

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO**

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2011**

**CIRCULATED REPORT  
FOR AGENDA**

**PAGES**

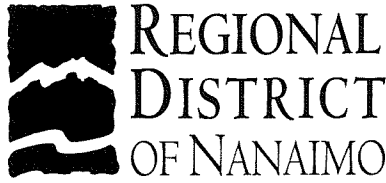
**BYLAWS**

**Public Hearing and Third Reading.**

2-33

Report on the Public Hearings held October 5 and October 6, 2011 on Bylaw No. 1615 – Regional Growth Strategy.





RDN REPORT	
CAO APPROVAL <i>[Signature]</i>	
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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Paul Thompson  
Manager of Long Range Planning

**DATE:** October 7, 2011

**FROM:** Lisa Bhopalsingh  
Senior Planner

**FILE:** 6780 30

**SUBJECT: Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1615, 2011 Public Hearing Report & Referrals to Affected Local Governments**

**PURPOSE**

To receive a report summarizing the comments of Public Hearings conducted for “Regional District of Nanaimo Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1615” and to consider the referral of Bylaw No. 1615 (*the Bylaw*) in accordance with the *Local Government Act* to ‘*affected local governments*’ (member municipalities and adjacent regional districts).

**BACKGROUND**

The RDN Board gave “Regional District of Nanaimo Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1615, 2011” first and second reading on June 28, 2011. Following this decision, new comments on the proposed Bylaw were received from First Nations and provincial agencies. On August 23, 2011, the RDN Board approved the inclusion of amendments to the proposed Bylaw in order to address some of these comments. This was done by rescinding the second reading of the Bylaw given on June 28, 2011, and giving an amended second reading to Bylaw No. 1615 on August 23, 2011.

After the August 23, 2011 Board meeting, further requests for amendments were received from K’ómoks First Nation and the Town of Qualicum Beach. The RDN Board subsequently approved these requests by rescinding the second reading of the Bylaw given on August 23, 2011, and giving an amended second reading to Bylaw No. 1615 on September 13, 2011 and staff was directed to proceed with scheduling public hearings for the Bylaw.

In order to provide better accessibility to residents living in different areas of the RDN, the public hearing for Bylaw No. 1615 was scheduled on two consecutive dates (October 5 and 6, 2011) at two different locations (City of Nanaimo and Town of Qualicum Beach). Notice of the public hearings for the Bylaw was published in local newspapers in accordance with the *Local Government Act*. In addition, information about the Bylaw and the Public Hearing Notice was sent via e-mail between September 14 and 16, 2011 to RDN member municipalities, First Nations Governments, community members and organizations on e-mail lists for the Regional Growth Strategy Review. The Bylaw and Public Hearing Notice were also made available for review on the RDN web site and at the RDN offices from June 29, 2011 onwards.

The first half of the public hearing for Bylaw No. 1615 was conducted by Chair Stanhope, as a delegation of the Board, on Wednesday, October 5, 2011, at Beban Park Recreation Centre located in the City of Nanaimo. The second half of the public hearing was also conducted by Chair Stanhope on Thursday, October 6, 2011, at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre located in the Town of Qualicum Beach.

On October 5, there were approximately 14 people in attendance, and 5 people delivered verbal submissions. On October 6, there were approximately 26 people in attendance, and 5 people delivered verbal submissions. A total of 5 written submissions about the Bylaw were received as part of the public hearing. A report of the public hearing, which includes a summary of the verbal submissions and complete copies of written submissions, is provided for the Board's consideration (*see Attachment 1*).

In accordance with the *Local Government Act*, the RGS Bylaw must be formally referred to RDN 'affected local governments' (member municipalities and adjacent regional districts), for their consideration of acceptance. The RDN Board cannot consider adopting the Bylaw until each of these local governments has accepted the Bylaw by resolution within the timeframe specified by the *Local Government Act*.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

1. To receive the Report of the Public Hearing conducted for Bylaw No. 1615, make no further changes to the Bylaw and direct staff to proceed with referrals to member municipalities and adjacent regional districts for their consideration of acceptance.
2. To receive the Report of the Public Hearing conducted for Bylaw No. 1615, and provide direction to staff to bring forward changes to the Bylaw to address specific issues identified by the Board based upon the outcome of the public hearing.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no additional financial implications involved with proceeding with the recommendation to refer Bylaw No. 1615 to 'affected local governments' for their consideration of acceptance beyond those resources already budgeted for the RGS review process. However, as noted in earlier reports, should one or more of the 'affected local governments' choose not to accept the proposed Bylaw then there are potentially significant financial implications involved if external mediators/arbitrators are required to settle outstanding issues.

Should the RDN Board wish to make a change to the Bylaw at this stage, it would need to rescind the most recent 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Bylaw and give the Bylaw (with the changes included) another 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. The Board would also have to conduct another public hearing, prior to referring it to the member municipalities and adjacent regional districts for acceptance. If the RDN Board chose to do this then there would be additional costs in related staff time and resources to undertake this course of action.

## **LAND USE & SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Should the Board proceed with directing staff to refer Bylaw No. 1615 as it stands for acceptance by 'affected local governments', then the land use and sustainability implications explained in previous reports to the Board continue to be relevant.

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS**

The public hearing for the Bylaw was a final opportunity for individuals to make their views known regarding the Bylaw prior to the RDN Board considering the Bylaw for adoption. The public hearing was one of numerous opportunities for public input during the RGS review process. Individuals and community groups have had a variety of opportunities to participate in all three phases of public consultation conducted since 2008. This included surveys, public forums, workshops and presentations to a wide diversity of community groups. The results of the 2011 survey on the draft RGS that was put forward as part of Bylaw 1615 showed clear support for the Bylaw.

It is also staff's assessment that the results of the public hearing also indicate that there is general support for the Bylaw. A few of the suggestions or comments made with regard to requesting changes to the RGS were related to issues that are already addressed by the RGS and/or that involve putting higher levels of detail in the RGS and as such reflect issues previously considered by the RDN Board prior to releasing the RGS for public review. A few comments were also made that relate directly to concerns about implementation and monitoring of the RGS and will subsequently be considered by staff as part of that process.

Based upon previous direction from the RDN Board and prior public consultation on the draft RGS, staff do not recommend further changes to Bylaw No. 1615.

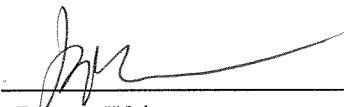
## **SUMMARY/CONCLUSION**


Following the initial first and second reading of Bylaw No. 1615, 2011 on June 28, 2011, the RDN Board gave an amended second reading to the Bylaw on August 23, 2011 and another amended second reading most recently on September 13, 2011. Public hearings for the Bylaw were subsequently held on October 5 and 6, 2011 in the City of Nanaimo and Town of Qualicum Beach. A total of five written or verbal submissions were received at the public hearing. The submissions received as part of the public hearing either indicate support for the RGS or make requests for items already in the RGS, deal with implementation of the RGS or ask for a higher level of detail. Based upon previous direction from the RDN Board and prior public consultation on the draft RGS, staff do not recommend further changes to Bylaw No. 1615.

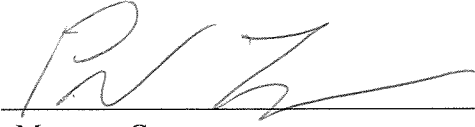
The next step is for the Board to refer the bylaw to affected local governments. The RDN Board can only adopt the bylaw after it has been accepted by the affected local governments.

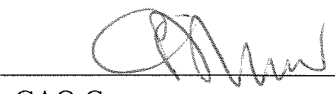
**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Report of the Public Hearing conducted for “Regional District of Nanaimo Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1309”, be received as set out in Attachment 1 of this report.
2. That “Regional District of Nanaimo Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1615, 2011” be referred to member municipalities and adjacent regional districts for acceptance.

  
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Report Writer

  
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General Manager Concurrence

  
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Manager Concurrence

  
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CAO Concurrence

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**REPORT SUMMARIZING THE RESULTS  
OF THE PUBLIC HEARING**

**TO CONSIDER REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY  
BYLAW NO. 1615, 2011**

**HELD**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2011 AT 7:00 PM AT BEBAN PARK LOUNGE,  
2300 BOWEN ROAD, NANAIMO**

**AND**

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 6, 2011 AT 7:00 PM AT QUALICUM BEACH CIVIC CENTRE,  
747 JONES STREET, QUALICUM BEACH**

**REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEARING HELD WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2011 AT  
7:00 PM AT BEBAN PARK LOUNGE, 2300 BOWEN ROAD, NANAIMO  
TO CONSIDER REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO REGIONAL GROWTH  
STRATEGY BYLAW NO. 1615, 2011**

*Note that this report is not a verbatim recording of the proceedings but is intended to summarize the comments of those in attendance at the Public Hearing.*

**Present for the Regional District of Nanaimo:**

Joe Stanhope	Chair, Director, Electoral Area 'G' and RDN Board Chairperson
Joe Burnett	Director, Electoral Area 'A'
Maureen Young	Director, Electoral Area 'C'
Dave Bartram	Director, Electoral Area 'H'
Carol Mason	Chief Administrative Officer
Paul Thorkelsson	General Manager of Development Services
Paul Thompson	Manager of Long Range Planning
John Finnie	General Manager, Regional & Community Utilities
Lisa Bhopalsingh	Senior Planner
Stephen Boogaards	Planner

There were approximately 14 people in attendance at the Public Hearing on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Written submissions were received during the Public Hearing from:

- 1 Dean Gaudry (representative of Nanaimo Area Land Trust), 126 Cilaire Drive, Nanaimo, BC and Don Cohen (representative of Nanaimo Area Land Trust), 100 Pirates Lane, Nanaimo, BC
- 2 Laurie Gourlay (Mid Island Sustainability Initiative), Box 333, Cedar, BC

These written submissions are provided in Appendix A of this Report of the Public Hearing.

**The Chair, Director Stanhope** opened the meeting at 7:00 pm and introduced those attending the meeting from the RDN.

**The Chair, Director Stanhope** stated the purpose of the Public Hearing and requested that staff explain the Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1615, 2011.

**Lisa Bhopalsingh, Senior Planner** provided a description of the Bylaw.

**The Chair, Director Stanhope** outlined the Public Hearing procedures and invited submissions with respect to the proposed Bylaw from the audience.

**Dean Gaudry (representative of Nanaimo Area Land Trust), 126 Cilaire Drive, Nanaimo, BC and Don Cohen (representative of Nanaimo Area Land Trust), 100 Pirates Lane, Nanaimo, BC**

Mr. Gaudry and Mr. Cohen provided a handout of the "Summary of Goals and Strategies" resulting from the September 2011, Nanaimo River Symposium (included as part of the written submissions in Appendix A). They expressed appreciation for the introduction to their Symposium that was written by Joe Stanhope, the RDN Chair.



They stated that they want to draw attention to limited access to the Nanaimo River for public recreation. There is limited opportunity to acquire land to access the river as the majority is privately owned due to the E&N land grant. The Symposium is the beginning of a process to give various values of the river a voice including fish values, drinking water, agriculture and recreation. They see this as an ongoing process to help address deficits such as access to the Nanaimo River.

They said that they have examined the way that the River Watershed Management Board is dealing with water issues in Cowichan involving various stakeholders. The Symposium in Nanaimo was part of an effort to undertake a similar process of bringing stakeholders together with a much smaller budget. They urged the RDN to continue to pursue park acquisition.

They noted that there are goals in the RGS to deal with population growth and climate change. Climate change will have a big impact on river flows. They stated that this needs to be considered in the RGS. Some ideas to address this issue are conservation measures to reduce demand on water from the river, such as using rain water catchment for water supply. They said that there are options that will allow for future population growth to occur without adverse impacts on the Nanaimo River.

They urged the RDN to consider all of the stakeholders involved in watershed protection. They expressed disappointment that First Nations did not participate in the Symposium despite presentations on the impacts of the Douglas Treaty on the first day.

The RDN and Tom Osborne (the General Manager of Parks and Recreation) were thanked for acquiring and developing the first park on the upper part of the river. The RDN was urged not to wait for future development in order to acquire park lands. It was noted that working groups will be meeting again on Nov 19<sup>th</sup> and again in January 2012. They stated that they feel the Cowichan model of watershed management would also work for Nanaimo. They also feel that there is the start of a positive dialogue with all stakeholders in the Nanaimo River and welcome continued involvement of the Region. They noted that there is a need to consider and understand the River's carrying capacity, if we want to maintain the other values of the river.

**Laurie Gourlay, (Mid Island Sustainability Initiative - MISSI), Box 333, Cedar, BC** - Mr. Gourlay provided a written handout of a letter dated September 27, 2011 and addressed to the RDN Committee of the Whole (included as part of the written submissions in Appendix A).

Mr. Gourlay discussed the development of an initiative for a 'Green Gateway to Vancouver Island' as proposed in his written submission. He indicated that the submission from MISSI will address environmental issues while maintaining quality of life. He then spoke to the following points:

1 - Sustainability checklist – Mr. Gourlay noted that the RDN only adopted a portion of a sustainability checklist that MISSI developed and that the RDN should consider MISSI's entire checklist especially those parts that involve rural lands. He stated that rural land owners should be compensated for environmental services for conserving land.

2 - Water – Mr. Gourlay stated that land use and ground water use needs to be fully planned. He stated that aquifer protection is lacking and needs to be addressed very soon because it will jeopardize future sustainability. MISSI believes that using the precautionary principle would be the best approach. He is pleased to see some concerns raised in the RDN's snapshot on water report. He noted concerns about the condition of both Yellowpoint and Cassidy aquifers and a lack of understanding about them. He stated that more study of these aquifers is needed before further development is permitted and that priority

action and attention should be given to the Yellowpoint and Cassidy aquifers as part of the RDN's Drinking Water Watershed Protection program. He noted that education and outreach should be used to help achieve watershed protection.

3 - Coastal Communities Biosphere Reserve – Mr. Gourlay provided a handout brochure to explain the proposed Biosphere Reserve which was endorsed at the Nanaimo River Symposium. He stated that MISSI requests that RDN support these initiatives. The Biosphere Reserve would be similar to the one set up for Mt. Arrowsmith. He also spoke about a possible Marine Reserve.

4 - Trails and Corridors – Mr. Gourlay stated MISSI has had discussions with the federal and provincial government on the concept of a circular trail in the southern portion of the RDN. He encouraged the RDN to incorporate these options in the RGS. He said that there is little parkland in the south of the RDN and there is a need for the RDN to invest money in trails and parklands equal to that done in the north of the RDN. He indicated that there are several opportunities for park acquisition. He stated that he had suggested the RDN consider hundreds of acres available on the Nanaimo River and that he has not received a reply from the RDN about these suggestions.

5 - Nanaimo River Watershed discussed at Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) – Mr. Gourlay stated that he was pleased that local governments at the recent UBCM meeting called for local government ownership of watersheds. He noted that this reflects MISSI concerns about problems with rivers and aquifers in Electoral Area A.

Mr. Gourlay noted that there are various issues listed in his letter handout and proceeded to read from it (see Appendix A for more detail). Mr. Gourlay then concluded his oral submission by saying that MISSI looks forward to establishing a working relationship with RDN.

**Brian Lennox, 3444 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo, BC** - Mr. Lennox spoke to a study conducted by Associated Engineering for the Regional District of Nanaimo in 1972. He noted that this study addresses many of the issues that the RDN is dealing with now. He stated that in 1972, the study projected a future RDN population of 100,000. At that time there were plans for an integrated water system from Deep Bay to South Wellington. Due to costs this was not undertaken. He stated that 40 years ago there was more consensus than there is today. He stated that the RDN should look at the study which is titled 'Regional Water Study, Regional District of Nanaimo'. He has a copy that can be made available and the study is also at the City Archives.

**Joyce Lee, City of Nanaimo, BC** - Ms. Lee indicated that she saw nothing addressing greenways in the RGS and that she encouraged the RDN to look at having a greenways strategy within the RGS. She noted that there are funds towards identifying greenways that improve connectivity for wildlife, Garry oak meadows and other environmental purposes. She said that with increasing population more people will be looking at developing sites on rocky bluffs which are also those with the rarest ecosystems. Encouraging connectivity between sensitive ecosystem sites is important. She stated that wildlife habitats will be doomed unless they are connected.

**Laurie Gourlay, (Mid Island Sustainability Initiative - MISSI), Box 333, Cedar, BC** - Mr. Gourlay, spoke for a second time reading excerpts from his submission (See letter dated September 27, 2011 in Appendix A). He spoke to the 'Green Gateway to Vancouver Island' that MISSI is proposing to encourage economic partnerships with all levels of government responsible for the mid-island, coast and strait of Georgia that could be done while also protecting the environment.

He spoke to designating a National Marine Conservation Area, including the Nanaimo River Estuary, a Coastal Communities Biosphere Reserve and participating in economic partnerships with Victoria and Vancouver's 'Green City' initiatives. He also noted that the 'Green Gateway' initiative includes suggesting a corridor linkage between cities and communities across the coastal range as well as a greenbelt across mid-Vancouver Island.

Mr. Gourlay stated that with the upcoming UN Rio conference in 2012 he would like to see the RDN put local implementation into effect. He indicated that he would like to have a conversation about partnerships and opportunities for economic diversity.

**Joyce Lee, City of Nanaimo, BC** - Ms. Lee made a second oral submission noting that the Capital Regional District had adopted a green ways / blue ways strategy as part of their Regional Growth Strategy. She noted that having a green way strategy would give us a viable way to live more sustainably.

**The Chair, Director Stanhope** called for further submissions a first time.

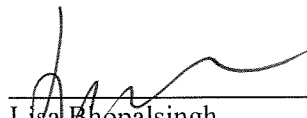
**The Chair, Director Stanhope** called for submissions a second time.

**The Chair, Director Stanhope** called for submissions a third time and final time. Hearing none, the Chair thanked those in attendance and announced that the Public Hearing would continue tomorrow evening at 7:00 pm at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre at 747 Jones Street in Qualicum Beach. He informed those present that the RDN Board will be receiving the report of the public hearing at a Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, October 11 at 7:00 pm in the RDN Board Chambers.

The public hearing was closed at 7:50 pm.

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Director Joe Stanhope  
RDN Board Chair and Director Electoral Area 'G'



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Lisa Bhopalsingh  
Recording Secretary

**REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEARING HELD THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2011 AT  
7:00 PM AT QUALICUM BEACH CIVIC CENTRE, 747 JONES STREET, QUALICUM  
BEACH TO CONSIDER REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO REGIONAL  
GROWTH STRATEGY BYLAW NO. 1615, 2011**

*Note that this report is not a verbatim recording of the proceedings but is intended to summarize the comments of those in attendance at the Public Hearing.*

**Present for the Regional District of Nanaimo:**

Joe Stanhope	Chair, Director, Electoral Area 'G' and RDN Board Chairperson
Dave Bartram	Director, Electoral Area 'H'
Teunis Westbroek	Mayor, Town of Qualicum Beach
Carol Mason	Chief Administrative Officer
Paul Thorkelsson	General Manager of Development Services
Paul Thompson	Manager of Long Range Planning
Lisa Bhopalsingh	Senior Planner
Stephen Boogaards	Planner

There were approximately 26 people in attendance at the Public Hearing.

Written submissions were received during the Public Hearing from:

1. Annette Tanner, Western Canada Wilderness Committee, Mid-Island, 563 West Crescent Road, Town of Qualicum Beach

This written submission is provided in Appendix A of this Report of the Public Hearing.

**The Chair, Director Stanhope** opened the meeting at 7:00 pm and introduced those attending the meeting from the RDN.

**The Chair, Director Stanhope** stated the purpose of the Public Hearing and requested that staff explain the Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1615, 2011.

**Lisa Bhopalsingh, Senior Planner** provided a description of the Bylaw.

**The Chair, Director Stanhope** outlined the Public Hearing procedures and invited submissions with respect to the proposed Bylaw from the audience.

**Julian Fell, 1585 Wells Place, Errington**

Mr. Fell stated that there was a failure to take into account rural electoral areas in planning and that rural areas are dominated by municipal interests. He noted that despite the RGS saying that only a certain portion of Errington is a community, the whole of Errington has been a community for a long time and that all of Area F is a community. Mr. Fell said that a past study showed that Area F functioned as single community and should not be divided into neighbourhoods.

Mr. Fell spoke about the RGS not recognizing home based business as an important economic enterprise in Electoral Area F. He stated that it was a myth that all land classified as Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) is viable for agriculture, not all land in the ALR is good for agriculture. This belief discredits both

zoning and the ALR. As a result some of the best agricultural land has been turned into golf courses. He stated that the Agricultural Land Commission is only interested in agricultural potential of land.

Mr. Fell stated that curbing the use of non-renewable resources is a good goal but should not be tied to climate change. The climate has always been changing and science cannot prove that greenhouse gas theories cause climate change. He said that he agrees with trying to conserve resources however this should not be tied to climate change as a rationale.

Mr. Fell concluded by saying that the promotion of cultural goals in the RGS is commendable; however museums were not mentioned as part of this.

**Peter Doukakis, Qualicum Beach Chamber of Commerce, 790 Middlegate Road, Errington**

Mr. Doukakis expressed his appreciation that the RGS includes economic development. He also stated that he appreciated that the north and south of the RDN are considered as two different areas in terms of economic development each having distinct qualities.

**Annette Tanner, Wilderness Committee, Mid-Island, 563 West Crescent Road, Town of Qualicum Beach**

Ms. Tanner stated that she was a representative of the Wilderness Committee. She thanked the RDN for saving Moorecroft. She spoke to a recent resolution made at UBCM by the Town of Ladysmith that requests help for local governments to acquire watersheds. She stated that there is a need to protect local watershed areas, in order to have control over drinking water, population growth and economic development. She noted that in the RDN this should include the Cathedral Grove, Englishman River and Nanaimo River watersheds.

Ms. Tanner recognized that regional districts are doing their best to protect watersheds, however she said that they can only do so much on their own. Subsequently, the Wilderness Committee has come up with a resolution to help regional districts. She pointed to her handout (see Appendix A) which includes details of a proposed resolution for the RDN to put forward to the Provincial Government about helping local governments acquire lands in their watersheds.

Ms. Tanner stated that the Wilderness Committee want to request that the federal and provincial government increase the 2% of protected areas on East Vancouver Island in the E & N Land Grant, to match the 13% found in the rest of the province. She stated that the Wilderness Committee are going to submit a petition and that they are asking for support from the RDN to approach federal and provincial governments with this.

**Tom Thornton, French Creek Residents Association, 1580 Marine Circle, Parksville**

Mr. Thornton stated that the RGS is 'a wonderful document'. He noted that it sets the guidelines and boundaries for what we wish to achieve in his own community. He stated that he has worked for past 6 years with the French Creek Residents Association to bring about these changes. He wants to draw attention to his frustration with the implementation of the RGS. He noted that there is no obligation to implement an OCP document that reflects the wants and needs of his community. Mr. Thornton highlighted recent development on Wembley Road, noting that it does not reflect high density development as shown in the OCP. He stated that there is nothing to force the RDN Board or Staff to implement future community needs as shown in the OCP.

**Scott Tanner, 563 West Crescent Road, Town of Qualicum Beach**

Mr. Tanner stated that some of the language in the RGS is 'terrific'. He said that he was glad that the term UCB was changed to GCB as that is what it is, a Growth Boundary. He stated that there is a disconnect between the RGS and OCPs. He thinks that the RGS should be the lead document and OCP's should be updated to be consistent with it. If OCP's are not consistent with the RGS then they should be reopened and changed.

Mr. Tanner noted that he was concerned about ALR and resource lands inside the GCB. He stated that the growth boundaries of communities should be redrawn to make sure that there are no ALR and resource lands inside them. He said that OCP's should be changed if necessary to allow this.

Mr. Tanner, spoke about the elimination of the Forest Land Reserve (FLR). He recalled talking to a previous RDN planner, Bob Lapham who indicated that as lands came out of the FLR they would be designated as resource lands with 50 ha minimum parcel sizes. Mr. Tanner recommends that this be changed to a minimum 100 ha parcel size. He noted that this was needed because once resources are extracted from resource lands they are becoming large parcel rural developments.

Mr. Tanner, stated that the Province used to have a policy that once Tree farm license (TFL) lands changed hands, that the province had the right to get back 5% of the land in return. He thinks that the RDN and surrounding regional districts should lobby province to get back 1% to 2% when there is a change in ownership of PMFL lands instead of taxing residents in order to buy land.

**Enid Mary Sangster-Kelly, 1234 Grafton Road, Errington**

Ms. Sangster-Kelly stated that the RGS 'sounds like a wonderful document' but that it does not line up with what has been happening. She noted that the RGS has a goal to Enhance Rural Integrity, Protect and strengthen the rural economy however, she thinks that developments like Fairwinds do not protect rural areas. She said that there is already a problem with a lack of water for residents in this area. She stated that the demand for water from Fairwinds residents will mean that the cost of water is going to go up for residents in Parksville and Qualicum. She noted that the RDN will get lots of money from housing taxes but it is the costs and maintenance of infrastructure that is an issue. She stated that businesses in Parksville and Qualicum will not benefit from extra residents at Fairwinds because they will not shop there and at the same time they will have to pay the costs of water for Fairwinds.

Ms. Sangster-Kelly provided an example of communities in England that are dying because they are not shopping locally and linked this to the Fairwinds development. She noted that the Fairwinds development will only benefit the City of Nanaimo and possibly Victoria.

She spoke about the limited amount of financial support provided to assist those with lower incomes with housing and living costs. She linked this to pushing people on the fringes of society to drugs and crime. She stated that the recent implementation of building inspection is pushing out poor people in the area and that no one understands this.

Ms. Sangster-Kelly stated that the RDN's green initiatives are not working and linked this to being prevented from recycling. She said that a new 4000 square foot home in Fairwinds loses more energy than a 1000 square foot home built with recycled materials. She stated that the RDN needs to rethink its green building approach.

**The Chair, Director Stanhope** called for further submissions a first time.

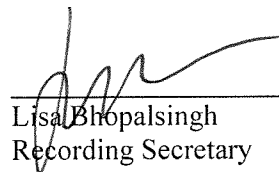
**The Chair, Director Stanhope** called for submissions a second time.

**The Chair, Director Stanhope** called for submissions a third time and final time. Hearing none, the Chair thanked those in attendance and announced that the Public Hearing Was now closed. He informed those present that the RDN Board will be receiving the report of the public hearing at a Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, October 11 at 7:00 pm in the RDN Board Chambers.

The public hearing was closed at 7.42 pm.

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Director Joe Stanhope  
RDN Board Chair and Director Electoral Area 'G'



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Lisa Bhopalsingh  
Recording Secretary

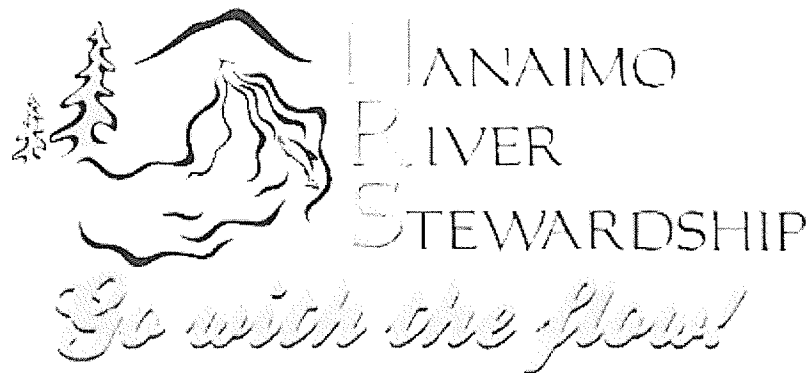
**APPENDIX A**

**Written Submissions for the Public Hearing On  
“Regional District of Nanaimo Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1615”**

**A total of 5 written submissions were received between October 5 and the close of the public hearing on October 6, 2011 from the following individuals or organizations:**

1. Dean Gaudry (representative of Nanaimo Area Land Trust), 126 Cilaire Drive, Nanaimo, BC, and Don Cohen (representative of Nanaimo Area Land Trust), 100 Pirates Lane, Nanaimo, BC
2. Laurie Gourlay (Mid Island Sustainability Initiative), Box 333, Cedar, BC
3. Ron Bolin, 3165 King Richard Drive, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 4A1
4. Michael Jessen, Treasurer, Arrowsmith Watersheds Coalition Society
5. Annette Tanner, Wilderness Committee, Mid-Island, 563 West Crescent Road, Town of Qualicum Beach





## Symposium 2011

September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>  
Vancouver Island University Campus  
Nanaimo, BC

### SUMMARY OF GOALS AND STRATEGIES from Five Breakout Groups

as presented to the final Plenary Session  
September 25th

*a partnership between*



*and*

VANCOUVER ISLAND  
UNIVERSITY

## Estuary

Develop a land ethic, a land protocol, how to be on the land.

Develop goals for 2030:

- Recognized as a model program Develop Estuaries education students.
  - Every grade 6-7 get educated
  - Artists Response Society. Eco Education through Music "Voices of Nature"
- Publicity campaign for adults in Newspapers
- Project Watershed for Estuary in Art Auction fundraiser
- Lottery for Rubber Ducks race
- 2030 we'll have the first the annual Shellfish Extravaganza.
- What are the habitat enhancement opportunities? Low hanging fruit volunteer participation
- Experience the joys of Shellfish harvesting and feasting in other closer
- Encourage the centre for Estuary research
- Celebration with our brothers and sisters in SFN (Aboriginal Day) as a way to bring together and educate around Estuary.
- Dean: Educate people on tributaries that also empty into the estuary: Wexford, Richardson, Chase River creeks through urban population can help people create all come together, as a way of outreach
- Renaming the estuary?
- Shellfish resources
- Cultural ecotourism around the estuary
- Viewing the estuary as you would view any other natural area
- A viewing platform as a project- add walkways (cause people to stick to the elevated walkway system) to ensure protection of the fragile environment
- Best management practices in place for agriculture
- Best management policy for recreational use of the estuary
- Best management policy for economic uses in and around the estuary
- A best management system for everything that would impact the estuary

### Immediate To Do List:

- Identify and protect sacred places (work with SFN to protect these sites)
- Develop and implement an education program (over the next four months)
- Affirm an effective mechanism and partnership with SFN on working to improve the estuary
- Foster relationships with SFN for all the community
- Work closely with the Centre for Estuary Research and VIU to implement a comprehensive research program

### What will 2030 look like for the estuary?

- Sea level rise
- Climate change
- Earthquake
- Preparedness – have a plan in place to protect the estuary

## Environmental Values: Wildlife, Habitat and Species-At-Risk

### We Envision:

- *A healthy watershed, teeming with a diversity of endemic life*
- *That community health is understood to be directly linked to a healthy environment*
- *That as an informed and involved community we recognize that we all share responsibility for ensuring sustainable stewardship of a healthy watershed*
- *That an empowered, inclusive and funded Watershed Stewardship Board be given legislative authority for conservation planning in the watershed*

### Goals:

Obtain current field data about ecosystems

- Actions
  - Produce a baseline report including, but not limited to, species and ecosystems at risk
  - Continuous monitoring
- Lobby for enabling legislation
  - Actions
    - Investigate models from other jurisdictions (e.g. Ontario, Cuba, Brazil, etc...)
- Build partnerships
  - Action
    - Contact Snuneymuxw First Nations and other groups (e.g. VHA, MISSI, etc...)
- Identify high priority ecological sites for acquisition
  - Actions
    - Investigate options for funding acquisitions
    - Habitat banks, mitigation, offsets, etc..
- Acquire sustainable funding
  - Actions
    - Source funding with community partners (e.g. residents, business, institutions, governments, etc...)

Goal: Work with Snuneymuxw, local government, and resource users to gain understanding of their long term management plans

- Action
  - Management plans align with vision
- Goal
  - To increase community awareness to gain support for the vision
    - Actions
      - Community gatherings
      - Share information
      - Develop & provide content for school curricula
      - Regular reporting to gauge progress

## Fisheries

**Over-arching Goal** – *Work to return fish populations to historic levels – plentiful fish stocks*

Lack of Data – Gap analysis

- Blackman report 1981
- Baseline Report
- - includes data from NRH – mostly below highway bridge
- Water quality data
- Biological/ habitat assessment
- Escapement and fry/smolt counts – expand fisheries section of baseline report
- Support habitat enhancement, nutrient enrichment activities, riparian setbacks
- Thatcher report, Haslam report as models
- Investigate relationship with VIU Fish/Aqua

Hatchery Funding

- NRSS –
  - o Potential acquisitions/ covenants – working level agreements, investigate water licensing (side channel habitat, water storage), riparian areas
  - o Build relationships with timber companies
  - o Investigate Provincial Policies regarding Steelhead enhancement or alternatives
- Education/ Awareness
- - Hatchery programs - expand?
- Invasive species awareness
- Species at Risk protection

Build/Sustain Relationships

- Gather Stakeholders/ User groups
- November working session
- Investigate cold water releases from Fourth Lake

Formation of Volunteer Stewardship group

- Contacting local homeowners/ community
- Streamkeepers courses, other opportunities

Synthesis:

Plan, Partnership, Fundraising

Identify/ prioritize achievable goals

Who should be involved: Stakeholder list: Nanaimo Fish Hatchery, Nanaimo River Stewardship Society (Ted, Wayne, Bernie, Wayne), DFO (community advisor Barrie Cordocedo, stock assessment Steve Ballie and Margret Wright, fisheries management), MOE ( ) Forestry Companies ex (TimberWest, Dave Lindsay) NFP, Nanaimo Airport Authority (Mike Hooper), Island Timberlands (Ken Epps), DFO – Fisheries Management – Gerry Kelly

## Recreation

**Nanaimo River Mission Statement:** *Promote and protect the cultural and natural values of the Nanaimo River.*

**Draft Vision:**

*A place for diverse, responsible recreational pursuits in balance with the river's health—while ensuring involvement of stakeholders. (*

**Guiding Principles / Basic Assumptions**

1. Recreation values do not trump other river values
2. Open and active involvement with First Nations about rights, culture and heritage at the River
3. Sustainability of overall River health (water quality, flow, fisheries, sensitive ecosystems)
4. Partnership approach and collaboration based on respectful dialogue among stakeholders is paramount
5. Recreation is not suitable to all areas of the River (South Fork/Jump Creek, first nations cultural heritage sites, sensitive wildlife areas)
6. Respect for Private Property (residential ownerships and resource industries)
7. Utilize a science based approach to establish the baseline information for goal implementation

**Goals:**

1. Identify key/priority recreation resources and accesses through expansion of the baseline inventory and research on recreation uses
2. Explore options for site specific recreational development that maintains the natural characteristic of the river as best as possible
3. Recreation uses to be flexible within other seasonal and cultural values (spawning runs, overwintering, migration corridors, marmot habitat)
4. Influencing the RDN recreation plans for the river corridor (Area A OCP outlining Blueway plan for the Nanaimo River, Active Transportation Plan)
5. Balanced representation of diverse recreational user groups to promote responsible use
6. Develop key partnerships for collaborative educational programs from children to adults through in field experience in the watershed
7. Exploring opportunities for new partnerships that lead to mutual benefits (e.g., Private/Municipal/hunting access to watershed)
8. Flexibility to adapt to unique opportunities and challenges as they arise

## Water

### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TO ACCHIEVE THE 2030 VISION:

1. Submit to the province changes to the Water Act to protect ground water
2. Submit this symposium's conclusions to RDN hearings in October on regional growth strategy with copies to other elected local authorities and First Nations
3. Increase use of rainwater catchment, so less draws on the Nanaimo river
4. Establish relationships among all involved authorities, citizens groups, first nations
5. Map quantity of water sources in Nanaimo river watershed, including Cassidy and its relationship to the Nanaimo river as a priority
6. Assess effects of development on ecosystem, including quality and quantity of water before development allowed, based on entire watershed despite geopolitical divisions
7. Determine Douglas Treaty and other treaty implications for the Nanaimo river watershed
8. Submit to federal government request to change northern border of national marine conservation area to extend to Nanaimo river estuary
9. Require new developments to connect to community water supply and waste treatment systems
10. Educate the public about the quality and quantity of water in the Nanaimo river watershed and related ecological, social and economic issues
11. Consider seismic upgrading of existing water related infrastructure

### 2030 VISION: Mid-island UNESCO model of biosphere

1. Nanaimo river watershed is in mid-island UNESCO- model biosphere reserve and Community owns the watershed
2. An educated public is involved and fully engaged in watershed management
3. Development is governed by sustainability of entire ecosystem with protection of nature, wildlife species like salmon get top priority for water
4. Obligations under the Douglas Treaty and other treaty processes are met

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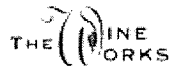


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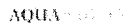
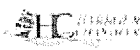
**STEELHEAD LEVEL**



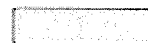
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RDN, Committee of the Whole  
Regional District of Nanaimo  
6300 Hammond Bay Road  
Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6N2

re: Partnership in 'A Green Gateway to Vancouver Island'  
...Regional and Local Planning, Sustainable Communities and Growth

cc: Local, Provincial & Federal Governments  
...with responsibilities for mid Vancouver Island & the Strait of Georgia

September 27, 2011

Dear RDN Board Members,

Owing to the nature of this partnership proposal we are sending a copy of our letter to local governments on Vancouver Island, as well as to the City of Vancouver and Victoria, and senior governments. We hope this will lead to support from the RDN, and development of a 'Green Gateway to Vancouver Island'.

We believe exciting opportunities lie ahead for our coastal region, and that this proposal captures essential elements of both short and long term growth and benefits to residents.

With a federal economic plan being debated in the House of Commons at this time, and BC's Premier unveiling job priorities in a tour of the province, it is reasonable to consider regional partnerships that might be encouraged to meet both local needs and larger goals.

Here in the mid island the chair of the Regional District of Nanaimo has noted that growth in recent years has been twice the national average, and is expected to continue. This can be seen as good news, given global financial worries, but also brings new challenges.

MISSI would like to propose an approach that enhances economic development through partnerships with prominent Island institutions and organizations, and all levels of governments responsible for the mid island, coast and Strait of Georgia. We believe this can be done while protecting green spaces, and integrating conservation measures and practices.

In this respect we note that we have recently been in touch with federal and provincial Environment Ministers, and related Departments responsible for a proposal to designate a



National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) in the southern Georgia Strait and Gulf Islands. (attached)

We would like to offer our support in furthering this NMCA proposal, and to suggest that local initiatives offer opportunities that complement and further the goals of a Gulf Islands National Marine Conservation Area - as well as economic, growth and employment needs.

Three components, addressed in our brief, 'A Green Gateway to Vancouver Island', include:

- a National Marine Conservation Area, harbouring Nanaimo River's estuary.
- a 'Coastal Communities Biosphere Reserve', buffering local watersheds.
- economic partnerships with Victoria & Vancouver's 'Green City' initiatives.

The underlying premise of the 'Green Gateway' proposal is to maintain 'working areas' in the coastal region, where sustainability serves as the bottom line while jobs and economic activities are furthered. Sustainability is seen as a fair system of economic development and environmental protection that fosters long-term social and community benefits. As such, working with partners in cooperative ventures is essential.

We are pleased to report that the first two components of the plan were adopted as recommendations this past weekend at the Nanaimo River Symposium, hosted by NALT and held at VIU.

Briefly then, since we can provide additional information at your request, we would like to suggest that the mid island and coastal region lends itself to renewable resources, and that conservation and coastal protective measures offer opportunities for long-term growth. We believe economic diversity and commercial opportunities will expand if we consider options for larger regional partnerships and cooperation that share green goals for growth.

While governments may be moving forward with initiatives that address economic policy and sustainability performance, within their jurisdictions and communities there remains a 'larger picture' that must be addressed. Factors such as climate change and peak oil also require priority attention if future impacts are to be minimized and managed successfully.

The lands and waters of our shared coastal regions, and our quality of life, require such long-term approaches if we are to meet public, corporate and ecological bottom lines. Maintaining healthy, functioning watersheds and ecosystems is the most cost-effective and practical way to ensure that our common needs are met, and opportunities for growth retained for future generations.

With this in mind MISSI has been undertaking work locally to encourage a Coastal Communities Biosphere Reserve in the lands, and adjoining marine areas, encompassing the Nanaimo River watershed and southern Gulf Islands. (attached)

And our 'Green Gateway to Vancouver Island' initiative goes a step further, suggesting a corridor linkage between cities, across the coastal range. From the heavy industrial, ferry and shipping

facilities at Duke Point, a green corridor would connect Cedar and Yellowpoint, the Nanaimo River watershed and a series of 'pocket' resource, conservation and alpine protected areas, wrapping around the RDN in a horseshoe-like manner. From the Mt Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve a link would be made to the historic Horne Lake Trail, and over to Port Alberni's deep port and resource-based facilities. In effect a 'green-belt' would be established across the middle of Vancouver Island.

This innovative approach to our 'growth challenge' would serve to attract a wide range and diversity of green businesses, recreational and tourism opportunities, benefiting the mid island and coastal regions. Partnering with Victoria's work to integrate sustainable development practices, and Vancouver's Green City' initiative, this 'Green Gateway to Vancouver Island' would further small business ventures in the emerging markets for conservation and renewable services and products.

We hope you will then look at this proposal favourably. We believe that embracing these initiatives at this time would offer exceptional rewards to all sectors and interests, and long-term benefits. Fostering connections and partnership with universities, business, civil society and leaders in all sectors of the Island, capital and lower mainland will benefit all interests and regions. And, opening a green gateway to VI offers an innovative coastal approach for sustainable growth.

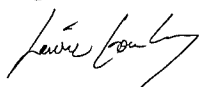
As the UN Rio+20 Brazil Conference approaches in June 2012, MISSI would then like to take this opportunity to engage with you in a conversation about conservation. We think a cooperative partnership, which puts conservation principles and practices into place, will best serve everyone's interests in our mid island coastal communities and regions.

Building on this solid foundation MISSI believes there is good reason to look forward to green growth, green jobs and a green belt for the mid island and region - establishing our coast and communities as a place for quality of life, work and business.

We also think the world would be pleased to hear about what our region has to offer, and so would ask for your support for our proposal for a 'Green Gateway to Vancouver Island', and we would also request the opportunity to present this proposal to you personally.

In the meantime should you have questions or wish further clarification, we'd be pleased to follow-up directly, at your request.

Regards,



Laurie Gourlay, President  
Mid Island Sustainability & Stewardship Initiative  
P.O. Box 333, Cedar, B.C., V9X 1W1  
(250 722-3444) [www.missimidisland.com](http://www.missimidisland.com) <[info@missimidisland.com](mailto:info@missimidisland.com)>



*"Each generation is entitled to the interest on the natural capital, but the principal should be handed on unimpaired."  
- Canadian Conservation Commission, 1915*

**B**iosphere Reserves are 'working areas', where jobs and economic activities are advanced within a framework of long-term prosperity and sustainability.

Furthering economic development while addressing social costs and benefits, builds a solid foundation for biosphere reserves.

**Economic & Ecological Sustainability**  
*...thinking globally, acting locally.*

Balanced growth furthers community and sustainability ..fostering locally-appropriate, low-cost solutions. We address our regional interests, needs, and common goals together.

The net worth of biosphere reserves, and a transition to sustainability, can be seen in the cooperative, healthy and ecological benefits that are incrementally put in place.

Conservation efforts are integrated into local community, government and business plans, growing with our neighbourhoods.

A cooperative approach, biosphere reserves help public, private and government interests work together for us all...



## A Necklace of Historical, Cultural & Natural Pearls...

*Consider the possibility of a mid island UNESCO biosphere reserve and buffer, from the Southern Clif Islands National Marine Park to Ladysmith Harbour to Nonatime estuary ...& points between.*

Parks, walkways and heritage features would provide major eco-tourist and economic benefits. Waterfront, marine environment and harbour developments would be improved with shoreline, wildlife, conservation and natural resource goals in mind.

**\*Three Key Goals Balance a Biosphere Reserve:**  
 .Economic  
 .Social  
 .Environmental

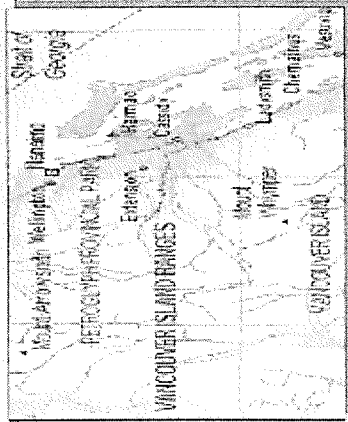


A designated UNESCO Biosphere Reserve would help protect Vancouver Island's biodiversity and habitat, fostering interest in the protection of special places and species in the mid region -- and our 'pearls' of historical, cultural & natural importance.

Please consider adding your voice to this initiative, a living and lasting legacy for VI coastal communities.

Please direct inquiries to: *Mid Island Sustainability & Stewardship Initiative*, <[www.midisland.com](http://www.midisland.com)>

**A 'Coastal Communities' Biosphere Reserve Vancouver Island, BC**  
 ...Ladysmith  
 ...Cedar  
 ...Yellowpoint



**Special Places, Diverse Communities, Green Lands & Blue Seas.**

**Your Comments...**

Please feel free to jot down any thoughts or ideas, and forward to:

Mid Island Sustainability & Stewardship Initiative  
 Laurie Gourlay - MIISSI President, P.O. Box 213,  
 Cedar, B.C., V0X 1W1 <[sustainability@midisland.com](mailto:sustainability@midisland.com)>  
 (e-mail: [miissidirectormatters@cborn.ca](mailto:miissidirectormatters@cborn.ca))

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**W**e encourage all who love Vancouver Island's beauty and welcoming spirit to consider the protection of special places, and to contribute to our quality of life, to sustainable development, and to the betterment of the places where we live, work and play!

Talk with friends and family about the 'pearls' you find important to your community...and along Vancouver Island's west coast.

And look for ways to keep these special places, the paths and trails between - so we'll all get to enjoy them and the measures they hide.

Please consider supporting this proposal for a mid Island Coastal Communities' Biosphere Reserve.

And if you get a chance send us a picture of yourself, out there - having fun!



250.833.3373  
[www.miiissidirectormatters.com](http://www.miiissidirectormatters.com)

# Leadership in Conservation and Sustainable Development!



This innovative initiative began in 2006 with a discussion about the need to foster long-term economic and ecological solutions for community planning and development in the mid island region.

We wanted to retain special places that were close to home, and to keep those recreational, heritage and green spaces that are nearby -so we could all continue to enjoy them.

This biosphere reserve proposal opens the door to solutions, to further steps we might take together to share our coastal beauty, quality of life, and a sustainable economy that supports mid island communities and Vancouver Island.

## The... 'Coastal Communities' Biosphere Reserve A proposal for Vancouver Island Ladysmith... Yellowpoint... Cedar...

This sustainable, economically-rewarding, job-creating and conservation-oriented working reserve for the mid island region would encompass the lands and seas that extend along the narrow east coast of Vancouver Island, between the coastal mountain range and Gulf Islands.

From the rural countryside south of Ladysmith to southern urban boundaries of Nanaimo the green lands, marine waters, communities and towns would be invited to join and become a part of a larger UNESCO Biosphere plan.

...more information about this proposal, upcoming meetings as well as opportunities to get involved, can be found by contacting the Mid Island Sustainability & Stewardship Initiative, P.O. Box 253, Cedar, B.C. V0X 1W1

(250) 720-3444, ([miissidirectormatters@shaw.ca](mailto:miissidirectormatters@shaw.ca)) <[www.miiissidirectormatters.com](http://www.miiissidirectormatters.com)>

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**From:** Ron Bolin [mailto:rlbolin@telus.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 06, 2011 10:38 AM  
**To:** email, planning  
**Subject:** Submission to Public Hearing on the Regional Growth Strategy

Submitted by: Ron Bolin, 3165 King Richard Drive, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 4A1

Position: Support for Bylaw 1615

I also wish to recommend that the bylaw be effectively implemented by suggesting that close and continuing attention be paid to the monitoring functions put forward in the Bylaw and that routine reports on these measures be made available to the Board and to the public.

It is further suggested that relevant Staff recommendations made to the Board for action include specific references to the policies in the Bylaw which support or work against the recommendation.

end

**From:** M Jessen [mailto:mjessen@telus.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 06, 2011 2:46 PM  
**To:** Stanhope, Joe  
**Cc:** Boogaards, Stephen; Thompson, Paul  
**Subject:** Regional Growth Strategy – Public Hearing – Bylaw No. 1615

Director Stanhope:

Please find attached written submission of the Public Hearing presently underway. Please enter into the record of the hearing and try to ensure that all regional district directors receive its message.

Michael Jessen,  
Treasurer, Arrowsmith Watersheds Coalition Society



## Arrowsmith Watersheds Coalition Society

October 6, 2011

Director Joe Stanhope, Area G  
Regional District of Nanaimo  
6300 Hammond Bay Road  
Nanaimo, B.C.  
V9T 6N2

Dear Sir:

**Re: Regional Growth Strategy – Public Hearing – Bylaw No. 1615, 2011**

We wish to provide some input to the consideration of this document.

1. We wish to ensure that the bylaw provides support and indicates a strong interest in protecting community drinking water, watersheds. We understand that the recent UBCM conference supported a motion to encourage the Provincial government to help local governments in securing watersheds or otherwise protecting them as safe drinking water sources. We would hope that the bylaw will support the efforts of groups like WCWC to increase the amount of public land in the E & N Land Grant area. WCWC's recent petition states *"We, the undersigned, call on the Federal and Provincial Governments to immediately assist the East Vancouver island Municipal and Regional Governments in increasing the present 2 percent protected areas on East Vancouver Island (E&N) lands to match the current 13 percent protected areas in the rest of the province of British Columbia."*

And, we believe that such a position suggests heartfelt support for the following clauses:

2. 5.2 and 5.3. Local government has the authority for land-use planning. We feel that there are very good reasons to set aside certain lands for rural, resource and recreational use in sufficient quantity and sizes to obtain meaningful outcomes. Rural and resource lands (and especially those lands close to habitation) serve a very useful purpose in providing raw material, water, food (livelihoods) and recreation for those who have to live in more densely populated areas of the regional district. The current parcel sizes

Arrowsmith Watersheds Coalition Society

Email: [arrowsmithwater@shaw.ca](mailto:arrowsmithwater@shaw.ca)

that the RDN has chosen are not onerous compared to some of the minimum sizes dictated by other regional governments. If anything our association would support increasing the minimum parcel sizes in the RDN for most rural uses.

We trust that you will find these comments acceptable. Although we cannot attend the hearing tonight we wish these written comments to be entered into the record of the hearing.

Yours truly,

(signed copy of Canada Post)

Michael Jessen, P.Eng.  
Treasurer, Arrowsmith Watersheds Coalition Society

Arrowsmith Watersheds Coalition Society

Email: [arrowsmithwater@shaw.ca](mailto:arrowsmithwater@shaw.ca)

## Wilderness Committee, Mid-Island

Box 442, Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K 1S9,  
ph. [250 752-6585](tel:2507526585), fax: [250 752-7085](tel:2507527085) email: [wewcqb@shaw.ca](mailto:wewcqb@shaw.ca)  
[www.wildernesscommittee.org](http://www.wildernesscommittee.org)

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Chairman Joe Stanhope and Directors of the Regional District of Nanaimo,

- Please consider putting together a resolution to the Provincial Government via the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities to the provincial Government similar to the following resolution by Town of Ladysmith which was passed unanimously at the recent 2011 UBCM. This would help protect the watersheds that supply the drinking water for the communities within the Regional District's Growth management Plan because what happens on the mountain and in the watershed, affects all the communities living downstream, drinking water.
- Please also show support for the attached petition to **Expand the Protected Areas within the East Vancouver Island (E&N) lands** by calling on the federal and provincial governments to immediately assist the East Vancouver Island Municipal and Regional Governments in increasing the present 2 per cent protected areas on East Vancouver Island (E&N) lands to match the current 13 per cent protected areas in the rest of the province of British Columbia.

On Sunday, September 25, the Wilderness Committee, Mid Island Chapter, celebrated the federal and provincial government's recognition of International and National Forest Week by launching a petition to increase the protected areas on East Vancouver Island at the community's annual BC Rivers Day celebration on the Little Qualicum River.

The east coast of Vancouver Island is the front door to international and local visitors travelling to see the world famous Cathedral Grove. We are in incredible danger of losing one-fifth of Vancouver Island to logging and development, as little protected areas exist here on the Island's East Coast (E&N) lands due to the federal government's giving away of one-fifth of the island to build the railroad for confederation in the late 1800's.



"Ecosystems such as the Coastal Douglas-fir forests along east Vancouver Island are already identified by government, as being on the brink of extinction, as this ecosystem which has the highest biodiversity of any forest-type in BC, has already had too much of it already permanently removed, so that creating, protecting and restoring wildlife corridors requires immediate action. Our municipal and regional governments cannot raise the funds fast enough to prevent the permanent loss of conservation opportunities within the E&N lands of East Vancouver Island. Population projections show that forests and watersheds must be protected to ensure quality of life, wildlife protection, economic opportunity, drinking water, recreation, economic development, population growth and salmon streams."

Petitions are available on line [www.wildernesscommittee.org](http://www.wildernesscommittee.org).

The Ladysmith Resolution that was passed at the UBCM is taken from the following Newspaper article:

## Ladysmith's watershed resolution Ready for UBCM

By Niomi Pearson - Ladysmith Chronicle

Published: September 20, 2011 9:00 AM

Updated: September 20, 2011 9:20 AM

Ladysmith Councillor Steve Arnett says he is feeling optimistic about the resolution on watershed protection the town will present at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) conference next week.

**The resolution, prepared by TOL staff, calls on the provincial government to assist communities in acquiring ownership of their watersheds by gifting them the land or providing the funds to purchase them.**

It is officially a resolution to be reviewed, discussed and debated and a choice made to endorse or not or refer by the body of all of the communities that belong to the UBCM, Arnett said. Im hoping for a majority vote at the least, if not unanimous.

The resolution also calls for the Ministry of Environment to monitor the activity of all watersheds used for drinking water and maintain levels and quality control. According to Arnett, other municipalities have put forward similar resolutions regarding watershed protection, such as pesticide spraying, logging activities, and more local authority over watershed activities. However, none have gotten to the heart of the issue.

None of them were comprehensive and said it all in one fell swoop, he said. They are all symptomatic of the broader public issue.

A watershed is defined as an area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place. As such, the land is always environmentally sensitive, and the only way that you can maintain public security of that resource is through ownership, Arnett said.

Its a very expensive proposition for a small municipality, or even a larger one. but most particularly the smaller ones like ourselves, he said. In the end, you'd always have to make choices about how much money you've got coming in, and where your priorities are, well water is a number one priority, but you'd like to be able to drive from your house to the school over top filled-in potholes.

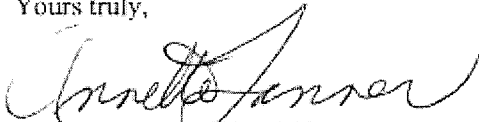
Members of council are preparing a presentation to deliver to UBCM members before it is open for discussion.

A failure to initiate a broad public policy across the province, where every community owns and controls its watershed would be a failure of public policy, Arnett said.

If water is life and its fundamental to everything we do as human beings, then it seems to me that a community has not only an obligation but a right to own and control its watershed, he said. If you don't have full ownership you don't have control.

[http://www.bclocalnews.com/vancouver\\_island\\_central/ladysmithchronicle/news/130203818.html](http://www.bclocalnews.com/vancouver_island_central/ladysmithchronicle/news/130203818.html)

Yours truly,



Annette Tanner, WC Mid Island Spokesperson.