

Board Highlights

From the April 8, 2015 Regular Meeting



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1. Emergency Social Services Reception Centre Plan Approved

The Cowichan Valley experiences various floods and fires that result in the activation of an Emergency Reception Centre to provide assistance to those displaced through these emergencies. Managers at the Kerry Park Recreation Centre, Island Savings Centre, Frank Jameson Community Centre and the Cowichan Lake Sports Arena have identified personnel and facility space to accommodate emergency reception centre needs. Since these facilities carry on regular activities and functions while also providing emergency reception centre support, staff identified the need to share the responsibilities amongst the four recreation centres rather than overburdening one recreation centre at the expense of regular patrons.

Contact: [Sybille Sanderson](#), Emergency Program Coordinator

2. Resumption of the Roadside Weed Control Program Requested

The Regional Agricultural Advisory Commission recommended to the Board that a letter be sent to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure requesting the resumption of the roadside weed control program to protect agriculture interests within the Cowichan Valley. The Directors unanimously agreed since resumption of the program will assist farmers who are battling invasive species. Contact: [Kathy Lachman](#), Acting Manager, Economic Development

3. Rock of the Woods Music Festival Temporary Use Permit Approved

Following review by the Electoral Area Services Committee on three occasions and the addition of a number of conditions, the Board approved the issuance of a Special Event Temporary Use Permit for the 2015 Rock of the Woods Music Festival. The event will be held at 4383 Irvine Drive in Electoral Area E – Cowichan Station/Sahtlam/Glenora from July 23 to July 26. Contact: [Rob Conway](#), Manager, Development Services

4. Strategic Priorities Fund Applications to Be Submitted

The Directors agreed to make capital infrastructure project applications to the Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) for the Cowichan Lake Long Term Water Supply Project and Meade Creek Landfill Closure and Recycling Centre Upgrade Project. The purpose of the SPF program is to provide funding for strategic investments that are large in scale, regional in impact or innovative.

Also approved was the submission of a capacity building application to the Strategic Priorities Fund for the Regional Built and Natural Systems Asset Management Planning Project. This would support the development of an asset management program for regionally funded CVRD assets that includes the examination of integrating natural systems into asset management planning through the Partnership for Water Sustainability Society's Integrated Regional Educational Initiative. This would include work to integrate natural systems and climate change thinking into asset management, as well as demonstrating how local governments can progress along the 'asset management continuum' to achieve the goal of sustainable service delivery for watershed systems. Contact: [Jacob Ellis](#), Deputy CAO

5. Federal Grant Funding Sought For Raising The Cowichan Lake Weir

The Board approved submitting an application to the Strategic Priorities Fund for federal grant funding based on the concept of raising the Cowichan Lake Weir by 57 centimetres to address a long term solution for low Cowichan River flows. The preliminary cost of raising the weir, which was a specific recommendation of the Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan and has received the greatest support from stakeholder groups in the valley, is estimated at \$10.35 million dollars. The decision to submit the funding application isn't a decision to move forward with raising the weir since due analysis, engineering and appropriate consultation, public engagement, and permitting as required by the provincial and federal governments would still need to occur. Contact: [Hamid Hatami](#), General Manager, Engineering Services

6. Approval Given for Cross Country Mountain Bike Race in Cobble Hill

Consideration was given to a Special Event application from the Cowichan Valley Cycling Club to hold a cross country mountain bike race on designated trails within Quarry Nature Park and the Cobble Hill Mountain Regional Recreation Area on Sunday, April 26, 2015. Subject to a number of conditions, the "Cobble Hill Classic" Cross Country Mountain Bike Race as part of the Island Cup Racing Series was approved. Contact: [Brian Farquhar](#), Manager, Parks & Trails

7. Sahtlam Fire Rescue to Receive New Fire Tender

The Board approved the purchase of a new 1650 Imperial Gallon Tender to replace the aging 31 year old tender currently in service for the Sahtlam Fire Rescue. The Fire Underwriters' Survey states that apparatus over 20 years of age will not be recognized as a first line apparatus and that apparatus over 30 years of age will not be recognized for fire service insurance grading purposes. Household insurance ratings are based on a number of factors including the age and maintenance records relating to primary fire response vehicles. This tender is important to the community to obtain/maintain continuity of insurance premiums for Sahtlam area residents. Contact: [Conrad Cowan](#), Manager, Public Safety

8. Financial Assistance Provided to Various Groups and Organizations

The Directors approved the issuance of \$1,700 in grants-in-aid funding to the following organizations:

- \$200 to Handmade Hugs Society from Electoral Area D – Cowichan Bay to assist with purchasing materials to make their handmade items.
- \$500 to Cowichan Valley Community Radio Society from Electoral Area I – Youbou/Meade Creek to assist with their Summer Nights concert series event.
- \$500 to Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society from Electoral Area I – Youbou/Meade Creek to assist with expenses to install fish habitat signage around Cowichan Lake.
- \$500 to Special Woodstock from Electoral Area D – Cowichan Bay to assist with expenses to hold their annual music festival.

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

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 this [link](#). Subscribe to the "Notify Me" Agenda Alerts and don't miss a single Board or Committee agenda; subscribe [here](#). Like the CVRD on [Facebook](#) and/or follow the CVRD on [Twitter](#) to keep informed on what's happening in your regional district.

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, contact Corporate Secretary [Joe Barry](#).