

Board Highlights

From the April 9, 2014 Regular Meeting



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1. Neighbourhood Recycling Bins to be Phased Out by May 19, 2014

The Board agreed to phase out the Multi-Product Neighbourhood Recycling Bin (MPNRB) Program within forty days. The multi-bin recycling collection system, which has been in place for many years in the CVRD, has gradually become more and more problematic that discontinuation of the program has become necessary.

Issues with the program include deposition of non-recyclable garbage including couches, mattresses, household garbage, paints, etc. at increasing quantities around the bin or mixed in with the recyclables; attraction of rodents to the accumulated garbage; the safety hazard to people getting around the debris after dark; arsonists lighting recyclables or the flammable materials left around the bins; and the presence of aggressive scavengers loitering around the bins.

Collectively, these issues have resulted in dramatic increases to the cost of the program and have gone so far that contractors are refusing to do the work at all. The need for multi-bins has largely been replaced by the comprehensive curbside recycling collection system. As a result of the phase out, staff have been directed to review recycling drop-off alternatives for select areas as part of an exit strategy. Contact: [Bob McDonald](#), Manager, Recycling & Waste Management

2. Development Permit Issued for Island Tractor

Island Tractor is relocating its tractor and equipment dealership from Sproat Road in North Cowichan to 4650 Trans-Canada Highway, a location formerly occupied by a John Deere dealership. The development permit authorized by the Board permits an addition and exterior alterations to the existing building as well as landscaping, fencing and signage. Contact: [Rob Conway](#), Manager, Development Services

3. Zoning Amended for Saltair Oceanfront Estates to Allow “Stick Built” Dwellings

The Electoral Area G Zoning bylaw has been amended to allow “stick built” dwellings at a waterfront property at the north end of Saltair. The zoning had allowed factory-built mobile homes and modular homes, but not dwellings constructed on-site. The zoning amendment is expected to benefit the local economy, as it will allow the developer to use local labour and suppliers for construction of the 15 homes planned for the project rather than importing manufactured homes from outside the region. Contact: [Rob Conway](#), Manager, Development Services

4. Change Requested to Agriculture Funding in BC

The Board unanimously agreed to submit a resolution to the upcoming Union of British Columbia Municipalities convention in September requesting the provincial government to raise agriculture funding in BC to the national average. Provincial funding for agriculture in BC as a percentage of agriculture Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the lowest in Canada. The Board states that it is imperative that BC Farmers obtain the financial support necessary to sustain their industry. Contact: [Kathy Lachman](#), Business Development Officer

5. Financial Assistance Provided to Various Groups and Organizations

The Directors approved the issuance of \$9,650 in grants-in-aid funding to the following organizations:

- \$300 to Cycle Cowichan from Electoral Area D – Cowichan Bay to assist with funding the annual Bike to Work Week event.
- \$500 to Victoria Foundation from Electoral Area C – Cobble Hill to assist in providing support to families in crisis and animals in need.
- \$500 to Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation from Electoral Area G – Saltair/Gulf Islands to provide a Saltair community bursary.
- \$3,000 to Cittaslow Cowichan Bay from Electoral Area D – Cowichan Bay to support 2014 events and future goals.
- \$2,500 to Cowichan Land Trust from Electoral Area D – Cowichan Bay to support the Cowichan Estuary Centre Interactive Watershed exhibit.
- \$500 to Chemainus Secondary School from Electoral Area G – Saltair/Gulf Islands, to provide a Saltair community bursary.
- \$500 to Chemainus Secondary School from Electoral Area G – Saltair/Gulf Islands to provide a Thetis Island community bursary.
- \$1,000 to Cittaslow Cowichan Bay from Electoral Area D – Cowichan Bay to support the 2014 spot prawn festival.
- \$300 to Creative Folk of Cowichan Lake from Electoral Area F – Cowichan Lake South/Skutz Falls to support the production of the artisan's map brochure.
- \$550 to Lake Days Celebration Society from Electoral Area F – Cowichan Lake South/Skutz Falls to support Lake Days festivities.

Contact: [Sharon Moss](#), Manager, Finance

6. Significant Interest Expressed For a New Hospital Site

Chair Hutchins advised the Board that 19 submissions were received from landowners in response to the recent Expression of Interest for a potential new future hospital site. The responses will be evaluated in the weeks ahead. Contact: [Rob Hutchins](#), Board Chair

7. Cowichan Valley Commuter Bus Fares Adjusted for Young Children

Bus fares for children aged four or under on the Cowichan Valley Commuter have been confusing since rides on the conventional transit system are free, but the fare for all passengers on the commuter buses is \$7.00. Therefore, to help eliminate confusion and to provide consistency for the relatively low ridership of this fare category, the Board agreed to allow children, four or under, to ride free of charge on the Cowichan Valley Commuter system for consistency with the CVRD Conventional System fare policy. Contact: [Jim Wakeham](#), Manager, Facility, Fleet & Transit Management

8. Regional Multi-Modal Transportation Plan Considered

The Board received a report regarding a possible Regional Multi-Modal Transportation Plan for the Cowichan Region. A plan would set a vision as well as the goals, principles, strategies and key initiatives to guide transportation decisions and how our region moves, looks and grows over the next 25+ years. Staff has been asked to prepare a draft budget estimate for such a plan and to define the components that could be accomplished under the transportation component of the Regional Sustainability Strategy. Contact: [Jacob Ellis](#), Senior Policy Advisor

9. External Communication Enhancements to Be Implemented

A report was received by the Directors on proposed plans to move forward with improvements to external communications. The CVRD can enhance its external communications by making some additions and adjustments to current processes within existing budgets. The recent addition of Notify Me Agenda Alerts to the CVRD webpage; the introduction of a Monthly Board Highlights circular (*this document you are reading*); more information posted on the CVRD's Facebook and Twitter pages; stretching limited advertising dollars farther by advertising smarter; and implementing portions of the 2012 Communications Strategy were the key enhancements discussed in the report. Contact: [Joe Barry](#), Corporate Secretary

Board Highlights is a monthly publication of the Cowichan Valley Regional District. This publication is a synopsis only of the Regional Board meeting. Full agenda packages, meeting minutes, and archived video can be found on the CVRD website at www.cvrld.bc.ca at this [link](#). Subscribe to the "Notify Me" Agenda Alerts and don't miss a single Board or Committee agenda; subscribe [here](#).

The Regional Board meets at the CVRD Office, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC. on the second Wednesday of each month, except when scheduled otherwise in advance. For more information, email Corporate Secretary [Joe Barry](#).