



Regional Board Report

TO: Regional Board

FROM: Todd Cashin
Director of Community Services

DATE: January 16, 2020

SUBJECT: Environmental Advisory Commission Appointments (File: 0540-20)

Voting Entitlement: *All Directors – Unweighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority – LGA 208.1*

Purpose: To consider the appointment of members to the Environmental Advisory Commission as well as the re-appointment of two existing members.

Executive Summary:

The Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) functions as an Advisory Planning Commission to the Regional Board. All members are volunteers and appointed by the Regional Board.

In accord with the EAC Terms of Reference, membership shall consist of eight to thirteen voting members. The EAC would benefit from additional members, reflecting a diverse background of academic and technical expertise. Further, the re-appointment of existing EAC members would allow for continuity throughout the membership with the overlap of various terms.

RECOMMENDATION #1:

THAT the Regional Board approve the appointment of Catherine Nesmith and Gisele Rehe as members of the Regional District Environmental Advisory Commission for three-year terms commencing January 2020.

RECOMMENDATION #2:

THAT the Regional Board approve the re-appointment of Tanis Gieselman and Rihanna Moghadas for a three-year term as members of the Regional District Environmental Advisory Commission commencing March 2020.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Cashin".

Todd Cashin
Director of Community Services

Approved for Board's Consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Reardon".

Brian Reardon, CAO

Prepared by: Danika Dudzik, Planner

Implications of Recommendation:

Strategic Plan:	Appointing new members to the EAC and the re-appointment of two Commission members supports the 2019-2022 Strategic Priorities Plan with respect to Sustainable Communities and Environment.
Policy:	Appointing new members to the EAC and the re-appointment of existing members complies with policies and objectives of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RDCO Official Community Plans and Joe Rich Rural Land Use Bylaw, and• Environmental Advisory Commission Terms of Reference
Legal/Statutory Authority:	Authority to appoint new members to the EAC and re-appoint members is subject to the provisions found in Section 461 of the <i>Local Government Act</i> .

Environmental Advisory Commission Background:**History:**

The EAC is an Advisory Commission of the Regional Board. The Commission provides advice to the Board, other Commissions, and staff regarding environmental matters including the protection, enhancement, restoration, management and appreciation of our common natural heritage. Further, the Commission supports and promotes Regional District environmental initiatives.

The Terms of Reference outlines that membership of the EAC shall be comprised of not less than eight or more than thirteen volunteer individuals who reside within the Regional District of Central Okanagan. Furthermore, the membership will reflect a diversity of environmental professions and professionals, with academic or technical qualifications or demonstrated interest and participation in environmental and community matters. Appointments are for a three-year term; a member may be re-appointed to serve a maximum of two consecutive three year terms.

Current:

There are currently ten volunteer members on the EAC, two of these members have terms expiring March 2020. To ensure the Commission remains in compliance with the membership criteria identified in the Terms of Reference, Planning staff is recommending that two of these members be re-appointed and two people be appointed as new Commission members. These appointments will ensure that there is overlap of new and experienced members.

The following proposed appointments will bring expertise and knowledge that will be of great value to the EAC:

- Tanis Gieselman, of Kelowna, is a skilled plant ecologist with experience in academia and field work, specializing in habitat fragmentation in the Okanagan region. Tanis has a long-standing interest in landscape design and reclamation. As a long-time resident of the Okanagan, she has been involved with various organizations such as Central Okanagan Land Trust and Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program. Tanis has been a valuable asset to the EAC over the last few years and has expressed a desire to remain on the EAC for an additional three-year term.

- Rihanna Moghadas graduated from UBC Okanagan with a Master of Applied Science degree in Civil Engineering. She is a qualified Civil Engineer with extensive knowledge on hydraulics and structural engineering. She has experience in: water distribution networks for urban and agricultural areas; hydrologic modeling of run off processes; and review of construction plans to comply with regulations and building code specifications. Rihanna has been a valuable asset to the EAC over the last few years and has expressed a desire to remain on the EAC for an additional three-year term.
- Catherine Nesmith, of Kelowna, has a PhD in geography with years of academic experience teaching and contributing to leading-edge research. Over her career, she has worked in diverse sectors and is an experienced facilitator. With extensive volunteer experience in local government on various committees in the lower mainland she has knowledge of meeting producers and operations. Catherine would like to contribute to decision making in the region that will promote the effective management of the environment.
- Gisele Rehe, of Kelowna, has a multi-disciplinary background working in local government and the private sector. She has previously been employed in various roles with the Regional District of Central Okanagan and is currently employed as an Environmental Scientist for Associated Environmental. Gisele is a professional agrologist and actively involved in the BC Institute of Agrologists. With past volunteer experience for the Oceola Fish & Game Club and UBC WISE (Women in Science & Engineering), knowledge of RDCO regulations and policies, as well as environmental management, Gisele would like to contribute to a balanced approach between development and the environment.

Alternative Recommendation #1:

THAT the Regional Board not appoint new Regional District Environmental Advisory Commission members at this time.

Alternative Recommendation #2:

THAT the Regional Board not re-appoint Regional District Environmental Advisory Commission members at this time.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

- *General*
- *Organizational Issues*
- *Financial Considerations*
- *External Implications*

Attachment(s):

- N/A