

MEETING MINUTES



Beyond, Every Day.

Environmental Advisory Committee

Meeting Date:	May 6, 2021	Meeting Time:	1:00 – 3:00 PM
Location:	Microsoft Teams	Prepared by:	Wendy Avis
In Attendance:	Marion Town Wendy Avis Jennifer Aldcroft Mary Point Kevin Eng Cynthia Zhou Floyd Yamamoto Linda Gillan Shirin Kalyan Richard Holt Rene McKibbon Theresa Fresco Judy Williams Morgan Guerin Gina Aitchison	YVR, Climate and Environment – Chair YVR, Climate and Environment YVR, Climate and Environment YVR, Indigenous Relations City of Richmond Citizen Representative, Richmond Citizen Representative - Alternate, Richmond City of Vancouver Citizen Representative, Vancouver Environment and Climate Change Canada Environment and Climate Change Canada Fraser Basin Council Fraser River Coalition Musqueam Indian Band Transport Canada	
Guests/Presenters:	Simon Robinson Peta Wolmarans	YVR, Climate and Environment YVR, Planning	
Regrets:	Myrka Manzo Patrick Gosselin Shelina Sidi June Ryder	Air Canada Fairmont Hotel Vancouver Airport Metro Vancouver Nature Vancouver	
Secretary:	Wendy Avis	YVR, Climate and Environment	

MEETING MINUTES

Discussion:

1. **Introductions & Welcome**

Marion Town welcomed the committee and shared some tips to ensure a successful online meeting. Marion acknowledged that we are on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Musqueam people and that implementation of the Musqueam Indian Band – Vancouver Airport Authority Friendship & Sustainability Agreement was enabling exchanges of ideas and deeper understanding within the Environment Department.

2. **Review of previous minutes**

Marion asked the committee if there were any comments or questions on the draft meeting minutes from the January 21, 2021 meeting. There being none, the minutes were adopted as final and will be posted on the YVR website (www.yvr.ca).

3. **Airport Authority Updates**

Marion informed the committee that the Airport Authority released its [2021 Strategic Plan](#) and reviewed the six theme areas – Staying ahead of COVID, Gateway to the New Economy, Strengthening the Core, Climate – Net Zero by 2030, Financial Sustainability and Purpose through People. A Sea Island Town Hall was held on March 31, 2021 with our CEO Tamara Vrooman, and a video recording of the session can be found [HERE](#). YVR recently announced [Innovation Hub @ YVR](#), which will be a centre of excellence to connect and collaborate with local businesses and our community to lead the economic recovery in B.C.

It was noted that YVR's Annual Sustainability Report and the Noise Management Report would be available on May 7th in time for the Annual Public Meeting on May 13th at 3PM. Links to the reports and the meeting (including a recording) are as follows:

- Annual and Sustainability Report – yvr.ca/apm
- Annual Noise Report – yvr.ca/en/about-yvr/noise-management/publications
- Annual Public Meeting – yvr.ca/apm

Marion presented information provided by the airport's Air Services Department on the impact of the COVID pandemic on YVR operations, including trends in case numbers and vaccinations and forecast passenger numbers for 2021.

4. **Environmental Management Plan 2020 Results**

Wendy Avis and Jennifer Aldcroft presented 2020 results under the EMP theme areas of carbon, waste, water conservation and ecosystem health (glycol monitoring and environmental assessment). Data showed an overall reduction in environmental impact with a 5% reduction in carbon emissions, a 47% reduction in water consumption and a 65% reduction in waste in 2020 over 2019. Ecosystem health was protected during 2020 with environmental assessments completed on 90 projects, over 100 construction site visits and 9 tenants audited. In addition, water quality monitoring is a cornerstone of the airports' approach to environmental protection and stewardship and as one of the measures of that are tracked, acted and reported upon we noted that there were 4 incidents of water samples with glycol readings over 100 mg/L. Information on the 2020 noise concerns was also provided, showing that while there was a 52% decrease in traffic from 2019 to 2020 and a 55% decrease in the

MEETING MINUTES

number of individuals with concerns, there was a 10% increase in noise concerns with 3 individuals accounting for 92% of the total concerns.

Jennifer and Wendy also shared information on a few key initiatives planned for 2021 including achieving carbon neutrality through the purchase of carbon offsets from the Darkwoods Forest Offset Project ([see video](#)), development of a Roadmap to Net Zero by 2030 including actions to get to zero for Airport Authority emissions and actions to support reductions by partners on Sea Island. Information was also shared about the Salmon-Safe recertification process which is now underway and will include for the first time, an Indigenous Assessor from the Musqueam Indian Band and also a formal review of the Salmon-Safe standards by Musqueam.

A question was asked about concrete construction waste and Marion explained that YVR is incredibly successful in recycling concrete which is crushed and re-used. A question was also asked about the definition of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) and Marion explained that the “sustainable” criteria for SAF includes the source material derived from waste material and no food crops or palm oil used for the production of the fuel. In response to a question about the role of an Indigenous Assessor, Theresa Fresco from Fraser Basin Council explained that the Indigenous Assessor provides a review of the organization from an indigenous lens and indicated that a second organization has followed YVR’s lead in including this aspect with their certification process. A link to the Salmon-Safe Urban Standards was also provided in the chat and can be found [HERE](#).

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

Simon Robinson reported that many construction projects at YVR have been deferred due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. He gave updates on the close-down work on CORE, the Templeton Site redevelopment, the South Field Electrical Project. He outlined three new projects – the Taxiway M rehabilitation, the North Runway Pavement repairs and a replacement of a BC Hydro Transformer on Russ Baker Way. While the BC Hydro Transformer replacement project is very small, it is not on the list of excluded projects under the Impact Assessment Act and was posted on the Registry. Simon confirmed with the Committee that YVR conducts environmental reviews all projects but will continue to use our judgement in determining which projects need to be brought to the attention of EAC before decisions are made and are being posted on the Registry.

6. **Industry Collaboration and Current Issues**

Marion shared the role that the Environment team plays on different industry groups including Jennifer’s role as Vice-Chair of the Canadian Airports Council, Wendy’s role on the ACI-NA Environmental Affairs Committee representing Canadian airports and Marion’s role on the ACI-World Environment Committee. Marion spoke to the role that airports are playing in the decarbonization of the aviation industry and in supporting airlines. A question was asked about the viability of hydrogen as an aviation fuel and Marion indicated that it is a technology that is under development, although not as immediate as SAF, which is a drop-in fuel and doesn’t require new infrastructure. Marion also emphasized that hydrogen must also be from a sustainable source and referenced the work by airports in Japan to advance hydrogen.

MEETING MINUTES

7. Roundtable / Discussion

Jennifer shared that Metro Vancouver is undertaking consultation as part of their Clean Air Plan and Climate 2050 plans and that there is currently a [discussion paper on Transportation](#) which is open for comments until June 15.

Richard Holt from Environment and Climate Change Canada provided some information on the proposed two-year extension to [Canada's Action Plan to Reduce Emissions from Aviation](#), which expired in 2020. Transport Canada is the lead on the Plan, which is a voluntary agreement with the government and airlines that was signed in 2012 and expired in 2020. The Plan set a target of a reduction in greenhouse gas intensity of aircraft of 1.5% per year. As of 2018, airlines had achieved an annual average reduction of 1.7%. The bulk of the emissions benefit came through the shift to newer aircraft that are more efficient. Due to the impact of the pandemic on airlines, the agreement will be extended for 2 years to allow for new targets to be negotiated. ECCC will be a signatory on the new agreement.

8. Proposed Land Use Changes at YVR

Peta Wolmarans gave a presentation on the proposed land use changes to the YVR Master Plan given the anticipated deferral of the construction of a third runway. The changes would rezone the Northlands Greenfield Land from Airside to Groundside Commercial/Airside and land in Airport South from Airfield to Airside, and Airside to Groundside Commercial. The proposed changes would release industrial land for development, support increased cargo operations, increase incremental lease revenues and avoid the cost of a Northlands taxiway. The proposed changes are expected to be submitted to Transport Canada in June 2021 and a decision is expected by September 2021.

A concern was raised about if there would be public consultation on these changes as well as how the changes to the Master Plan affect the decision on the construction of the third runway, particularly the foreshore option. Peta responded that these changes to not affect the future decision on the location of a future runway, which is now not anticipated for at least 30 years. When there are plans for a future runway, there would be full environmental impact assessment undertaken which would include public consultation. For these changes, given that there is not a significant change to the land use designation, focused stakeholder consultation is being undertaken rather than broad public consultation, hence the presentation to the committee. Consultation is underway with Musqueam as well as local municipalities.

9. Next Meetings

- May 13 @ 3PM – Annual General Meeting
- Summer Tour – tbd
- October 21, 2021 @ 1PM

Action Items:

- Meeting minutes will contain links to the YVR Strategic Plan 2021 and the Sea Island Town Hall, the Annual Sustainability Report and Noise Management Plan and the Annual Public Meeting.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 1 p.m.