

SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT

AREA E – ELPHINSTONE ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION

October 23, 2019

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AREA E ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
HELD AT FRANK WEST HALL, 1224 CHASTER ROAD, ELPHINSTONE, BC

PRESENT:	Chair	Mary Degan
	Members	Rod Moorcroft Dougald Macdonald Nara Brenchley Anne Cochran Rick Horsley Mike Doyle
ALSO PRESENT:	Electoral Area E Director	Donna McMahon (Non-Voting Board Liaison)
	Recording Secretary Public	Diane Corbett 6
REGRETS:	Members	Lynda Chamberlin Bob Morris

CALL TO ORDER 7:02 p.m.

AGENDA The agenda was adopted as presented.

MINUTES

Elphinstone (Area E) APC Minutes

The Elphinstone (Area E) APC minutes of September 25, 2019 were approved as circulated.

Minutes

Minutes received for information:

- Egmont/Pender Harbour (Area A) APC Minutes of September 25, 2019
- Halfmoon Bay (Area B) APC Minutes of September 24, 2019
- Roberts Creek (Area D) APC Minutes of September 16, 2019
- West Howe Sound (Area F) APC Minutes of September 24, 2019
- Planning and Community Development Committee Minutes of September 12, 2019

REPORTS

Consultation Process for BC Timber Sales Licence A91376 (Reed Road)

The APC discussed the staff report regarding Consultation Process for BC Timber Sales Licence A91376 (Reed Road). Members of the public were invited to share their views.

Elphinstone Advisory Planning Commission previously submitted to the SCRD two to three pages of comments on BCTS and District Lot 1313.

The following concerns and points were noted:

1) Need for a regional plan:

- There is need for a land and resource management plan or regional growth strategy for the Sunshine Coast. We are one of the few areas in the province that does not have a land and resource management plan.
- Present a plan to BCTS for what we want on these lands and get the support of the community. Show a few ideas of what we want to do with this land that we want to have protected. Make a case that it would be of significant economic benefit to protect some of this remarkable forest. Whistler forests are immensely successful.
 - Example: installation of a trail from Langdale to Wilson Creek that passes in some places at higher levels than the power line, through old growth forest. Have one main trunk trail that is accessible and easy to use for all ages.
 - Get more support from the community, such as the Chamber of Commerce. Have a display in the mall about what could be done up there; people would get interested.
 - Have billboards out to increase public awareness that only 3% of the forest is protected.
 - Do a traffic count under the power line at B&K Road to Crow Road; measure volume and type of use. Traffic figures would be valuable to show (mountain bikers, hikers, mushroom pickers). The Regional District should say this is like a provincial park; do not cut within this area.

2) Need for increased forest protection to maintain and protect biodiversity and to protect community interests:

- Forest protection in this region is 3%; average in BC is 15%; Lower Mainland protection is 14%; Canada recommends 17% protected forest to maintain biodiversity. This area is impoverished in terms of balance in the use of the forest with 3% protection; help is need at the minister level so we do not end up being destroyed piece by piece by piece.
- The interstitial zone between communities is being targeted because of beetle kill and fires in BC. It is vital for our community to protect DL 1313. For the lower Sunshine Coast we should have a band of protection along Mount Elphinstone. We are treated like a tree farm on the coast. Trees grow fast; it is not cold in winter; it is wet.
- Issues pertaining to logging in DL 1313: proximity to residences; potential impacts on well water and water supply; it is a beautiful area.
- We depend on tourism. Once the forest is logged, it is gone for good. The view will be impacted, with clearcuts all over Elphinstone. If people want a community that is attractive, do not clearcut.

- Foresters are now talking about the absolute importance of carbon capture. That is where our future is. We are putting on growth rates of about one inch a year. We have to keep those trees standing.
- DL1312 was logged about six or seven years ago; the stumps were an average of 98 years of age, and were one meter in width. It is incredible country for growing trees. It should be a research operation. We should have another twelve to fifteen thousand hectares of that quality of forest from which to capture carbon. Carbon has a price – probably \$20-\$25 per cubic meter – growing every year.
- Need a forest planner at the municipal level; get a hand on management of our forest resource, including mushrooms, carbon capture, and water.

3) Need for SCR D Directors to communicate with decision makers:

- SCR D directors should express SCR D interests to the Minister (FLNRORD); should also talk to the Sechelt Nation, now moving into a management plan. Should approach the Squamish Nation.
- Recommend that the Regional District request a meeting with and work with Nicholas Simons to get a meeting with a combination of the Minister of FLNRORD and Minister of the Environment, and include representatives from other groups. Look at DL 1313 as an exemplar of what needs to be done for interstitial areas of the coast.
- Get the ear of somebody with connections, who can put a bug in somebody's ear. To get things done, it is who you know.

4) Challenges in working with BC Timber Sales:

- Concern that, after the input of local volunteer time and information gathering during a consultation, BCTS will do whatever it wants and is under no obligation to accept what is proposed by the community, as has happened previously.
- We are up against the coffers of the province looking at billions of dollars. They want this tree farm area as their breadbasket, and are ignoring that we need this also.
- BCTS is an extension of the forest industry; they are fighting for their jobs.
- Under the direction of BCTS, the logging rights to blocks of our remarkable and rare low elevation forests have been issued to non local contractors and the logs are shipped, no value added, to distant markets. We, our children and grandchildren, all lose!

Director McMahon indicated her availability to meet with interested residents for further discussion on District Lot 1313 and the broader issue of a buffer zone.

Recommendation No. 1 *Consultation Process for BC Timber Sales Licence A91376 (Reed Road)*

The Elphinstone (Area E) APC recommended that Elphinstone Community Association be included as a stakeholder group in the consultation process.

Recommendation No. 2 *Consultation Process for BC Timber Sales Licence A91376 (Reed Road)*

The Elphinstone (Area E) APC recommended that we are pleased to hear about the Minister's commitment to meaningful communication; we look forward to engaging and are gratified to hear that no decision will be made until community voice is heard.

Recommendation No. 3 *Consultation Process for BC Timber Sales Licence A91376 (Reed Road)*

The Elphinstone (Area E) APC recommended that we strongly feel that what is needed from a planning perspective is a Regional Growth Strategy or Land and Resource Management Plan, a process that involves all of the stakeholders on the Sunshine Coast, including the Sechelt and Squamish First Nations.

Recommendation No. 4 *Consultation Process for BC Timber Sales Licence A91376 (Reed Road)*

The Elphinstone (Area E) APC recommended support for getting started in the workbook provided for engagement.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director's report was received.

NEXT MEETING November 27, 2019

ADJOURNMENT 8:33 p.m.