

Minutes DIRA General Meeting, March 14, 2011 Denman Island Community Hall 7.30pm (front hall)

Called to Order: 7.30pm

Attendees: 78

DIRA Chair Liz Johnston asked the assembly to pause for a moment to reflect on the many coastal communities, small villages, families and individuals devastated by the earthquake and Tsunami in Japan. Our hearts go out to them.

Executive Present: Liz Johnston, Andrew Scruton, Derek Hood, Doug Wright, Nettie Cotter, Frank Frketich **Regrets:** Max Campill-Wedges

Motion to Approve Agenda: DIRA GM Agenda March 14, 2011 M/S/C

Motion to Approve Minutes DIRA GM Minutes February 14, 2011

As amendment M/S/C

Business Arising from the Minutes: This portion of the meeting was co-chaired by Executive members Liz Johnston and Andrew Scruton. A notice of motion regarding the DIRA Fire Services Contract was brought forward from the Feb 14, 2011 General Meeting.

Notice of Motion put forward by John Kirk (Volunteer Fire Fighters Association)

- a) that DIRA write a letter to the CVRD stating its desire to terminate the present service agreement contract for the DIVFD.
- b) Further, that this service agreement contract be turned over to the VFFA at DIRA's 2011 AGM, for the interim period of one year.
- c) that a liaison committee be established composed of one DIRA representative, one VFFA representative, and a Chairperson, likely a VFFA member.
- d) Finally, during this interim period, discussions with the CVRD about a long term service agreement contract will include the DIRA liaison member as well as the DIVFD liaison member.

A 'Point of Order' was raised by a DIRA member prior to presentation of the motion.

The Point of Order raised: that members of the Denman Island Fire Dept. (DIVFD) and the DI Volunteer Fire Fighters Association (and their spouses) have a fiduciary conflict of interest in the management of the DIVFD as they receive financial benefits in the form of honorarium. In such case the DIVFD members and VFFA Members and their families should not be voting on this motion as outlined in the DIRA Conflict of Interest Policy that states: "A Financial Conflict of Interest occurs when an individual present at a DIRA meeting, their immediate family, or group to which the member or his/her immediate family belongs is perceived to be in a position to receive, a financial benefit as a result of an issue that is being discussed, or voted upon at a DIRA Public, Committee or Executive Meeting."

The Chair made the following Ruling on the Point of Order:

That in consideration of the DIRA Policy and that the Fire Chief receives considerable financial remuneration in the form of an honorarium, that the fire chief should recuse himself from

voting on the motion. However in consideration of the fact that all the other fire fighters and association members receive only a small honorarium that constitute out-of-pocket expenses: that they be permitted to vote on the motion.

An Appeal was made Re the Chair Ruling on the Point of Order.

The appeal was seconded, and discussion ensued. Discussion included numerous expressions of appreciation for the volunteer fire department members and that the honorarium for the fire fighters was a minimal amount in consideration of the service provided to the community. One member expressed that the chair ruling was incorrect, as a 'specific dollar amount' of any financial benefit should not be used as factor in any ruling. It was noted that the motion did speak to the administration of fire services not to any increase of honorarium.

There was a request for a secret ballot on the vote to appeal the chair ruling

Motion: Request for a secret ballot/Seconded/Not carried

The appeal to overrule the decision by the Chair did not carry

Notice of Motion: as advertised was put forward by John Ralston as a motion on the floor. He explained that the 1983 DIRA/CVRD contract was outdated and the motion could provide an interim solution until the CVRD brought forward a provincial standardized administration model. Discussion ensued with numerous amendments put forward from the original notice of motion. The main amendments suggestions were to ensure that there was fair representation on such a committee structure from all parties involved (DIRA, TAXPAYERS, DIVFD, CVRD, VFFA). There was also concern expressed that continuity of the service be ensured prior to cancelation of contract agreement. It was also brought to the attention, that DIRA can only request the CVRD to specify an appropriately-structured liaison, as it is not DIRA's role to instruct the CVRD. So the final amended wording is as follows.

Motion:

Move that the Executive members of the Denman Island Residents Association be instructed to inform the Comox Valley Regional District that DIRA is issuing a notice of intent to cancel the existing service agreement for fire protection on Denman Island.

Further, DIRA requests that the CVRD negotiates an interim agreement for fire protection services with the Denman Island Firefighters Association for a one-year term that could subsequently be renewed, if needed.

The Denman Island Residents Association further requests that the interim service agreement will clearly specify an appropriately- structured liaison between the Denman Island Firefighters Association, DIRA and the Community at Large.

Further, that CVRD is requested to initiate the development of a long-term service agreement as quickly as possible and that negotiations include participation by representatives from DIRA, the Denman Island Volunteer Fire Department and the Denman Island Firefighters Association.

Motion/Seconded/Carried

Executive Report:

1. Chair Liz Johnston reported that sadly DIRA executive Member Doug Ward has submitted a letter of resignation. On behalf of DIRA and the executive, she expressed sincere thanks to Doug for his work and involvement with the community as a volunteer on the DIRA Executive. The letter received March 13 is posted on the bulletin board.
2. **Nomination Committee report:** Derek Hook reported that they are continuing to looking for candidates for the upcoming Annual General Meeting elections. Andrew Scruton, Derek Hood, Liz Johnston and Max Campill-Wedges have completed their executive terms. Derek, Andrew and Liz have stated that they will not be putting their names forward for another term. Please contact Derek Hood or Frank Frketich if you would consider volunteering for the DIRA Executive Board.
3. **Membership Drive Update:** Nettie Cotter reported that the membership-drive has been very successful and that the membership has increased from 140 to 209 members. There have also been numerous donations totaling \$311. Membership receipts to date on the drive have totaled \$1198. Any members that pay by cash can receive a written receipt to be issued at meetings, but that the easiest method of receipt is that the cashed check will constitute members receipt unless otherwise requested. . DIRA is Celebrating 40 years of establishment, and the executive wishes to acknowledge some of the original members.
4. **DIRA AGM upcoming Annual General Meeting:** Liz Johnston reminded all tax based committees that the year-end financial reports need to be presented at the upcoming AGM to be held Monday, April 11. As in prior years, the committees are also requested to send these reports electronically two weeks ahead of the AGM. to post on the DIRA website for the community. This provides residents and taxpayers the opportunity to review prior to being asked to approve. Non tax funded committees are reminded that (although they are not required to make a formal presentation that needs to be approved and sent to CVRD) they are still required to provide a year-end financial report if there has been any financial activity in the 2010 fiscal year.

Committee Reports:

- a) Engineers Report Re Morning Beach Park Stairway
- b) ERA Presentation
(submitted reports below)

Morning Beach Park Stairway

Onsite Engineering Ltd, was contracted by the CVRD to develop the design package for the viewing platform, trail and stair case and a geo-technical report assessing the substrate of the site. Jeremy Araki (Onsite) and Brian Allaert (CVRD) made a presentation to DIRA on March 14th on the above project. The Quadra sand bluff has unfavorable characteristics for a permanent structure. Slippage of the sand face and wave action erosion at the shore line will affect the stability of the slope and any structure placed on it. The design plan accommodates this by creating independent units which can be adjusted and or

replaced if necessary. Stair runs will be inter-connected by flexible joints similar to marina ramps to absorb movement. Metal grating will be fixed to the surface of the wooden stairs.

There will be 5 units of wooden stairs (approximately 100 feet in total); 25 feet of edged gravel trails on the more horizontal sections and a 25 foot ramp over damaged tree roots. At the shore large trunks of drift wood will be anchored by “dead men” with steps carved into them. An approach is taken to make the structures simple to be maintained by volunteers with basic carpentry skills and to invest as little as practical in the capital cost. Onsite presented a preliminary cost estimates for materials. Using treated wood \$10,449, or Western red cedar \$17,067; milling cost if logs are donated \$4,968. Peter Karsten noted that donations of cedar logs have been indicated and that much of the site preparation, trail work, delivery of materials to the site can be done by volunteers. The wooden stair case section would be done under contract. Feedback from the meeting underscored the interest to use untreated wood. One member asked if the project should be abandoned due to the unstable slope. Brian Allaert and Peter Karsten responded that the community had given direction to pursue the project. The trail can be made safe and the budget is in place to carry out the project. Continued use, which is unpreventable, will cause severe erosion problems and safety/liability concerns, which are greater risks than the uncertainty of the longevity of the structures. Development permits have been applied and the DFO is consulted. The design concept will be sent out for referrals to various agencies involved in parks. Construction may commence early summer. The PC will make monthly reports on the progress.

The PC has placed a park entry sign and replaced the chain barrier with a more appropriate split rail fence to close the rope tail until it is open for use again.

Environmental Restoration Association Ecosystem Restoration Associates Inc.

John Block and Jennifer Holland of Ecosystem Restoration Associates Inc. made a presentation to a group of stake holders representing various organizations, groups, and committees involved and interested in parks at 3 pm at the Seniors’ Lounge, Seniors’ Center and again at the DIRA meeting at 7:30 pm Community Hall.

Brief intro to ERA – CERP Background

We purchased from North Denman Lands the tree’s ecosystem service of carbon sequestration– then we on-sell those benefits on the voluntary carbon market.

There are two types of carbon offsets (Voluntary and Compliant) these are voluntary offsets.

The companies that are purchasing voluntary offset are doing it for two reasons: 1) because of Corporate Social Responsibility or 2) they want to connect it to a particular product.

The buyer for the offsets on Denman Island are a German company that want to bundle there natural gas energy with ex-ante forest offsets (total carbon sequestration is realized at project year 100) from Denman and other lower mainland projects.

Rights were purchased prior to sale of land to province, then a conservation covenant was placed on the land.

The covenant is in place in order to protect the trees and the biomass of the trees in the project area.

Aspects of development/change that are restricted in the covenant:

- The Land shall not be, subject to subsection (d) of this section:
 - o Subdivided; or
 - o Built on, including by or for any;
 - Building or structure, fixture, or improvement of an kind being constructed, built, installed, affixed or placed thereon; or

- Road or path being laid out or constructed thereon;
- No part of the Land, nor any building or other improvement on the Land, shall be used for any purpose or in any manner, for any activity that results in, or could reasonably be expected to result in:
 - Deleterious impact or effect on the natural, environmental, wildlife, plant life or ecological values of the Land;
 - A deleterious impact or effect on the natural, environmental wildlife, plant life or ecological values of the Land;(repeated sentence)
 - A deleterious impact or effect on the volume of Tree Biomass located on in or under the Land, except to the extent provided for in this Instrument; or
 - The alteration or interference with the hydrology of the Land or any part of it, including by the diversion of natural drainage or flow of water;
- The Land owner shall not permit or suffer any Encumbrance to be placed on the Land;
- The existing state of the Land shall not be substantially altered including by any:
 - Maintenance, repair or replacement of any private road or path,
 - Cutting destruction or removal of Tree Biomass
 - Timber harvesting activities;
 - Mining quarrying or soil removal activity, subject to any mineral rights or claims existing on the Land prior to the registration of this Instrument;
 - Activity related to the production of petroleum or natural gas subject to any oil and gas rights or claims existing on the Land prior to the registration of this Instrument;
 - Deposit of fill, rubbish, ashes, garbage, waste or other material, including without limitation non0native soil, gravel, rock or other natural substance; or
 - Application of herbicides or pesticides, including but not limited to insecticides and fungicides.

All the things that are required or restricted by the park management plan are still in place 1% of trees can be removed/ checkerspot butterfly habitat is applied for/ if there are more than one percent removals then they have to be replaced by similar amount of biomass in trees, or offsets purchased (can be off or on island)

So the take home message is, you will still be able to do all the activities that you have always done in the park/ there is nothing that limits those activities in the covenant.

Q: Railway marsh covenant – were trees in that covenant area not part of the project? A: that is correct, they are not part of the project.

Q: I heard that over 1% had to be replaced if it was removed – would that allow logging A: no, logging will also not be allowed because it will be a class A park

Q: Will be there any reforestation work? A: At this point no – but there is room in the covenant for this to happen as long as the cost is offset from the offsets and the process is approved by Parks.

Q: My understanding is that the planetary benefits will start to occur generations from now, whereas the German company will continue to benefit from its license to pollute. A: You're right. However there are some older trees on the land which are already storing a significant amount of carbon and would have released that carbon if they were destroyed in development. Additionally the ecological benefits of protecting the ecosystem in the park will be obtained immediately and into the future.

Q: Is BC parks implementing this partnership elsewhere. A: no this is the first. This is a pilot project.

Q: can you explain the voluntary/compliant difference again. A: Compliant markets are regulated under legal requirement to reduce or off their emissions (mainly Europeans); voluntary markets do this voluntarily for social and corporate reasons. We can feel virtuous that these offsets were bought by a company that wanted to.

Q: Why is the covenant only 100 years? A: Because our project requires permanence for 100 years but parks would prefer to not have covenants on crown land.

Report from Parks Liaison Committee (PLC) Jack Forsyth reported re the public meeting PLC facilitated on Wed Mach 9 with representatives from Parks. They made the recommendation that the Park become a Classification A Park. Jack Brought forward a list of the names for the different areas of the new park that had been suggested by the community and at the public meeting.

2. **Denman WORKS Committee:** (attached report below)

- CVRD's Staff Report to the electoral area services committee was received late on Friday afternoon & it contains the results of the Questionnaire made available on Hornby & Denman Islands in January this year. This will be posted to the Denman Works website as soon as permission is provided by the CVRD.
- 92 people completed the questionnaire on Denman
- of whom 61 voted to have economic enhancement supported by tax dollars
- 47 voted to split the service with each island being treated separately
- 47 responded on their preferred method of service delivery, of whom 22 voted to have CVRD work directly with Denman WORKS! as their first choice. But it was close. Because the next preference, 20 votes on the weighted scale, was for CVRD to deliver the service themselves directly. And by the way the Hornby vote was similarly close.

The upshot of this is that CVRD is recommending to its Board:

- that Hornby & Denman economic enhancement services be split
- that Denman WORKS! become a Select Committee of CVRD with the same membership as at present plus Bruce Jolliffe, your area 'A' Director becoming a committee member.

In practice there will be little change in the delivery of economic enhancement services on Denman. We will continue to report to the community on our activities at DIRA meetings, our monthly Denman WORKS! meetings on the island will still be open to the public, the grant programs in our budget will go forward as planned, as will workshops & other types of economic enhancement activities.

And this is an interim step. The CVRD checking that Denman WORKS! is capable of delivering in 2011 before making (I quote) "a future recommendation on service delivery for Denman Island in the 2012-2016 financial plan".

1. Meantime we have been busy, doing

- Two Grant Facilitators have been interviewed & engaged & Request for Funding Assistance forms are on our website – DenmanWorks.wordpress.com
- One Facilitator is already helping Margie Gang & DIRCS with the Community Hall foundation project
- \$2,000 matching Hornby's contribution has been granted to help produce the annual Tourist brochure
- Community Project Grant forms will be available off our website & in hardcopy in the Resource Centre as soon as CVRD has approved the format, we hope by end month.
- A Job Board has been costed & designed & again once the expenditure is CVRD approved it will be constructed & put up outside the General Store. It is for the use of anyone looking for work or for workers
- There is a useful workshop on March 31 The Small Business Forum at the Community School, sponsored by Denman WORKS! & featuring several business owners on Denman. Useful for anyone wanting to start or improve their own small business.

Please note Minutes of our committee meetings are available online on our website & also in the library.

3. Bill Mee Park Committee: John Wigle reported (in writing) that the new 3 year DIRA/CVRD contract has been approved by CVRD.

Islands Trust Liaison Report: Louise Belle stated that the Public Hearing scheduled for March 15 was cancelled and would be rescheduled. (attached Islands Trust Report)

News from Trust Council

Both David and Louise attended the Island Trust Council Meeting on Galiano Island on March 8–10, where the key agenda item was the budget debate. The budget recommendation presented to the Trust Council in December by the Financial Planning Committee would have resulted in a 4% tax increase over the previous year. Through budget refinements and alterations, Council designed and adopted a budget that reduced the tax increase to 1%.

The budget still includes funding for important things such as:

- Modernize our records management system
- Improving the Trust website
- Continuing work for local trust committee to be complaint with the provincial RAR
- Expanding the NAPTEP program to Bowen Island
- Increasing in the remuneration for all trustees
- Continuing work on an Agricultural Plan for Denman Island.

At the meeting the trustees had a preview of MapIT. This interactive mapping program will be available on our website sometime in April. The program allows the public to zero in on any property, identify the sensitive ecosystems, the zoning, any DPAs, the BCAA assessed value, etc.

Local Trust Committee

Our first priority is the continuing work on the targeted review of the OCP/LUB. A Community information Meeting was held in February, and the APC met and reviewed the proposed bylaw changes. The LTC meets tomorrow, Mar 15th and will discuss this input. We anticipate holding a public hearing for this work in the coming month or two.

Our second priority is proceeding with the Agricultural Plan. The Agricultural Plan Steering Committee is now meeting every two weeks to prepare for Phase two of this project. Public consultation is a key part of this phase, and you can expect to hear more about this over the summer and fall months.

Advisory Planning Commission

The APC term ends at the end of February for 3 of the 6 APC members, when the LTC appoints three new members – sometimes new to the APC and sometimes undertaking a further term. Members whose term ends are Jenny Balke, Derek Hood and John Johnston.

As always, David and I are grateful to islanders who assist the LTYC in this way. In particular, we want to acknowledge the efforts of Derek Hood who has been an APC member for four years, and APC Chair for three of these years. Many thanks, Derek, for your effective chairing and for all of the administrative work that you did.

Islands Trust Events this Week

Tues Mar 15th: LTC business meeting, tomorrow, following the public hearing for Bylaw No. 195

Sat Mar 19th: RAR presentation by Michele Jones 9:30 AM at the Old School

Incoming Correspondence:

2011

1.	Shari Dunnet, Vice-Administrator HDCHCS	Invitation for a member of DIRA Executive to attend the focus group discussion re Age-Friendly Communities survey on Mar 3, 2011.	Feb 14
2.	Brian Allaert, Community Services, CVRD	Request to present at Mar 14/11 DIRA Meeting re design for the Morning Beach stairway	Feb 18
3.	Edina Johnston, member	Comments re Notice of Motion re DIVFD service agreement	Feb 22
4.	Bruce Joliffe, CVRD	Forwarded to DIRA, response to Edina Johnston re her comments re Notice of Motion re DIVFD service	Feb 23
5.	Leslie Stringer, Manager, Union Bay Credit Union	Confirmation of \$500 donation to Parks Liaison Group and necessity of deposit to a bank account of a non-profit society	Feb 22
6.	Laura Pope, resident	Comments re Notice of Motion re DIVFD service agreement	Feb 25
7.	Edina Johnston, member	Comments re Fiduciary Conflict of Interest and Notice to Reader re DIVFD service agreement	Mar 5
8.	James Bast, CVRD	Re DIRA /CVRD working group meeting on Mar 7/11, CVRD support for the Notice of Motion to be presented at Mar 14/11 DIRA General Meeting	Mar 7
9.	CVRD D. Oakman	CVRD Staff Report: Denman Hornby Economic Development Service	Mar 10

Outgoing Correspondence:

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1.	Shari Dunnet, Admin HDCHCS	RSVP to Mar 3, 2011 invitation to focus group discussion re Age Friendly Communities, Nettie Cotter to attend	Feb 25
2.	Ian Smith, CVRD	Forward DIRA's Feb 14/11 Motions passed re Waste Mgmt. Committee amendment to 2011 budget	Feb 15
3.	Margie Gang, DIRCS	DIRA letter of support re importance of DIRCS and its Community Hall	Feb 21
4.	Ian Smith, James Bast, Bruce Joliffe, CVRD	Forward John Kirk's Notice of Motion to be presented at Mar 14/11 DIRA General Meeting re DIVFD service agreement	Feb 21
5.	All DIRA Committees	Re Motion passed at Feb 14/11 DIRA General Meeting to make HST application—request for committee information before next DIRA GM	Feb 21
6.	The Grapevine	Submission of article to publish Notice of Motion re DIVFD service agreement	Feb 22
7.	P. Karsten, PC. L. Stringer, Union Bay Credit Union	DIRA confirmation of holding donation funds in trust with conditions attached	Feb 23
8.	The Grapevine	Submission of Activity Report of the Parks Committee to DIRA Meeting on March 14, 2011	Mar 4
9.	CVRD Conference Call Exec Report	Executive Report Re Conference Call March 2 requested by CVRD Re CVRD Questionnaire results	Mar 4

Adjournment of meeting at 9.40pm