a positive return-on-investment, involving 24 tanks contained in a steel box approximately 6 ft. x 2.5 ft. around. The idea will be discussed with Minister Steve Thompson, Ministry of Forests at a meeting on October 3, 2014.

The process apparently is started with diesel generated electricity but once functional is a self-supporting process and that generates electricity that can be delivered to the grid to a maximum of 15 megawatts. The process was described as: chipped material is input into tanks in which the contents are “digested” for a approximately 25 minutes; the contents then are subjected to a decanting process (centrifuge/“spin dryer”) to return the catalyst for reuse, resulting in a product similar to ground coffee that has a moisture content of 2% (98% dry) which may either be burned directly or pressed into pellets and distributed for burning.

The committee asked questions about prospective maintenance costs and the reusable proprietary mechanical catalyst that creates the high level of efficiency. Concerns were also expressed about contaminated input generating contaminated output to the environment. Beetle killed wood has been identified as the proposed primary input, supplemented by logging slash and compost waste. The existing compost site was discussed as a potential location in Peachland recognizing that the most significant hurdle to overcome at this time is scale-able proof of concept for production.

The “no waste to energy” lobby was discussed as an impediment to “get past”. The committee also considered funding sources for such a project and it was mentioned that the Western Diversification Fund may be a potential source of funding for this type of demonstration project. One municipality on Vancouver Island and the City of Kelowna are reportedly interested in the technology. The question of transporting waste was identified as a major cost consideration in any such project.

The MTFCC received the verbal report for information.

5. Energy Saving Tips

The Mayor advised that “Energy Saving Tips” will be provided in the Peachland View weekly. Prior to his departure Paul Dupuis, Planning Technician was able to provide the Mayor with a supply of tips for approximately 30 weeks. It was noted that an attempt will be made to quote reports and experts in enhance the perceived validity of the information.

The MTFCC received the verbal report for information.

6. Upcoming Peachland View Article on Solar Power

The Mayor described an article that will appear in this week’s Peachland View regarding solar technology for energy generation. The article includes a brief description of the Community Centre demonstration project and suggestions for reducing energy costs through solar technology.

The MTFCC received the verbal report for information.

7. Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC (Update)

Corine (Cory) Gain advised that there is no new information to share on this grant application at this time.

The MTFCC received the verbal report for information.

8. LED Street Lighting Pilot Project (Update)

Corine (Cory) Gain advised that staff met with the proponents of the LED project, a spare decorative light fixture was packaged by the Operations Department and sent to Toronto for development of a LED retrofit. Work continues on development of the necessary hardware which will be returned for a pilot installation. Once the quality of the solution has been assessed a plan will be developed for additional fixtures to be retro-fitted and installed so that the community can properly assess as group of fixtures as the actual pilot project. Committee members were reminded that there is no existing budget in 2014 for the costs associated with installation of the retro-fitted fixtures and that an installation plan will need to be developed to ensure continued lighting service in the pilot area. There is no budget for the project in 2014 but it is anticipated that a report to the MTFCC and COTW will assess the feasibility of the project for budget consideration in 2015, including the funds necessary to get the pilot project in place.

The MTFCC received the verbal report for information.

9. Other Business

Bert Putt provided some reflections on his trip to Sweden and Germany and discussion ensued regarding energy-related initiatives being undertaken there including laws regarding speed limits for trucks, ‘no-

passing' rules, no driving on Sundays, roundabouts contributing to fuel conservation and no composting of organic waste – waste must be burned. Discussion also included the resurgence of the use of coal for electricity generation in Europe to replace nuclear power plants that are reaching end-of-life and/or being phased out. It was noted that even in the face of this trend, Europe's greenhouse gas emissions continue to drop annually.

There was some minor discussion about whether the Regional District of Central Okanagan considered what Vernon is doing to remediate the local landfill with bio-solids from Vancouver. Some committee members also wondered about the success of the Multi-Materials BC plastic recycling program. The Mayor updated the committee with respect to information available from the Regional District table.

10. Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

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