



C·V·R·D

REGIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2009

6:00 P.M. / BOARD ROOM

175 INGRAM STREET

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Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Regional Services Committee held in the Board Room, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC, on Wednesday, September 23, 2009 at 6:13 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair P. Kent
Directors K. Cossey, M. Dorey, L. Duncan, G. Giles,
B. Harrison, D. Haywood, L. Iannidinardo, K. Kuhn,
T. McGonigle, I. Morrison, G. Seymour and T. Walker

ABSENT: Directors R. Hutchins and M. Marcotte

ALSO

PRESENT: Warren Jones, Administrator
Joe Barry, Corporate Secretary
Mark Kueber, General Manager, Corporate Services
Ron Austen, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and
Culture
Sybille Sanderson, Acting General Manager, Public
Safety
Geoff Millar, Manager, Economic Development
Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy
Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks and Trails
Dominique Beesley, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be amended with the addition of the following New Business:

Item No. NB1 – Staff Report from the Manager, Economic Development re: Economic Development Division budget status report; and

Item No. NB2 – Regional Tourism.

and that the agenda, as amended, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES 2M1

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular meeting of Regional Services Committee held August 26, 2009 be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

DELEGATIONS

4D1

Guy Dauncey representing BC Sustainable Energy Organization provided a presentation on the status of energy policy in the Province of BC.

STAFF REPORTS

- 5SR1** Staff Report from the Corporate Secretary dated September 8, 2009, re: CVRD Bylaw No. 3252 – Chairperson, Directors and Alternate Directors Remuneration Amendment Bylaw, 2009, was considered.

It was moved and seconded that it be recommended to the Board that "CVRD Bylaw No. 3252 – Chairperson, Directors and Alternate Directors Remuneration Amendment Bylaw, 2009" be forwarded to the Board for consideration of three readings and adoption.

MOTION CARRIED

- 5SR2** Staff Report from the General Manager, Corporate Services dated September 14, 2009, re: CVRD Car Allowance Policy, was considered.

It was moved and seconded that it be recommended to the Board that the CVRD Car Allowance Policy, as attached to the Staff Report from the General Manager, Corporate Services dated September 14, 2009, be approved effective November 1, 2009.

MOTION CARRIED

- 5SR3** Staff Report from the General Manager, Corporate Services dated September 14, 2009, re: mid-year Budget Status Report, was received as information.

- 5SR4** Staff Report from the Acting General Manager, Public Safety dated September 1, 2009, re: Public Safety mid-year budget status report, was received as information.

- 5SR5** Staff Report from the Acting General Manager, Public Safety dated September 15, 2009, re: agreement – Woodley Range Repeater Site, was considered.

It was moved and seconded that it be recommended to the Board that the Chair and Corporate Secretary be authorized to sign the lease agreement with Rogers Communications Inc. for the Woodley Range Repeater Site that covers the period of January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2011.

MOTION CARRIED

- 5SR6** Staff Report from the Parks and Trails Manager dated September 15, 2009, re: Regional Parks mid-year budget status report, was received as information.

NEW BUSINESS

NB1 Staff Report from the Manager, Economic Development dated September 22, 2009, re: Economic Development Division budget status report, was received as information.

NB2 *Regional Tourism*

Director Morrison said that he was concerned over Regional tourism and Economic Development and their relationship to the potential loss of the Tourism Information Centre in the Town of Lake Cowichan. He noted that he had attended the last Economic Development meeting and that he would like to have a full discussion with all the partners involved with Regional tourism.

Director Morrison requested that a discussion regarding Regional tourism and Economic Development be placed on the next Regional Services Committee agenda.

ADJOURNMENT
7:26 p.m.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Chairperson

Recording Secretary

Dated: _____

4D1

Request to Appear as a Delegation**Meeting Information**

Request to Address:*

☒ CVRD Board☐ Committee

If Committee, specify the Committee here:*

Whole

Meeting Date:*

10/14/2009

Meeting Time:*

6pm

Applicant Information

Applicant Name:

Theresa Gerritsen

Representing:

Safer Futures, CSAC Committee

(Name of organization if applicable)

As:

(Capacity / Office)

Number Attending:

1

Applicant Contact Information

Applicant Mailing Address:

103-255 Ingram Street

Applicant City:

Duncan BC

Applicant Telephone:

250-748-7000

Applicant Fax:

250-748-9364

Applicant Email:

exec.dir@cwav.org

Presentation Topic and Nature of Request:

Update on Community Safety Advisory Committee activities.

* indicates required fields.

4D2You are here: [Home](#) > Forms**Request to Appear as a Delegation****Meeting Information**

Request to Address:*

☐ CVRD Board☒ Committee

If Committee, specify the Committee here:*

Meeting Date:*

Meeting Time:*

Applicant Information

Applicant Name:

Representing:

(Name of organization if applicable)

As:

(Capacity / Office)

Number Attending:

Applicant Contact Information

Applicant Mailing

Address:

Applicant City:

Applicant

Telephone:

Applicant Fax:

Applicant Email:

Presentation Topic and Nature of Request:

* indicates required fields.

**STAFF REPORT****REGIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
OF OCTOBER 28, 2009**

DATE: October 28, 2009 **FILE NO:**

FROM: Geoff Millar, Manager, Economic Development Division **BYLAW NO:**

SUBJECT: Cowichan Region Area Agricultural Plan

Recommendations:

1. That an Agricultural Development Officer position be given consideration as part of the 2010 budget review process.
2. Formation of an Agricultural Development Committee to oversee implementation of the Area Agriculture Action Plan.

Purpose:

To create a Cowichan Region Area Agricultural Plan.

Financial Implications:

Funding dollars for the plan development already applied for from Investment Agriculture Foundation. Some program development in 2010 will be budgeted under core funding in EDC 2010 budget. Agriculture Development Officer Program dollars are in 2010 supplemental project allocation.

Interdepartmental/Agency Implications:

Program is developed with assistance from Provincial Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Ministry of Community Services – Rural BC Secretariat, federal Agriculture Agri-food Canada, District of North Cowichan and CVRD Environment Division.

Background:

Economic Development Cowichan has embarked on a process to create a Cowichan Region Area Agricultural Plan as part of the 2009 business plan. From the Ground Up Consulting Service was hired to develop the plan and has completed the first two sections and recommendations to move ahead with the development of the action plan. The intent of the plan is to develop a vision for agriculture and a plan that strengthens farming in the Cowichan Valley Regional District. The plan will be divided into three main sections:

- 1) State of the Industry – describes the current condition of the agriculture industry in the Cowichan Valley Regional District including the resources used and available, the economic impact, environmental limitations, trends and the regulations and policies that affect the industry. This part of the report is based on a combination of data analysis from the 2006 Census (the most recent statistical information available), a review of existing studies from the area, consultations with stakeholders, local

knowledge and land-use inventory using aerial photography with some ground proofing.

- 2) Agricultural Issues and Opportunities – summarizes the issues and opportunities identified in the consultation process.
- 3) Action Plan – identifies the vision, strategic directions, and recommended goals, objectives and actions to implement the plan.

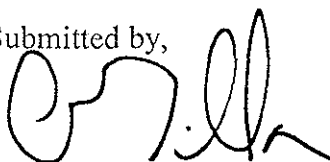
Two key strategic directions are suggested to lead the industry towards its vision:

- 1) Economic Development – This is the dynamic strategy that will allow the industry to shift and optimize production to match market conditions at any given point in time.
- 2) Food Security and food self-sufficiency – This strategy will help ensure that the resource base is developed and/or maintained so that the industry can produce a basic diet for 45% of the local population.

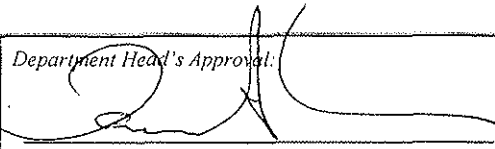
Seven goals have been identified to achieve the strategic directions:

- 1) To create a strong communication network between agriculture and the community.
- 2) To create a local government policy framework that supports and welcomes increased agricultural production, encourages land improvements and helps provide access to resources.
- 3) To improve viability and profitability in the local agriculture industry including:
 - Attracting and recruiting new farmers
 - Maintaining or expanding the livestock industry
 - Increased training and education programs for the industry
- 4) To improve water management for agricultural purposes including:
 - Increased access to water for irrigation
 - Improved water use efficiency
 - Improved drainage and water control systems
- 5) To improve and extend the access to market for local foods including:
 - Increased access to storage, processing and distribution systems
 - Increased on farm value-added production
 - Improved access to markets
- 6) To preserve the character and environment of the community.
- 7) To ensure that "individual parcels within the ALR will be used for their highest and best agricultural use". This will ensure that the agricultural sector in the CVRD profits and contributes as much as it can towards local and island-wide food self-sufficiency.

Submitted by,

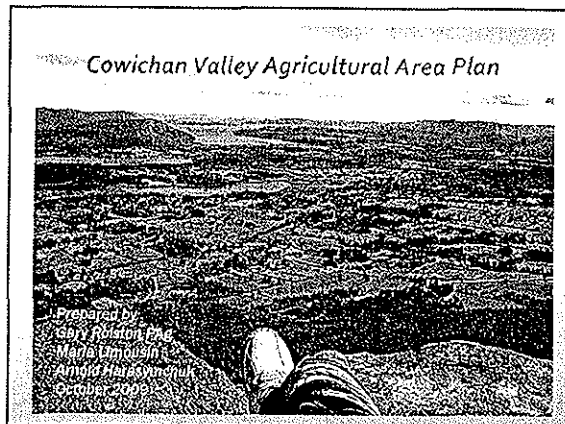


Geoff Millar
Manager, Economic Development Division, CVRD

<p>Department Head's Approval:</p> 
<p>Signature</p>

GM/jm

Attachment



Agriculture Plan Process to Date

- Background information: Land-use inventory using GoogleEarth and ground-proofing, Analysis of Census statistics, literature review including CAS Strategic Plan, North Cowichan Agriculture Plan, Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan, review of OCPs, zoning bylaws, etc.
- Stakeholder consultations: 6 producer meetings, 3 farm tour days, 1 full day with farmers market (interviews with 35 customers and vendors), Media Launch at Avenell Creek Winery, personal and phone interviews (20), on-line survey (3), email responses (200+)
- Two reports generated:
 - State of the Industry
 - Issues and Opportunities

State of the Industry – Key Points....

- Without irrigation, there is only 46.6 ha of prime agricultural land in the CVRD. With irrigation, 9,421 ha would be prime (Prime=Class 1 to 3)
 - Only 2465 ha currently irrigated
- CVRD farm gate sales (2005) - \$45.55 million from 700 farms
- Average farm size - declined from 31.2 ha to 16.5 ha (1986 to 2006)
- Total area farmed – declined from 17,261 ha to 11,559 ha (1986 to 2006)
- Farms under 28 ha increased, over 29 ha decreased
- Average margin – declined from 13.0% to about 8.5% (1986 to 2006)
- 3 sizes – small lot operators, developing farms, established farms
 - Small lot (<\$25,000) 533 farms (76%) – 8% of total revenue
 - Developing farms (\$25K to 100K) 84 farms (12%) – 9% of revenue
 - Established (>\$100,000) 83 farms (12%) – 83% of revenue

State of the Industry – Key Points....

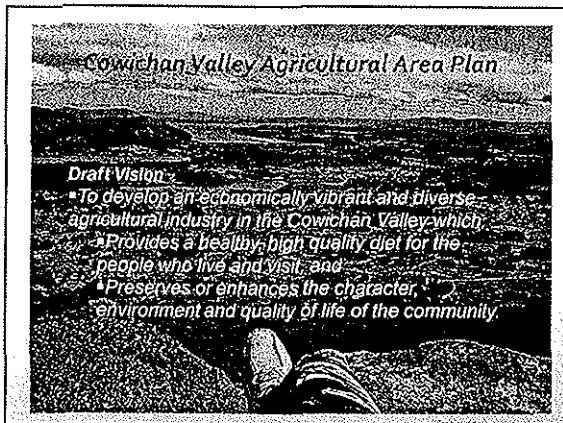
- Small lot numbers are static, developing farms are growing and large farms growing in sales but number of farms is down
- Intensity (\$ per ha) increased 284% from \$2407 to \$4114 (1986 to 2006)
- Livestock production is in serious decline – dairy dropped from 57 farms to 44, beef from 162 to 138, pigs from 61 to 46 (1986 to 2006)
 - Farm numbers are the same because horse farms increased
- Horticulture – trend is smaller, more intensive, high value, 'near organic'
- Average land based used by livestock is 16.8 ha vs 1.8 ha for horticulture
- Livestock operations worth saving. Among other reasons, they:
 - tend to provide more and better habitat and
 - make use of poorer quality land not suitable for other crops

Issues and Opportunities – Key Points....

- Report identified:
 - Issues and opportunities in 3 areas:
 - Economic - 12 issues/opportunities
 - Regulatory and Social – 20 issues/opportunities
 - Environmental – 6 issues/opportunities
 - Note: some of these could fit in 2 or 3 areas – lots of overlap
 - About 70 solution options – some of which are common to several issues and opportunities (example – training and education options)
 - A number of issues and opportunities that may be better addressed on a Regional (Vancouver Island) basis.
- Next steps...subject to approval of Regional Services and CVRD Board – as discussed in next slide....
 - Draft a vision based on consultations
 - Refine the issues and opportunities – create strategies, goals and actions that simplify the direction without losing any of the above
 - Develop a process to ensure implementation

Next Steps

- Presentation to CVRD Regional Services Committee (October 28, 2009) with a recommendation to approve:
 - Formation of Agricultural Development Committee to oversee development of Area Agriculture Action Plan
 - Creation of an Agricultural Development Officer position
- Recommendations to CVRD Board of Directors if approved at RSC
- Development of plan and public consultation to stakeholders
- Plan implementation



Proposed Strategies....

- 2 Key Strategic Directions
 - Economic Development (supply side) – dynamic strategy that will allow the industry to shift and optimize production to match market conditions.
 - Food Security and food self-sufficiency (demand side) – strategy will help ensure that the resource base is developed and/or maintained so that the industry can produce a basic diet for 45% of the local population.

Expected Economic Impact: increased sales of \$68 million

To do this requires:

- Policy that supports agriculture
- Increased access to water
- Season extension – processing, storage...
- Open communication between stakeholders
- Industry – improve management of resources...

Proposed Goals....

- To create a strong communication network between agriculture and the community
- To create a local government policy framework that:
 - supports and welcomes increased agricultural production,
 - encourages land improvements and
 - helps provide access to resources
- To build capacity and increase profitability in the local agriculture industry including:
 - Attracting and recruiting new farmers
 - Maintaining or expanding the livestock industry
 - Increased training and education programs for the industry
- To preserve the rural character and environment of the community

Proposed Goals....

- To improve water management for agricultural purposes including:
 - Increased access to water for irrigation
 - Improved water use efficiency
 - Improved drainage and water control systems
- To improve and extend the access to market for local foods including:
 - Increased access to storage, processing and distribution systems
 - Increased on farm value-added production
 - Improved access to markets
- To ensure that "individual parcels within the ALR will be used for their highest and best agricultural use". This will ensure that the agricultural sector in the CVRD profits and contributes as much as it can towards local and island-wide food self-sufficiency.

Key Messages from Plan Process

- The Area Agriculture Plan is a long term document that will take years to fully implement
- There is a significant amount of work to be done- issues and opportunities identified more than 70 action items
- There is a role for local government, the farming community and interested stakeholders- everyone must take a piece of the action plan

Questions?



5SR2

STAFF REPORT

REGIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF OCTOBER 28, 2009

DATE: October 16, 2009

FILE NO:

FROM: Sharon Moss, Manager, Finance Division

BYLAW NO:

SUBJECT: Municipal Insurance Association (MIA) Liability Insurance

Recommendation:

For information purposes.

Purpose:

To provide the Committee with information on how the CVRD Liability Insurance Policy is managed and our relationship with MIA.

Financial Implications:

Not applicable.

Interdepartmental/Agency Implications:

The CVRD Liability Insurance Policy covers all functions of the CVRD.

Background:

The CVRD joined MIA in 1988 due to 300-500% increased cost for liability insurance that had occurred due to private insurance market instability. The Municipal Insurance Association of B.C. (MIA) is member owned and operated, consisting of 154 municipalities and regional districts and served by a Board of 16 appointed members. The MIA was founded as a result of this market instability to provide stable and best value costs through risk management and risk financing.

The CVRD annual cost (premium) includes **Coverage (A)** for bodily injury, personal injury and/or property damage, plus **Coverage (B)** for errors and omissions liability. Deductibles are determined by population size. Our deductible of \$25,000 is the minimum available based on our population but we have a choice to increase our deductible to \$50,000, \$100,000 or \$250,000. Our annual cost is determined by MIA for similar sized local government within our deductible level, and adjusted based on claims history. The limit of liability on both coverages is \$35,000,000 for each occurrence. Also included is coverage for Defense and Other Costs to defend the CVRD for claims included in our coverage. Examples of excluded coverage are building claims for damages caused by failure of inspections of the building envelope; claims for fines or penalties; claims for intentionally caused risks which produced personal or property damage; claims for Pollution Liability and claims with no dollar damages.

The CVRD may chose to settle claims up to \$5,000 without going through MIA. For claims over \$5,000 we are obligated to contact the MIA Claims Manager and may not retain our own lawyer. If the CVRD chose to undertake our own legal defense MIA will not cover any legal expenses. The Finance Manager for the CVRD is responsible for reporting claims to MIA and is the contact between staff and elected officials to the MIA Claims Manager. It is the responsibility of MIA to investigate and settle claims on behalf of the CVRD, and therefore payment of a claim lies with the MIA Executive Board. All problems or difficulties encountered by the local government in the settlement of a claim are addressed to the MIA Claims Committee.

The Regional District has established a Liability Fund which all departments contribute to which is used to pay a portion of the deductible. When there is a liability claim 50% of the deductible is charged against this fund and the balance is charged to the function where the claim originated i.e. an individual slips and falls on the ice at Cowichan Lake Sports Arena, all costs incurred by the CVRD to defend against this claim are charged 50% to Cowichan Lake Sports Arena with the balance being charged to the fund. The current balance in the Liability Insurance Fund is \$114,000.

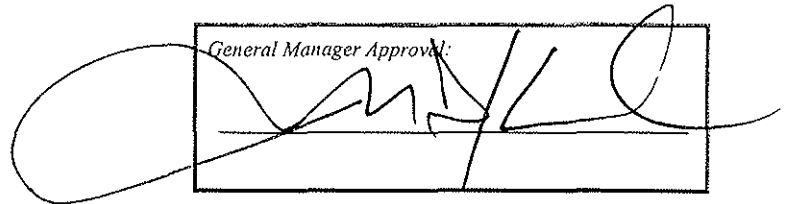
Respectfully submitted by:



Sharon Moss, C.G.A.
Manager, Finance Division
SM/tk

Attach.

Z:\sharon\Staff Reports - 2009\Staff Report- MIA Liability Insurance.doc



General Manager Approval:



5SR3

STAFF REPORT

REGIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF OCTOBER 28, 2009

DATE: October 21, 2009

FROM: Brian Dennison, P. Eng., General Manager, Engineering & Environment

SUBJECT: Utility Takeover Policy

Recommendation: For information only.

Purpose: To provide the Committee with details about the Water Management Department's Utility Takeover Policy.

Financial Implications: Cost recovery is required for technical assessments of new utilities due to new development.

Interdepartmental/Agency Implications: n/a

Background:

In the past two years, the CVRD Engineering and Environmental Services Department has been approached by approximately 40 different utility providers or developers to take over water, sewer, drainage and streetlighting functions. These requests can be broken down into two categories, existing utilities and new ones.

Existing Utilities

The CVRD considers the takeover of existing utilities for the following reasons:

1. Many utilities are poorly operated with untrained staff and no access to professional advice. In some cases there is difficulty retaining operators at all. Often there is no ability to have staff available for on-call response to operational issues.
2. Privately owned utilities and Improvement Districts do not have access to infrastructure grant funding, which can make upgrades far more financially viable.
3. Customers have no recourse on the decisions made by the private owners of utilities, particularly privately owned sewer systems which have no regulation on the rates charged to customers.
4. Single utilities cannot benefit from the economic efficiencies gained by cost-sharing equipment and specialized staff over a number of utilities.
5. In some cases, different utilities may be joined together to create a larger more economically viable single utility, improving service to the customers.
6. The BC Ministry of Environment and Vancouver Island Health Authority support CVRD takeover due to better accountability and stability.

The normal procedure for takeover of an existing utility is as follows:

1. The owner of the system submits a written request to the CVRD.

.../2

2. A preliminary review of the system is then carried out by staff and a report submitted to the Engineering and Environmental Services Committee with a staff recommendation as well as a preliminary list of conditions for a Stage 1 approval. Stage 1 provides direction to staff to spend time on the request and indicates to the applicant the CVRD's interest, and some preliminary issues regarding the system.
3. A technical assessment of the system is carried out usually by a consultant which is paid for by a provincial feasibility study grant and the CVRD's feasibility study function. The CVRD's component is returned if a function is established.
4. Based on the results of the assessment appropriate user fees and parcel taxes as well as any major upgrades or modifications are determined.
5. Assent of the Electorate is obtained based on the financial information obtained in step 4. This is usually through a signed petition process.
6. If a successful petition is achieved the necessary bylaws are prepared and the results submitted to the board and subsequently the province for approval.

The takeover process normally takes about six months or longer if there are more complexities involved.

New Utilities

In 2007, the CVRD amended its zoning bylaws so that new developments may not achieve the densities due to sewer and water servicing unless the service is held publically. Thus, almost all utilities for servicing new developments in the Electoral Areas are taken over by the CVRD or an improvement district. The reasons for this are as follows:

1. There is an incentive for developers to save money on infrastructure by cutting standards. In some cases very poorly built infrastructure has been installed. This is curtailed by the approvals necessary through public ownership.
2. The ability to unify utilities into larger units is limited if the infrastructure is privately held and investment has been made by the utility company. This ultimately also works against incorporation into municipalities.
3. Governance of privately held sewer systems is in question where there is no regulation of fees charged customers.
4. The BC Ministry of Environment and Vancouver Island Health Authority support CVRD takeover of these facilities, again, due to better accountability and stability.

Due to the structure of regional districts, all costs involved in operating a utility, including major system failures, are only paid by the customers of the system through parcel taxes and user fees for sewer and water utilities and modest requisitions for streetlighting and drainage utilities.

One exception to this financial responsibility arises in the area of liability for legal action due to damage caused by actions or omissions of the CVRD. With some exceptions, the Municipal Insurance Agency (MIA) provides coverage for incidents that may arise through no fault of the CVRD. In these circumstances the \$20,000 deductible would be paid by the service area in question. However, MIA does not provide coverage where the act or omission is deliberate on the part of CVRD staff or directors. Also, in cases of negligence on the part of the CVRD, coverage is not provided for bodily injury, personal injury or property damage. Where no coverage is provided, the CVRD, as an organization, is responsible for the liability. However, the CVRD Board would normally direct that this cost be charged to the applicable service area.

Submitted by,



Brian Dennison, P. Eng.,
General Manager, Engineering & Environment

Approved by:

NOT REQUIRED

Brian Dennison, Manager, Engineering Services



STAFF REPORT

REGIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF OCTOBER 28, 2009

DATE: October 20, 2009

FROM: Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy Division

SUBJECT: Cowichan Valley Regional District Environment Commission membership

Recommendation: That the CVRD Board name the following Environment Commission members to an additional term of two years on the CVRD Environment Commission:

Chris Wood, Peter Keber, Rodger Hunter, Roger Wiles

Purpose: Maintain ongoing active membership of the CVRD Environment Commission.

Financial Implications: N/A

Interdepartmental/Agency Implications:

Sustainability Implications:

Legal implications: N/A

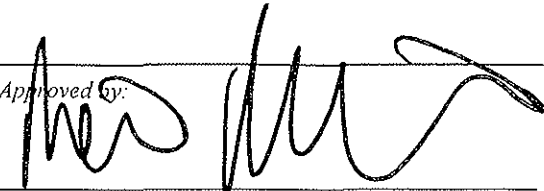
Background: The Environment Commission has a staggered tenure of membership. Seven of the Commission member's terms expire this December. Five of the members have expressed a desire to remain on the commission resulting in two openings for commission membership. Advertising for two new members will be placed on our website as well as in local papers.

In addition to the regular community representation there is a position on the Commission for a member of the Economic Development Commission to encourage collaboration and communication. Mike Kelly, who represents the Economic Development Commission, has notified us that he is unable to continue with his membership into next year. The Economic Development Commission will be requested to put forward another member to take Mr. Kelly's place.

Submitted by,


Kate Miller
Manager, Regional Environmental Policy

Approved by:


Brian Dennison, General Manager,
Engineering and Environmental Services



5SR5

STAFF REPORT

REGIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF OCTOBER 28, 2009

DATE: October 20, 2009

FROM: Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy Division

SUBJECT: Status of the Chinook fisheries

Recommendation: N/A

Purpose: for update/information purposes only

Financial Implications: Unknown at this time; however, the potential implications should the fisheries be listed or major catch exploitation numbers be reduced would be substantial. The Cowichan Chinook fishery is now established in all BC coastal fisheries - from the Queen Charlottes, West Coast of Vancouver Island and the Georgia Strait. The fisheries are in major decline and current concerns may indicate a potential exploration of Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) analysis of Species at Risk Act (SARA) listing if the Cowichan stock cannot be rebuilt. The fisheries are estimated to be valued at approximately \$800 million to provincial revenues by the recreational fisheries with an additional \$30- 40 Million in commercial interests (values are not calculated for the potential and fiduciary impacts on First Nations resource use reductions).

Interdepartmental/Agency Implications: The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) is extremely concerned about the decline of the chinook populations and as such is in the process of developing and implementing a Cowichan Chinook Recovery Plan. This process entails a interdisciplinary joint-technical working group reporting to an administrative committee. Given the significance of the stock to the Cowichan Region the CVRD has been asked to have a representative on that administrative group. Kate Miller, Manager Regional Environmental Policy has been appointed by the Board Chair. The Cowichan Chinook stocks are an index to the BC US Salmon Treaty and as such are a critical index in determining catchment allocations along the BC US coast.

Sustainability Implications: The Cowichan chinook are an important species that is a keystone that provides not only direct fisheries and food fish for our communities but is also a major building block to other terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity.

Legal implications: Unknown at this time.

Background: Cowichan, as well as Goldstream, Chemainus, Nanaimo, Somass and Thompson Rivers (Fraser) have seen extremely low Chinook returns. This is not a unique Cowichan Chinook problem. This is a southern BC problem which requires a southern BC solution.

In 2008 there was a low number of Chinook Jacks (471) which indicated that the adult return this year would be low. This year, the jack return is even lower (174) than last year indicating that next year could be even worse. This year has seen a huge return of Pink salmon to southern BC waters including Cowichan, and there are several indications that the Coho Adult return has been strong as well, including Cowichan. Both of these groups of salmon entered the ocean in 2008. Based on this information, the Chinook Jacks should have had good survival as well but the fence data indicates a lower survival.

In other words, the Pinks and Coho result points to a good return of Chinook Adults next year, and the Chinook Jack result point to a lower return of Chinook Adults next year. This is unfortunate but not uncommon situation to be in when there are opposing indexing forecast used.

There are a number of counting mechanisms for fisheries returns but the most telling is the in river fence counts, the fisheries count swims and the dead pitch analysis. At this time the preliminary fence counts are follows (October 19, 2009).

Chinook Adults	166	Coho Jacks	825
Chinook Jacks	174	Chum	32
Coho Adults	1526	Pink	156

In addition, the Cowichan River Hatchery has collected approximately 600 Chinook, mostly adults for brood. Half of these have now been returned to the Cowichan River because the Hatchery is only allowed to take one third of the spawning escapement. The average total return estimated from the 1950's to 1988 was estimated at 7500 with an annual variation in range from 1500 to 150,000.

Fisheries lifecycle issues and the range of potential areas of impact are great and include freshwater, near shore and deep sea habitats. The range of impacts is also great and includes exploitation rates, climate impacts, interspecies interactions and loss of both freshwater and estuarine ecosystems. It is unclear at this time the relative impact and relationship of these variables – however, it is clear that a policy of the precautionary principle is warranted.

Federally DFO is responsible for managing the stock, allocating and setting exploitation targets. As such they will be working on the recovery plan as one of their top priorities in this region and addressing the role of hatcheries in recovery planning as well as the wild salmon policy directions.

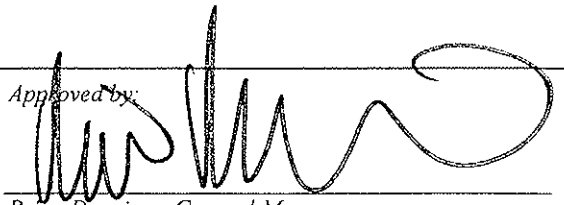
At a local scale local governments have control of land use practices and development standards, particularly with regards to riparian areas, storm water runoff and discharge of deleterious substances.

Submitted by,



Kate Miller
Manager, Regional Environmental Policy

Approved by:



Brian Dennison, General Manager,
Engineering and Environmental Services



5SR6

STAFF REPORT

REGIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF OCTOBER 28, 2009

DATE: October 21, 2009
FROM: Jacob Ellis, Manager, Corporate Planning
SUBJECT: Corporate Strategic Planning

Recommendation:

That it be recommended that the Board adopt and endorse the draft 2010 Corporate Strategic Plan as a guide to establish corporate priorities.

Background:

In 2008, the CVRD Board approved moving forward with the development of a corporate strategic plan. Community consultation in the form a community survey was undertaken in May 2009 with Board consultation taking place in June, September, and October. Substantial staff consultation was carried out from June through October. The attached draft 2010 strategic plan reflects the collection of ideas and priorities reflected from this process.

This strategic plan will help establish corporate priorities, guide funding decisions, and provide long-term direction for the Regional District. The practical result will be to help ensure that organizational funding decisions and work priorities are consistent with the Regional District's key goals and objectives.

By developing and implementing a strategic plan, the CVRD will benefit from improved decision-making and enhanced organizational effectiveness. Ultimately, perhaps the biggest benefit a strategic plan will bring to the CVRD is getting the organization into the habit of focusing attention on what has been deemed truly important by the community, staff and the Board.

At the last strategic planning session on October 14, 2009 some members of the Board expressed a desire to further review some specific portions of the plan. Some of these items include portions of "Healthy Economy" goal, and the final wording of the corporate Mission Statement. This meeting would be an appropriate time to discuss these and any other outstanding items.

Financial Implications:

The scope and size of the projects contemplated in the Corporate Strategic plan necessitate a multi-year implementation timetable. Determination of which projects receive priority attention will largely be a function of the budget process, with staff advice provided to the Board in the form of recommendations through the Corporate Leadership Team.

Ultimately, the Board, through its budget deliberations and priority setting, will establish which strategic initiatives are undertaken and in which timeframe.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacob Ellis", written in a cursive style.

Jacob Ellis,
Manager, Corporate Planning