



Regional Board Report

TO: Regional Board

FROM: Todd Cashin
Director of Community Services

DATE: September 10, 2020

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

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

Purpose: To consider the appointment of one new member to the Environmental Advisory Commission for a three-year term.

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 accordance 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.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Regional Board approve the appointment of Leah Schurian as a member of the Regional District Environmental Advisory Commission for a three-year term commencing October 2020-September 2023.

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: Brittany Lange, Environmental Planner

Implications of Recommendation:

Strategic Plan:	Appointing a new member to the EAC supports the 2019-2022 Strategic Priorities Plan with respect to Sustainable Communities and Environment.
Policy:	Appointing a new member to the EAC 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 a new member to the EAC 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 eleven volunteer members on the EAC and Planning staff is recommending that one person be appointed as a new Commission member.

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

Leah Schurian, of Kelowna, is a self-employed lawyer practicing in the areas of estate planning and business law. Leah is the current president of the Friends of Woodhaven Nature Conservancy Society and volunteers with the BC SPCA. Leah also served as resolution arbitrator for Westbank First Nation for a number of years and has experience working with local government. As a long-time resident of the Okanagan, she is passionate about the community and committed to ensuring the natural environment is protected for future generations. Leah has an interest in environmental advocacy, ecological restoration, and land use planning. Leah would like to contribute to decision making in the region that will promote the effective management and protection of the environment.

Alternative Recommendation:

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

Considerations not applicable to this report:

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

Attachment(s):

- N/A