

Councillor Ann Baird's update for June 6, 2016

Social Sustainability Select Committee met on June 1, 2016. The only item on the agenda for the committee to discuss was the intent and scope of a possible survey. I also gave a council update and covered such items as:

- CotW Presentation by Deborah Harford from ACT
- Consultant's presentation by City Spaces regarding the rezoning of the lands for the mine and future industrial site and the possible future committee referral likely to arise on this rezoning application.
- Survey idea will go to the next strategic planning session to determine where it fits into council's priorities.

South Island Prosperity Project (formerly SVIEDA): The new executive director Emilie de Rosenroll and board member Jayne Bradbury met with myself on June 1, 2016 (a lovely meeting at my home), where we discussed Highlands hopes and ideas for economic development in the region. An e-newsletter is planned for Sept, where the new board plans on providing funding partners with information and an overview of how they will incorporate municipal input. The following is a brief overview of the input I provided to Emilie and Jayne:

- Measuring what Matters: Discussed using different indicators rather than Economic Growth. Ideas around well being (not just higher median incomes). I gave them a copy of Victoria's Vital Signs with the article by Dr. Trevor Hancock.
- Conversation around the difference between Business Development and Economic Development
- Identifying the economic opportunities arising from adaptation and mitigation of climate change. Transitioning to a low carbon economy provides enormous economic opportunities.
- Using science to inform the decision making and direction of the organization
- Business sectors of interest:
 - Local food and regenerative agriculture not dependant of fossil fuel inputs
 - Transitioning to sustainable energy
 - Smaller, more efficient, affordable housing - densification, etc
 - Export of ideas and technology and less of material goods.
 - More local tourism. Rising carbon taxes will gradually shift this industry.
- The need to focus on the impacts of rising sea levels and extreme weather events and resultant impacts to municipal infrastructure. Storm water management etc. Local business opportunities arising from this.
 - Shared two reports just released on May 31, 2016 from the Auditor General of Canada's Commissioner of Environment and Sustainable Development reports:
 - Mitigating Impacts of Severe Weather: http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/att_e_41392.html
 - Federal support for sustainable municipal infrastructure: http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/att_e_41389.html
 - Develop local expertise for addressing these municipal issues

CRD Climate Action Inter-Municipal steering committee met on May 17th, 2016.

- We were updated on the work and projects of the CRD Climate action group – this included a discussion on provincial flood plane maps and the need to update the predication for sea level rise. I spoke to this and there seemed to be unanimous support that the CRD should update the regional adaptation plan regardless of where the province is. Glenn Harris also agreed but it comes down to capacity and budget.
- We then had a round table discussion and I shared the Highlights of the presentation by Deborah Harford. All at the table were expressing interest in having Ms. Harford present to their community. Glenn Harris was tasked with looking into the possibility of having Ms Harford present the Quorum of Councils.

- Colwood (Councillor Cynthia Day), spoke to the need to have release of soil carbon included in the RGS section on agriculture. Also spoke to how Colwood is factoring sea level rise into development and building permits. Also new retaining wall regulations for adaptation and protection of habitat. Financial planning to move wastewater facilities away from the shorelines.
- Oak Bay (Councillor Braithwaite). They have a Climate Action staff person providing a report to council – will be shared with our group
- Metchosin (Councillor Andy McKinnon) spoke of many great initiatives including their new tree cutting bylaw that is far more robust than Highlands. Also considering solar PV on municipal building, and green/blue infrastructure to protect shorelines.
- Sydney (Councillor Barbara Fallot) said that her community isn't thinking about rising sea levels (even though they are the most vulnerable)
- N. Saanich (Councillor Thornburg) shared their work regarding Town Hall meeting on LNG, and their opposition to site C dam (AVICC resolution passed), and they are studying how waves impact their shoreline with rising sea levels.
- Saanich (Councillor V. Sanders) sharing sea level rise impacts already at Cadboro Bay, update on their Environmental DPA and challenges, and energy upgrades.
- Esquimalt (councilor Beth Burton Krahn), focus on wastewater, water reuse, and ocean setbacks.
- Most municipal representatives spoke to the RGS and how they voted regarding the removal from the RGS of water servicing as a regional growth tool. Most were split votes narrowly supporting removal, but Saanich voted the same as Highlands.
- Our group had an update on the RGS. More clarity of how the deleted topics from the RSS would be included in other documents.