

**Confirmed Minutes of the Third Meeting of the  
Environment and Conservation Fund Committee  
held on 8 July 2005 at 9:30 a.m.**

**Present**

Prof. LUNG Ping-ye, David, S.B.S., J.P. (Chairman)

Prof. CHAN Chi-ming

The Hon CHOY So-yuk, J.P.

Ms LAU Ka-shi

Mr. MAN Mo-leung

Dr. TSO WONG Man-yin, B.B.S.

Mr. Eric CHAN

AD(CV), EPD

Mr. Anthony POON

PEO(CD), EMB

Mr. CHAN Ping-kwong, Richard

Sr Nature Conservation Officer, AFCD

Miss Christina CHONG

SAO(CVD)2, EPD, (Member/Secretary)

Ms Winifred CHAN

SEO(CVD), EPD (Assistant Secretary)

**Absent with Apologies**

Mr. Joseph LEE, B.B.S., J.P.

Mr. LAU Chi-kit, Edwin

**In Attendance for Agenda Item 3**

Dr. Ellen CHAN

AD(EI), EPD

Mr. CS LAI

SEPO(WR)1, EPD

**Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed all Members to the third meeting. He introduced Dr. Ellen CHAN, Assistant Director and Mr. CS LAI, Senior Environmental Protection Officer of EPD who attended the meeting on the application of funding to support source separation of domestic waste in residential buildings.

**Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 1 March 2005**

2. The revised draft minutes of the last meeting held on 1 March 2005 were sent to members on 27 June 2005. Members confirmed the revised minutes without further amendment.

## **Agenda Item 2: Matters Arising**

### Para. 3 Membership of the Waste Recovery Projects Vetting Subcommittee (WRPVSC)

3. Miss Christina CHONG reported that the proposed chairmanship and membership of Waste Recovery Projects Vetting Subcommittee (WRPVSC) was endorsed by circulation in June 2005. The Hon CHOY So-yuk was appointed as the Chairman of WRPVSC and the first meeting was held on 28.6.2005.

### Para. 4 Nature Conservation Policy Review – Pilot Conservation Management Agreement Projects

4. Miss Christina CHONG reported that the deadline for application to the pilot conservation management agreement projects was 31.5.2005. A total of four applications were received. Colleagues of EPD and AFCD were reviewing the applications. The assessment and recommendations would be submitted to the ECF Committee for approval when available.

### Para. 13 Financial Position of the ECF

5. Miss Christina CHONG reported that as at 30.6.2005, the uncommitted fund balance was \$36.6 million.

## **Agenda Item 3: Funding to Support Source Separation of Domestic Waste in Residential Buildings**

6. The Chairman welcomed Dr. Ellen CHAN and Mr. CS LAI to the meeting. Dr. Ellen CHAN briefed Members on the details of the funding application.

7. Dr. Ellen CHAN informed Members that a pilot programme on source separation of domestic waste was introduced in the Eastern District in 2004. The result was encouraging as the quantity of recyclables collected in some of the

participating estates had doubled when compared with the 3-coloured waste separation bins system. In view of the encouraging result, the Government proposed to initiate a territory-wide campaign to implement source separation of domestic waste, which targeted at 180 private housing estates, public housing estates and government quarters in 2005. Property management companies, upon obtaining agreement from owners' committees, incorporated owners' committees or residents' organizations, might submit applications on behalf of these committees to the ECF for funding to cover part of the expenses for procurement, delivery and installation of waste separation facilities and equipment or tools to be used in the source separation programme. The total grant for each project would be limited to 25% of the actual expenditure spent on the approved items and also subject to a maximum of HK\$150,000. The applicant would be required to submit monthly statistics to EPD on the quantity of recyclables collected together with the quantity of waste disposed of for a consecutive period of at least 36 months. As the equipment and facilities could be continuously used by the applicants to sustain the estates' waste separation and recovery programmes, full ownership of the equipment and capital items would be granted to the recipient organizations. A three-month application period would be commenced upon announcement of the funding scheme in August 2005 and a total of \$5 million would be required to support about 110 private housing estates under this territory-wide programme. Public housing estates and government quarters were not included in this scheme as they could rely on other funding sources to implement their source separation programme.

8. In reply to a Member's question on whether such recovery programme could be a profitable business operation conducted by private recycling industry and the possible implementation of such programme on a district basis, Dr. Ellen CHAN replied that some large scale housing estates like Heng Fa Chuen recorded a profit during the pilot scheme because of the economy of scale. However, small scale housing estates were less attractive to the recyclables collectors. Since this involved private business operation, it would be inappropriate for EPD to designate/appoint specific collectors for specific districts.

9. Another Member supplemented that the WRPVSC had examined the proposal and considered it worthy of support. She informed Members that the Wet/Dry Waste Separation Pilot Programme carried out in 2004 was effective in improving domestic waste recovery rate but the cost of recovery under that programme was too high. With the experience gained in the Wet/Dry Waste Separation Pilot Programme, the new proposal would make it more convenient for residents to separate waste at source by providing waste separation facilities on each floor of buildings. In respect of the long-term solution of waste reduction, she also supported the "polluter-pays" principle to encourage further reduction of waste. Dr. Ellen CHAN added that EPD would continue to develop mandatory measures

such as product responsibility schemes and waste disposal charges to create incentives for waste reduction.

10. Members pointed out that public education on waste separation was important. Mr. POON further proposed EPD to consider inviting new design of separation bins to facilitate waste separation. A Member opined that household drainage system could be further improved to facilitate direct disposal of wet waste. Another Member also agreed that the Government should consider the installation of food waste disposal system in kitchen sink to facilitate the direct disposal of food waste through the drainage system.

11. Mr. Richard CHAN enquired if other methods to promote source separation of domestic waste at the participating housing estates had been examined. He also asked how the estimated unit cost of \$1,000 for a set of separation bins was arrived at. Dr. Ellen CHAN explained that various proposals had been examined and the current proposal would provide simple and direct encouragement to participating housing estates. In respect of the unit cost of the separation bins, Mr. CS LAI explained that separation bins to be installed at stairways would be more expensive than those to be installed in the refuse rooms because of the need to adhere to the relevant Fire Safety and Buildings Regulations. The estimate cost of \$1,000 per set was the averaged cost for bins to be installed at stairways. Applicants would be paid on a reimbursement basis after EPD had checked and confirmed the installation of waste separation facilities.

12. Members of the ECF Committee supported the proposed allocation of \$5 million for implementation of the source separation programme of domestic waste in residential buildings. The Chairman thanked Dr. Ellen CHAN and Mr. CS LAI.

[Note: The discussion on item 4 would not be posted on the web for public information.]

**Agenda Item 4: ICAC Assignment – Administration of the Environment and Conservation Fund  
(ECF Paper 12/2005)**

13. Note.

14. Note.

15. Note.

16. Note.

**Agenda Item 5: Date of Next Meeting**

17. Members noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held in October 2005. The Secretariat would check the availability of Members and confirm the meeting date nearer the time.

18. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Secretariat, ECF Committee  
September 2005