

Board in Brief

Please Note: Board in brief is an informal summary of actions taken by the board and, while an effort is taken to ensure its accuracy, may contain errors or omissions. Minutes approved by the Board are the only official record of board decisions.

Actions taken by the
GVRD Board of Directors
at its meeting on November 2, 2007

MATERIAL RELATING TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS
IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Bill Morrell
604-451-6107

Greater Vancouver Water District Board

CONSENT AGENDA

Public Consultation for Utility Management Plans

Approved

The Board endorsed the current approach of receiving public input on utility management plans via forums and public meetings that capture a broad cross-section of community opinion. The Board approved acknowledging the contribution of the Regional Water Advisory Committee (RWAC) via a letter from the Water Committee Chair to RWAC members.

Cambie-Richmond Mains No. 1 & 2 – Fraser River North Arm Crossings Seismic and Operational Upgrade – Construction

Approved

The Board authorized the expenditure of up to \$1.76 million of additional capital funds to upgrade the existing Cambie-Richmond Mains No. 1 and 2 – Fraser River North Arm Crossings.

GVWD Temporary Borrowing Authority

Approved

The Board authorized borrowing up to \$10 million in 2008 in anticipation of the collection of revenues.



**METRO
VANCOUVER**

Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District

CONSENT AGENDA

Public Consultation for Utility Management Plans **Approved**

The Board endorsed the current approach of receiving public input on utility management plans via forums and public meetings that capture a broad cross-section of community opinion. The Board approved acknowledging the contribution of the Solid Waste Plan Monitoring Committee (SWPMC) via a letter from the Waste Management Committee Chair to SWPMC members.

GVS&DD Temporary Borrowing Authority **Approved**

The Board authorized borrowing up to \$12 million for 2008 in anticipation of the collection of revenues.

Delegations' Executive Summaries Presented at Committee – October **Received**

The Board received for information the report dated October 22, 2007, titled "Delegations' Executive Summaries Presented at Committee - October".

Greater Vancouver Regional District

CONSENT AGENDA

Delegations' Executive Summaries Presented at Committee – October **Received**

The Board received for information the report dated October 22, 2007, titled "Delegations' Executive Summaries Presented at Committee - October".

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF NOT INCLUDED IN CONSENT AGENDA

GVRD Temporary Borrowing Authority – Bylaw No. 1071, 2007 **Adopted**

The Board adopted the "Greater Vancouver Regional District Temporary Loan Bylaw 1071, 2007" which permits borrowing up to \$12 million for 2008 in anticipation of the collection of revenues.

OTHER BUSINESS

Reinstatement of the Revenue Sharing Program with Local Government

Approved

The Board received a copy of the City of Vancouver's resolution, forwarded to the Minister of Finance as part of the 2008 budget input process, requesting the Province to address the municipal fiscal imbalance by reinstating a revenue sharing program with municipalities. The following motion was approved.

- Whereas prior to 1997, the Revenue Sharing Act provided for a sharing of provincial revenues with municipal governments on an unconditional basis.
- And whereas a share of provincial sales tax, corporate income tax and resource revenues was indirectly transferred annually to municipalities.
- And whereas in 1997, the previous Provincial Government eliminated these transfers, forcing municipalities to increase their reliance on property taxes.
- And whereas with the federal and provincial fiscal position greatly improved, it would be appropriate to reconsider this approach.
- And whereas this program could make over \$300 million available annually to municipalities in the province.
- And whereas compared to growing provincial and federal surpluses, municipalities across Canada are struggling.
- And whereas where senior levels of governments are able to reduce taxes, the burden on municipal taxpayers is growing.
- And whereas to meet increased service demand, municipalities have been left with little choice but to increase property and business taxes.
- And whereas other revenue sources available to municipalities cannot fill the gap between growing costs to service our citizens and a sustainable level of property taxation.
- And whereas municipal revenues have not kept up with federal and provincial growth.
- And whereas at the same time, payments from the Provincial and Federal Governments now comprise a smaller portion of the overall revenues of many municipalities.
- And whereas this decline is in contrast to the rate of federal transfer payments to British Columbia.
- And whereas since 2001, our province has benefited from billions of dollars of increases in federal transfer payments (CHST and Equalization entitlements).
- And whereas in 2008-09, the federal payments to British Columbia are likely to increase even more.
- Be it resolved that the Board of Directors for Metro Vancouver request the Province of BC take steps in their upcoming budget to address the municipal fiscal imbalance by reinstating a revenue sharing program with municipalities – and that these revenues be stable over time.
- Be it resolved that a copy of the recommendation be forwarded to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.