



## CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting – Wednesday, November 1, 2023

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm In-Person

District of North Vancouver Hall, Committee Room

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**Present:** Ken Ashley, Keegan Cassidy, Eleanor Gill, Diana Leung, Mariko Michasiw, Irwin Oostindie, Lorna Pelly, Councillor Jordan Back

**Regrets:** Jennifer Johnson, Oliver Ng

**Staff:** Caroline Jackson, Director, Climate Action, Natural Systems and Biodiversity  
Matthew MacKinnon, Biodiversity Policy & Projects Manager, Fiona Dercole,  
Senior Project Manager, Mary Jukich, Committee Clerk

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### 1. Welcome and Call to Order

Ken Ashley called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

#### **Territorial Acknowledgement**

Ken Ashley provided the land acknowledgement.

#### **Adoption of the Agenda**

Moved, seconded and resolved  
To adopt the agenda.

**CARRIED**

#### **Adoption of the Minutes**

Moved, seconded and resolved  
To adopt the June 14, 2023 minutes.

**CARRIED**

### 2. Background - Climate Adaptation in the District

Caroline Jackson, Director, Climate Action, Natural Systems, and Biodiversity provided a brief background. Ms. Jackson noted three main goals:

- reduce emissions;
- increase resilience to present and future climate impacts; and
- protect and advance ecological health.

The District has been a leader in climate adaptation which was influenced in part by the Berkley landslide which set a direction for the work at the District related to managing natural hazards.

### 3. Natural Hazard Framework

Fiona Dercole, Senior Project Manager, Engineering, Parks, and Facilities  
*(joined virtually via MS Teams)*

- Natural Hazards Management Framework
- Natural Hazards Management Program - Overview and Discussion

Fiona Dercole provided a brief introduction on her role at the District, noting that part of her role after the Berkley landslide was to coordinate the risk reduction measures put in place and to lead a volunteer committee to determine risk tolerance for the District.

Fiona Dercole provided a presentation on the Berkley landslide and noted this was a pivotal event for the District and led to the development of several policies and programs which are still in place. The landslide also identified that there is a major link between climate change and natural hazards and the Province of BC has recognized the link by creating the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness.

Following the landslide the natural hazards management program was initiated to look at other escarpment areas in the District. It was determined that it was important to be proactive and study the risk in detail to understand if further mitigation measures were needed to be carried out in other areas.

The main aspects of the natural hazards management program are to:

- Understand hazards and risk using a proactive approach
- Reduce risks to life, infrastructure & environment
- Ensure development policies limit future risk
- Educate community
- Maintain a hazard database
- Liaise with scientific, academic & government organizations to create and follow best practices

Risk assessments have been conducted for natural hazards in the District, and the following have been implemented:

- Natural hazard management plans and implementation strategies
- Hazard and environment development permit areas
- Development standards for buildings, infrastructure, and utilities
- Long-term asset management planning
- Increasing community awareness

#### Natural Hazards Risk Management Framework

One of the key steps in the natural hazards risk management framework is that while a preliminary analysis of the risk can be undertaken, a comparison is needed of the current risk against risk tolerance. The risk cannot be reduced to zero, but a determination is required of how

much risk is too much risk for the community. The challenge is that risk tolerance is different for everyone. Even with all the technical information available, it is the community that needs to decide how much risk is tolerable and that is based on community values.

To establish risk tolerance for the District of North Vancouver, the Natural Hazards Task Force was established and undertook the following actions:

- reviewed risk tolerance criteria established in other jurisdictions
- developed an understanding of the risks faced in everyday life
- hosted community consultations
- prepared and presented recommendations for establishing risk tolerance criteria in the District which are still in use today and used by other jurisdictions.

When the OCP was established, the District implemented development permit areas for natural hazards as follows:

- Creek Hazard
- Slope Hazard
- Wildfire Hazard

A question was asked regarding how the District's natural hazard management approach considers climate change and if redesigns would be warranted for some infrastructure. Ms. Dercole noted that the District uses intensity duration frequency curves to project the capacity of the creek system, and that these frequency curves are updated to account for climate change. The District also has a proactive maintenance program of cleaning catch basins and removing debris from debris barriers to ensure the system is functioning.

A further question was raised that in terms of rainfall and with the intensification of development in the District and larger homes and impacts to the hydrological system. Information was provided that the District works to identify areas with significant risk of landslides or debris flow and ensure that storm water is managed safely, as well as protecting environmental values and maintaining these two priorities when decisions are made. In addition, there is some potential work being considered in terms of the District's rezoning bylaw which regulates basement depths.

A comment was made by a member of the committee that it was imperative to consider indigenous knowledge in design of the infrastructure and that we need to focus on natural systems as climate solutions.

An overview was also provided on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan which consists of the following components:

- Communication & education
- Policy & planning tools to improve structure protection
- Preparing to respond
- Fuel management
- Post-fire rehabilitation

#### 4. Break

8:05 – 8:10

During the breakout session, committee members were requested to consider, and brainstorm ideas for the following two questions:

Question 1: How should we best engage with residents to raise awareness of natural hazards and stimulate action at the personal property level?

Strategies suggested by the committee to enhance community preparedness and awareness of natural hazards included neighbourhood-based information sessions and workshops, disseminating information through various channels including social media and library events, and tax incentives.

Question 2: We've historically analyzed hazards and risk through a life safety perspective. How do we place a value on other aspects such as natural assets so that we can measure those risks in a comparable way (e.g., creek erosion, forest health)?

Committee suggestions on how to place value on natural assets when conducting risk assessments for natural hazards included conducting an ecosystem services assessment (evaluating the various services provided by natural assets – carbon sequestration, biodiversity, recreational opportunities, water filtration, flood protection, etc), considering community perception and well being (consider the ability of natural assets to act as a buffer to climate change impacts and improve residents' mental and physical health), and considering long-term resilience (assess the role the natural assets play in ensuring long-term resilience, collaborating with experts and engaging the community in the natural asset valuation process towards achieving a more comprehensive understanding of the importance of natural assets within the risk assessment framework).

#### 5. Project Updates

Caroline Jackson, Director, Climate Action, Natural Systems, and Biodiversity provided the following project updates:

##### Low Carbon Buildings

- New energy efficiency requirements under the BC Energy Step Code for new homes effective November 1, 2023; consistent requirements for all three North Shore municipalities.
- New concierge style support services available for homeowners; central website is [www.jumponaheatpump.ca](http://www.jumponaheatpump.ca)

##### Low Carbon Transport

- Electric Vehicle Strategy: assessed projected EV charging needs, completed internal engagement workshops, and planning engagement with landowners/businesses later this month
- User fees for EV chargers being implemented; procurement underway for additional public chargers at key locations in DNV (Lynn Valley Village, Lions Gate Community Centre, Norgate Park).
- Design is underway for a number of active transportation routes in the DNV.

#### Zero Waste

- Zero Waste Business Coaching providing information to businesses regarding provincial and federal single use regulations; monitoring implementation of demolition waste reduction bylaw which came into effect Jan 1, 2023.

#### Healthy Ecosystems

- Pre-engagement continues for the Biodiversity Strategy with the Library event on Nov 9th at 7pm. Technical analysis underway, partner engagement early 2024 and broader public engagement fall 2024.
- As part of technical analysis, a high-level District-wide inventory of invasive plants is being completed to inform the District's invasive plant management efforts.

### **6. Nature & Biodiversity in the District – Library Speaker Event Nov 9<sup>th</sup> (Lynn Valley)**

Matthew MacKinnon, Biodiversity Policy & Projects Manager

On November 9<sup>th</sup> is the library speaker event on the Nature and Biodiversity Strategy, and the goal is to introduce the project to the public and raise awareness about nature, biodiversity and ecosystems in the District, and provide examples of local biodiversity initiatives.

### **7. Climate Action Committee Summary Report Review**

Committee members reviewed the draft Climate Action Committee summary report. No additional comments were provided.

### **8. Committee Member Updates**

Committee members provided the following updates:

- Work is underway for sea level strategy for the Maplewood Flats area.
- Zero emissions building exchange has received a significant grant and is developing retrofit accelerators for a number of building types.
- Council has been busy with housing related issues and leading District land rezoning for a supportive housing project on Keith Road and social housing on Old Lillooet Rd.
- North Shore Stream Keepers were in Lynn Creek this past August working on a habitat enhancement project. Logs were moved into a section across from Inter-River Park: a total of 120 logs and 240 boulders were placed to add complexity to the creek and enhanced salmon habitat.
- A committee member noted his involvement in a number of projects around wildfire risk reduction, and looking at invasive species particularly Canada geese, and ecosystem work on what climate change is doing to fish habitat including a number of rivers and lakes. Stream levels were at a historic low this past year.
- A committee member noted her involvement in building capacity and designing workshops to help people determine what they can do around climate change.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.