

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Committee in Attendance:

Jeff Austin  
Tanis Gieselmann

Tom Warshawski  
Gisele Rehe

Committee attending online:

Robert Stupka

Staff in Attendance:

Brittany Nichols, Manager of Development Services    Jing Niu, Environmental Planner  
Travis Kendel, Acting Director of Engineer            Sandi Horning, Deputy Corporate Officer  
Tanya Atkinson, Planning Assistant (Recording)

Guest in Attendance:

Doug Bentley, Bercum Builders (FEX-23-02)

*Orientation commenced at 5:03 p.m.*

**1. General Orientation**

- a. Introductions to Corporate Services, Engineering Services, and Development Services
  - Staff presented introductions to the functions and services provided by the noted departments.
- b. Orientation & Code of Conduct by Corporate Services
  - Staff provided and overview of RDCO committee functions and code of conduct policy.

**2. Call to Order**

The Deputy Corporate Officer assumes Acting Chair duties and called the meeting in order at 5:53 p.m.

**3. Land Acknowledgement**

The RDCO acknowledges that this meeting is being held on the traditional territory of the syilx/Okanagan Peoples.

**4. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair**

- a. Chair assumes duties.
  - Acting Chair requested names for Chair and Vice Chair. No response.
  - Staff provided clarification of duties. T. Warshawski put his name forward.

STUPKA/REHE

THAT T. Warshawski be elected Chair of the Environment and Climate Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

- J. Austin put his name forward for Vice Chair.

WARSHAWSKI/GIESELMAN

THAT J. Austin be elected Vice Chair of the Environment and Climate Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

**5. Inaugural Meeting**

- a. Meeting Schedule

STUPKA/GIESELMAN

THAT Committee accept the proposed dates as standing 2024 ECAC meetings, with the understanding that additional meetings may be called if necessary.

- b. Official Community Plans and Development Permit Process Overview
  - Staff provided information regarding RDCO land use regulations and associated processes.

**6. Referrals**

- a. FEX-23-02 – Flood Exemption Application (9651 Kilkenny PI, Central Okanagan West Electoral Area)
  - Staff presented Flood Exemption Application FEX-23-02 to committee, noting development proposal to maintain and renovate an existing cabin, including flood protection measures to support structural foundations within the Okanagan Lake floodplain setback area.
  - Committee members sought clarification regarding development details such as on building and deck location.

STUPKA / AUSTIN

THAT the applicant/agent be invited to speak about the project.

CARRIED

- D. Bentley agent/applicant addressed the committee at podium, noting: Agent cannot speak to the age of the deck. Clarified client is aiming to shore up the house and mitigate the scouring areas around the footing and that an Environmental Assessment was completed to mitigate environmental impact to the lake itself.

Discussion

- Committee members raised concerns regarding the legal status of the deck.
- Staff noted that staff is pursuing clarification on the status of the deck and that there is opportunity to recommend additional measures through to the Regional Board and/or via permitting.
- Committee members discussed considerations for geotechnical/structural support, flood impacts to riparian habitat and vegetation.

WARSHAWSKI / GIESELMAN

THAT the ECAC supports the FEX-23-02 subject to staff confirming the structures are *legal* non-conforming.

Anecdotal Comments:

It is noted committee members found it challenging to confirm support due to the limited clarity regarding the status of the deck, and that not all members are comfortable with the proximity of the subject structure to Okanagan Lake.

CARRIED

**7. Other Business**

- None noted.

**8. Adjourn meeting**

- The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

**CERTIFIED TO BE TRUE AND CORRECT**

**Original signed by**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Warshawski, Chair