



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

MAYOR'S AND COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Report from: Councillor Meagan Brame

Subject: AVICC Conference – April 2017 in Campbell River

Council Agenda: April 24, 2017

The following is a summary of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) Annual Conference held in Campbell River April 7-9, 2017.

Keynote Speaker: Chris Turner – Vancouver Island's Place in the Global Energy Transition

- Provided a guided tour of the energy transition that is well underway worldwide. Talked about the global state of the art green energy and grid design to community-scale opportunities for innovation in urban design and energy efficiency
- We started off by doing things “less bad” than before, now we need to move further and do things better over the next 15 to 20 years
- China looking to spend \$3 billion on solar and wind energy – they are one of the leaders on the global transition
- Because the energy transition is such a different mindset, people are either excited or terrified – it is a polar opposite change to current thinking and frightens many. This will take a generation for the change to become comfortable for the masses
- Will we ever NOT need fossil fuels? Likely not, but we can lessen the need for sure
- Being able to see your energy consumption helps people lower their levels
- Being able to collect and store energy – through solar or wind and use as needed and broker back what you don't need, at a better price is where we need to get to
- Copenhagen went the opposite way from most North American cities, they were getting too congested with cars, so they took the cars off some of the roads vs building more roads
- Better Block festival – installed a temporary look to a street to make it more walkable and pedestrian friendly. It allowed people to see something that they would normally not be able to wrap their minds around – example – Dallas, Texas

UBCM – Murry Krause

- Executive has met with all party leaders leading up to this election
- Will continue to push other levels of government on housing. Housing needs a collaborative approach between all levels of government
- Protective services in BC eats up over 30% of budgets. It is becoming out of line and too costly. Believe Fire and Police do good work but it is becoming unaffordable

- Lots of infrastructure grants – all staff should be looking into the various grants and apply
- Federal legislation on Marijuana should be out in Spring. It will take about a year for a BC version of the legislation
- New program UBCM deliverable – \$32 million fund for Emergency Preparedness, risk management, training, etc.

Responsible Conduct of Local Government Elected Officials – Gary MacIsaac and Murry Krause – UBCM

- Responsibility of Local Government's elected officials is a concern for all
- What is responsible conduct – Governance based on good governance principles – transparent; ethical; accountable; respectful of the rule of law; collaborative; effective; efficient
- Working group consisted of MCSCD, LGMABC and UBCM – they defined the problem and did research, consulted with UBCM and LGMA and developed potential approaches
- Foundation for responsible conduct – Unwritten rules or norms, written rules, institutional culture
- Unwritten rules are as important as written rules – they are basic behaviours that are not ok; yelling, name calling, etc.
- Key pressures on this foundation – pervasiveness of social media, post-truth era, loss of knowledge and continuity, shift informs, lack of shared understanding or consensus on norms
- Disrespectful and disruptive behaviour, procedure violations will cause strained relationships, escalation, and issues become chronic, which leads to the inability to govern; loss of credibility; inability to attract candidates or staff
- Mandatory Requirements – Oath of office, procedural bylaws, meeting attendance, Council member/Mayor duties, Human Rights, Criminal Code, Work Safe, FOIPOP
- Voluntary Tools – Conduct rules in Oath or Procedure Bylaw, Code of Conduct, Standard for relationship between Council/Board and staff, advice and education, expert advice, facilitation, dispute resolution, appoint outside party to investigate conduct
- Remedies – Disqualification for some statutory breaches, penalties under statutes, limited role of statutory offices, censure motion
- Should the balance be adjusted between the voluntary and mandated?
- Was interesting to hear from the floor on how many councils appear to be having some issues with this topic. How some councils have asked for help from the Province and they are told "No, deal with it yourself".

Island Corridor Foundation – update

- Board of Directors is in the process of updating the Foundation's business plan and would like input on what the Board's goals and priorities should be in the years ahead
- There is a draft Business Plan for public input online and would like the online feedback form completed by April 30, 2017
- The ICF Board is working on the following items: Skill sets for the appointments of ICF Directors, FAQ webpage is updated monthly, ICF business plan is being updated and SVI is developing a strategic rail plan, Local government Liaison meeting held twice a year

Social Procurement

- Social procurement is the strategic achievement of social, economic and employment objectives through our purchasing of goods, services and infrastructure. It is becoming an accepted practice throughout Canada and the world to invite contractors to advance community social and economic goals as a component of tendering and RFP procurement evaluations
- We must be ever more innovative and strategic to meet our communities' needs
- Benefits and impacts we can achieve by leveraging public funding through social procurement
 - Workforce and skill development benefits – providing community members in need with employment, apprenticeship and training opportunities, leading to further economic and social benefits
 - Community building – recognizing companies/employers for social, economic and environmental contributions they are already providing and strengthening connections and community pride between public, private and non-profit sectors
 - Public space and infrastructure – achieving community strategic priorities such as bike/walking paths, beautification, food security, environmental revitalization and cultural amenities by aligning them with procurement projects
 - Supply chain diversification – expanding RFP/tendering criteria to include and recognize the economic value, innovation and potential of a broader range of firms, including partnerships with non-profit organizations or social enterprises
- An ad hoc working group comprised of elected officials from each sub-region of the AVICC has met quarterly on a volunteer basis to discuss their interest in advancing social procurement across the AVICC region and developing a “Community Benefit Hub” that all interested local governments could access to learn, share experiences and advance social procurement within their own communities
- In 2015, the Village of Cumberland adopted BC's first social procurement framework and piloted successful social tender. In 2016, the Town of Qualicum Beach passed BC's first social procurement policy; in 2016 the City of Courtenay voted to conduct a social procurement pilot
- The municipalities of Victoria, Qualicum Beach and Campbell River are participating in a social procurement infrastructure pilot with Vancouver Island Construction Association and the Construction Foundation of BC, facilitated by Sandra Hamilton, former Business Manager to Vancouver 2010 Olympics CEO John Furlong.

Membership Dues

- 5% dues increase

Next AVICC in 2018

- Victoria

AVICC Special Committee on Solid Waste – Edwin Grieve

- The one mandated services to Regional Districts is solid waste – handed down from the province
- There are significant and long term liability costs with these

- The more we reduce our waste, the less received in tipping fees – though good, it hurts the bottom line
- CRD – tipping fee \$107/t, Recycle and garbage is just about equal – disposal capacity is 30 years
- Cowichan Valley has amazing recycling ability – but they don't have a landfill – it goes to Washington state
- Nanaimo – great organic and recycling numbers
- Tipping fees are 63% of Revenue
- Committee has developed a vision and goals, which include a communication strategy and unified education

Tools for Defending Your Community from Invasive Species

- Qualicum Beach has been battling Broom since 2006. Through Volunteer activism, partnerships and a high community spirit with events, the Town of Qualicum Beach is almost Broom-bloom free
- Invasive plants are non-native, cause harm, establish quickly and can impact public health, environment and economics and 2nd largest threat to biodiversity
- Health and Safety issues: Toxic sap, allergen, poisonous berries/plants and fire hazards
- Property Value: Severe invasive plant infestations can affect your property values and damage homes
- Economic Impacts – early detection = cheaper response to it. It is costly to remove it when it is plentiful, so early detection is key
- Council can create weed bylaws through the Community Charter
- The Weed Control Act, Section 2 lists all the invasive species
- The Province has given some funding for some educational programs to the Coastal Invasive Species Committee
- Provincial approach is early detection, rapid response, regional education and outreach, disposal: issues and opportunities
- Steps to Control Invasive Species:
 - Public Outreach/Education
 - Prevention
 - Landowner/Manager Incentives
 - Early Detection, Rapid Response
 - Inventory and Data Management
 - Prioritize/Plan
 - Treatment, Disposal, Monitoring and Restoration
 - Regulations
- The motto is Cut Broom in Bloom - <http://www.broombusters.org>
- Start in small areas, offer training and tools, do it in the spring, right at ground level, don't disturb the soil though or the seeds will sprout.
- June 6, 2017 – Coastal ISC Spring Forum at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
- Report-a-Weed BC (app)
- Not all green things are created equal!

Respectfully submitted,

Meagan Brame, Councillor