



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
Highway Connector Committee
Minutes

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Regional District Board Room

Present: Hira Chopra, Chairperson
Gillian Trumper
Mayor Dianne St. Jacques, District of Ucluelet
Mayor John Fraser, District of Tofino
Mike Kokura, Director, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
Ken Epps, Island Timberlands
Gary Haggard
Mike Newton, R.F. Binnie & Associates
Dewayne Parfitt, Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce
Cindy Solda, Port Alberni City Councillor
Bob Kangiesser, Chair, Port Alberni Pot Authority
Patty Edwards, MLA's Office

Staff: Bob Harper, Administrator
Wendy Thomson, Deputy Corporate Secretary
Drew Hadfield, Manager of Environmental Services
Robert Gunn

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m.

Minutes

2. Moved by J. Fraser, seconded by G. Trumper, "That the minutes from the February 6, 2008 Highway Connector Committee meeting be adopted as circulated."

"Carried"

Correspondence

3. Debates of the Legislative Assembly (Hansard) - Morning Sitting, April 1, 2008 regarding the Highway Connector.
Moved by D. St. Jacques, seconded by C. Solda, "That this correspondence be received."

"Carried"

Reports

4. B. Harper reported on his meeting with Peter Wightman, District Manager and Barb Thomas, Ministry of Transportation regarding the proposed Highway 4 connector study.



The Ministry's Capital Projects Review team is currently reviewing the Highway 4 Connector report. Mr. Harper advised that the following 3 things need to be in place in order for the new highway to go ahead: \$35 or \$40 million dollars, a proper business plan and the political will. Mr. Harper will report back to the Highway Connector Committee once he hears from the Capital Section.

5. B. Harper reported on his investigation into putting up a sign, *Proposed Charlie Haggard Connector* on the side of the highway near Loon Lake. He said the Ministry of Transportation's informal response is no because they do not want to raise the expectations of the public that a new road will be built. Mr. Harper advised that the Regional District is currently implementing a sign bylaw to regulate signs in the region. Discussions ensued regarding putting up the sign without permission from the Ministry. Mayor Fraser said the Regional District is asking the Ministry to fix the issue of illegal signs on the side of the highway and it wouldn't look good for the Regional District to put one up without permission.
6. Moved by C. Solda, seconded by M. Kokura, "That staff be instructed to apply to the Ministry of Transportation to put up a sign, Proposed Charlie Haggard Connector, on the side of highway 4 near Loon Lake."

"Carried"

7. The Chairperson reported on the highway connector presentation that was made to the Comox Valley Regional District on April 8th. The Chair, Mr. Harper, and Director Kokura made the presentation. The Chairperson said they were well received and the Comox Valley Regional District Board passed a resolution unanimously supporting the proposed route.
8. The Chairperson advised that presentations will be made to the Nanaimo Regional District on May 13th and the City of Courtenay on June 16th. Staff will be making arrangements to make presentations to all neighbouring municipalities and Regional District's to gain support for the project. A meeting is also being arranged with Mr. Dave Bartram, electoral area director in the Horne Lake area, before the meeting with Nanaimo Regional District.
9. Mayor St. Jacques has a Regional Transportation Advisory Committee meeting tomorrow and will let them know the Regional District is putting in an application to put up a sign and request a speedy response.
10. M. Newton said he has been thinking of other ways to move this project forward. He discussed the possibility of using logging roads in the area to connect the road through. He said logging roads can be changed into provincial highways. K. Epps advised Island Timberlands' road structure points the opposite way. He also noted that they do not own all of the land in the area. M. Newton asked K. Epps if it would be possible to get a map of all of their logging roads in the area. Mr. Epps said he could provide this information.



Discussions ensued.

11. P. Edwards advised that MLA Scott Fraser is willing to assist in gaining support for the proposed route.
12. The Administrator provided the Committee with a copy of an article from today's Times Colonist regarding the proposed route. The meeting with Comox Valley Regional District has sparked the interest of the media.

Next Steps

13. The Administrator reviewed the next steps of the Committee. Presentations will continue with neighbouring municipalities and regional districts to gain support for the route. The Committee will continue to work towards the meeting with the Minister.
14. M. Kokura recommended staff get in touch with ICBC to see what type of assistance they can provide.
15. Moved by M. Kokura, seconded by G. Trumper, "That a letter be forwarded to ICBC, with a copy of the Horne Lake Connector Study, highlighting the safety issues and asking how they can assist the Highway Connector Committee."

"Carried"

16. Moved by G. Trumper, seconded by C. Solda, "That the Administrator ask staff to work with Island Timberlands on mapping out the proposed route and logging roads and investigate costs to take the next step and report back to the Committee."

"Carried"

17. The next meeting of the Highway Connector Committee will be held on Wednesday, June 25, 2008 at 12 noon in the Regional District Office.
18. Moved by G. Trumper, "That this meeting now stand adjourned."

"Carried"

19. The meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Hira Chopra,
Chairperson

Bob Harper,
Administrator