

MEETING MINUTES



Beyond, Every Day.

Environmental Advisory Committee

Meeting Date:	May 5, 2020	Meeting Time:	1:00 – 2:30 PM
Location:	Microsoft Teams	Prepared by:	Michael Ferguson
In Attendance:	Marion Town Wendy Avis Jennifer Aldcroft Mary Point Kevin Eng Cynthia Zhou Éóin O’Connor Richard Holt Owain McKibbon Kelsey Taylor Judy Williams Shelina Sidi Morgan Guerin Gina Aitchison	YVR, Environment – Chair YVR, Environment YVR, Environment YVR, Indigenous Relations City of Richmond Citizen Representative, Richmond City of Vancouver Environment and Climate Change Canada Environment and Climate Change Canada Fraser Basin Council Fraser River Coalition Metro Vancouver Musqueam Indian Band Transport Canada	
Guests/Presenters:	David McPhie Simon Robinson Amanda Chow Shaye Folk-Blagbrough	YVR, Environment YVR, Environment YVR, Environment YVR, Environment	
Regrets:	Jacquelyn Kankam Shirin Kalyan Patrick Gosselin June Ryder	Air Canada Citizen Representative, Vancouver Fairmont Hotel Vancouver Airport Nature Vancouver	
Secretary:	Michael Ferguson	YVR, Environment	

MEETING MINUTES

Discussion:

1. **Introductions & Welcome**

Marion Town welcomed the committee and shared some tips to ensure a successful online meeting.

Marion asked the committee if there were any comments or questions on the draft meeting minutes from the January 30, 2020 meeting. There being none, the minutes were adopted as final and will be posted on the YVR website (www.yvr.ca).

2. **Impact of COVID-19 on YVR**

COVID-19 continues to have a significant impact on the global aviation industry. As an economic generator in the region, this is the most significant challenge YVR has faced. Prior to the crisis, we experienced a decade of growth, supported over 26,000 jobs on Sea Island and over 100,000 across BC.

We are currently seeing daily traffic volumes down more than 90% over last year's passenger traffic numbers. The global aviation industry is now expecting a multi-year recovery. At YVR, we now expect to operate as a smaller airport than previously forecasted, serving fewer passengers as we work through a multi-year rebuild. As a result, we have had to make some difficult decisions to safeguard the future of our organization.

- We have put our multibillion-dollar capital construction program on hold – this includes our new Parkade, international expansion and the Central Utilities Building, which was set to house one of Canada's largest GeoExchange systems.
- Last week, we notified our workforce that we'll be making some reductions to align with current and forecasted operational requirements. We are starting by offering voluntary departure packages, then we are in the unfortunate position to undergo layoffs.
- Additionally, we expect more than 50% of the broader airport workforce of 26,000 to be laid off as a result of the pandemic.
- We are doing everything we can to support our Sea Island business partners, as are the provincial and federal governments. And we look forward to the day when we are back together as the YVR team.

We continue to reduce expenditures and consolidate our resources to ensure we weather the crisis. The airport remains open as critical infrastructure to repatriate Canadians, help transiting passengers return home and facilitate cargo and emergency air support. We have reduced our terminal footprint to less than half of its normal operation in order to centralize and save resources. This includes shutting down whole areas of the terminal, turning off moving walkways, lights and thermostats, closing select washrooms, powering down check-in areas and more. Out of abundance of caution, we have temporarily suspended a range of customer care programs including our Explorer Tour, the LASI program and the Green Coat Volunteer program.

MEETING MINUTES

We are working closely with government, public health officials, and airline partners to address the pandemic. We support all measures to protect public health and will continue to work closely with the Public Health Agency of Canada, government partners, and relevant stakeholders to ensure the safety and security of our passengers, employees and airport visitors. As the airport operator, we have led a number of activities in addition to PHAC's screening measures.

- We have put hand sanitizer in dozens of high-traffic areas. We have assigned an enhanced cleaning team that is able to clean up to 18,000 square feet of space per hour including high touch surfaces like border kiosks, handrails and washrooms.
- We have placed additional signage throughout the terminal in multiple languages to encourage social distancing, outline PHAC's top precautionary measures, raise awareness of the self-isolation requirement and more.

Marion indicated that YVR is committed to sharing regular updates on our response to COVID-19 and that our website has the latest information. Marion also included that YVR is sharing information with other airports through the Canadian Airports Council and Airports Council International.

Metro Vancouver asked if monthly traffic volumes from January through April were able to be provided and Marion indicated that she would check to see what information has been compiled.

3. **Environmental Management Plan – 2020 to 2024**

Wendy Avis presented on Vancouver Airport Authority's Environmental Management Plan, which has been fully approved for 2020-2024 by the Airport Authority's Board of Directors. The Airport Authority officially rolled out the EMP internally in February 2020, and externally in March 2020, and it is available at yvr.ca/environment.

4. **2019 Environmental Results**

Several members of the Airport Authority's Environment team provided updates on environmental results from 2019.

Amanda Chow presented on greenhouse gas emissions from activities owned and controlled by the Airport Authority (Scope 1), and emissions from the off-site generation of energy purchased by the Airport Authority (Scope 2). The Airport Authority has seen a 34% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions per passenger since 2012, despite seeing significant growth in passenger numbers during that time.

David McPhie provided an update on emissions from the activities related to airport and its tenants (Scope 3 emissions). Aircraft activity (landing, taxiing, takeoff) accounts for the largest portion of this category, followed by auxiliary power unit (APU) use, and vehicle traffic on Sea Island (both airside and groundside). 29% of surveyed air travelers used public transit to get to YVR, including 17% using the Canada Line. Total emissions from the airport (Scope 1,2 and 3) represent 1.5% of emissions in the Lower Fraser Valley.

David then provided an update on tenant engagement. In 2019, the Airport Authority re-vamped and re-launched their tenant engagement program, Project Green YVR, with three areas of focus for conservation: energy, waste, and water.

MEETING MINUTES

Shaye Folk-Blagbrough provided an update on waste management. In 2019, the Airport Authority achieved a 54% recycling rate – a new record at YVR. Other initiatives of note include the fifth year of Waste Wars and the construction of DTB food court centralized waste sortation counter, which opened in August 2019. With respect to construction waste, the Airport Authority's construction program recycled 98% of materials produced in 2019 – upwards of 99 million kg.

Amanda Chow presented on water conservation. The Airport Authority has seen a 39% reduction in water usage per passenger since 2012. Washrooms account for 25-30% of potable water usage at YVR. The Airport Authority continues to upgrade washrooms to increase efficiency and minimize potable water use.

Wendy provided an update on ecosystem health. The Airport Authority has a robust environment assessment program, monitors all construction on Sea Island and regularly audits tenants to ensure both regulatory compliance and improved environmental performance. Vancouver International Airport has been Salmon-Safe certified since 2016. To retain this certification, a habitat enhancement project must be completed. The project will be delayed due to pandemic, but a one year extension has been granted by Salmon Safe. The Airport Authority continues to work together with the Musqueam Indian Band on habitat enhancement, including invasive plant removal. No projects in 2019 were posted to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada; to date, one project has been posted in 2020.

A Committee member asked if the Airport Authority expects to eliminate all auxiliary power unit emissions in the years to come. Marion explained that the Environment department has conducted observational studies on the use of gate power, has identified opportunities to increase the number of aircraft shutting down and is working with airline partners to reduce APU usage.

With respect to ecosystem health, a Committee member asked about projected glycol numbers for 2020. It was stated that going forward fewer aircraft in operation will lead to less de-icing fluid being used. However, it was noted that a significant number of aircraft were deiced during the winter period of January to March 2020.

5. **Update on Development Projects at YVR**

Simon Robinson provided an update on construction projects at YVR. Most projects have been on hold since mid-March. Projects planned for 2020 have been deferred to 2021 or beyond. Some projects have continued for logistical or safety reasons. There were no new projects to discuss.

Projects of note to the Committee included the VAFFC's Fuel Delivery Project, which is nearing completion on Sea Island, although work in Richmond continues and the Seair Dock replacement, which is now complete.

Simon concluded by informing the Committee that the Airport Authority's Riparian Habitat Enhancement Project was posted to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada in February of this year.

MEETING MINUTES

6. Roundtable / Discussion

None

7. Other Business – NAV Canada Airspace Modernization Project

Marion Town shared information on the NAV Canada Vancouver Airspace Modernization Project (VAMP). The airspace over the southwest region of BC is very complex and busy due to the many airports in a small geographic region, high levels of aircraft movements and a wide range of aircraft types and the confined operating area with mountains to the north and US airspace to the south. In May 2019, NAV CANADA launched VAMP to address these concerns and enhance safety in the airspace.

In addition to safety, environmental benefits may be achieved including reducing emissions and noise through the use of more modern navigation technologies and routes. Marion let the Committee know that NAV CANADA is hosting technical stakeholder consultation sessions for aircraft operators, airports, municipal staff, and Musqueam. NAV CANADA will undertake broader consultations with the community which are expected to occur either later this fall or in early 2021.

A Committee member asked if migratory flyways are being considered with the airspace modernization project. Marion couldn't answer the question but would advance the question to NAV CANADA. Metro Vancouver requested a contact from NAV Canada for the VAMP project.

8. Next Meetings

- Annual Public Meeting has been postponed. The Committee will be informed as soon as a date has been confirmed.
- Summer tour – a tour for EAC will be considered, once restrictions due to COVID-19 change and it can be done safely.
- Fall Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 2020 and may be held remotely.

Action Items:

1. *Marion Town will respond to Metro Vancouver's request for monthly 2020 passenger traffic data.*
2. *NAV Canada will be informed of Metro Vancouver's request for a contact with the Vancouver Airspace Modernization Project.*
3. *The Committee will be notified when a date for the Annual Public Meeting is confirmed.*

Summer/Fall Tour - TBD

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 1 p.m. (Location TBD)