

The Board in Brief...

Actions taken by
the GVRD Board of
Directors at its meeting on
February 25, 2000

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

Bill Morrell
Communications and Education department
451-6107

Greater Vancouver Regional District

Recognition

- GVRD Staff Retirements

NOTE

Chair Puil recognized the contributions of four GVRD staff members on their retirement. Recognized were Joe Friio, Elaine Forster, Lucille Loose, and Jim Murrison.

Finance

- GVRD Security Issuing Bylaws

APPROVE

The board gave final approval to security issuing bylaws 946 and 947. These bylaws authorize execution of a financing agreement with the Municipal Finance Authority in the amounts of \$90 million and \$10.69 million respectively. Bylaw 946 provides borrowing authority for the Greater Vancouver Water District, while 947 is on behalf of member municipalities Coquitlam, Delta, and the City of Langley.

Administration and Intergovernment

- **Provincial Review of Regional District Legislation**

APPROVED

Four Directors – Hardy Staub, Hal Weinberg, Helen Sparkes and Gayle Martin – were designated as GVRD representatives to a Union of BC Municipalities Legislative Forum, March 1 and 2, to discuss proposed changes to regional district legislation. The board also agreed to continue its participation in the provincial review.

- **GVRD Procedure Bylaw**

APPROVED

Modifications to GVRD procedures required as a result of new provisions in the Municipal Act are contained in this bylaw. Changes relate primarily to public notification regarding meetings, as well as more clearly defining procedures for closing meetings to the public.

Parks

- **Emergency Work – Point Grey Cliffs, Pacific Spirit Park**

APPROVED

Board approval-in-principle was granted for emergency work by UBC on the Point Grey Cliffs adjacent to Cecil Green Coach House. The board recommendations included requirements for a specific engineering plan as well as extensive public consultation on the work. UBC has budgeted an estimated \$8 million for a five-year slope stabilization program.

- **Dog Management Symposium**

APPROVED

Following on from a study of dog issues in regional parks, board approval was granted to facets of a Dog Management Symposium to be held May 13. The board allowed for a \$25 registration fee at the symposium, and the payment of an honorarium, not exceeding \$500, for the two keynote speakers. One of the speakers is Dr. Stanley Coren of UBC, a specialist and author on dog behaviour.

- **Proposed BTK spraying for Gypsy Moths at Burnaby Lake**

APPROVED

Provincial authorities propose a ground and aerial spraying program to combat Gypsy Moths in an area of Burnaby that includes a portion of Burnaby Lake Regional Park. This report outlines the potential impacts of spraying within the park and proposes mitigation where available. The board took no position on the spraying, and will forward the report to the Ministries of Forests and Environment, Lands and Parks. Also approved was a recommendation that park visitors be advised, to the extent possible, of spraying and its impacts on park activities.

- **Regional Parks Capital Replacement Program 2000**

APPROVED

Approval was granted for an expenditure of \$1.12 million under the Regional Parks Capital Replacement Program 2000. This report provides a schedule of priorities for the program, which provides funds for repairs or replacement of deteriorated park facilities. Projects range from \$2,000 for curb replacement at Aldergrove Lake to \$161,000 for erosion protection in Derby Reach.

- **Parks fees and charges for 2000**

APPROVED

This report provides information on and recommends passage of a bylaw fixing charges for the use of regional park amenities in 2000. New reservable facilities, such as Camridge House which can be rented for \$20 per hour for social functions, as well as changes to some fees, is expected to generate an additional \$28,000 per year in revenue. The bylaw was read three times and will be forwarded to the provincial authority for approval.

Planning and Environment

- **Homelessness and Affordable Housing**

APPROVED

The board endorsed a series of recommendations supporting a plan developed by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to address homelessness and housing affordability in Canada. In addition to support for the FCM proposals, the board instructed that a letter be forwarded to federal Minister Claudette Bradshaw and that staff prepare a report providing additional options for alleviating homelessness in the region.

APPROVED

- **Regional Debris Management for the Lower Fraser River**

APPROVED

Approved by the board is a contribution of \$20,000 this year towards implementation of a three-year Regional Debris Management Strategy for floating debris in the lower Fraser River. Funding for a debris trap near Aggasiz, which captures debris that otherwise threatens marine safety, fish and wildlife habitat, and public access to shorelines in the lower Fraser, has been in question since 1998. Total cost of implementation of the strategy in 2000/2001 has been budgeted at \$559,000, with the majority of funding coming from the federal government and port authorities, the provincial government and crown corporations, and the forest industry.

- **Livable Region Strategic Plan 2000 Priorities**

ENDORSED

Ongoing implementation of the Livable Region Strategic Plan this year will place priority on complete and compact communities, with a focus on housing density and transportation, the board decided. The board's decision supports deliberations of the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee. The IAC is composed of the GVRD CAO, TransLink CEO, municipal managers and deputy ministers or other senior representatives of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Transportation Financing Authority, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Agricultural Land Commission, Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security, and Ministry of Education.

- **Information Reports**

REFERRED

Receipt of a report concerning farming in an urbanized area engendered committee discussion around the issue of aboriginal land claims in the Agricultural Land Reserve. The board resolved that the report be forwarded to the Aboriginal Affairs and Electoral Areas Committee for consideration, and that a copy be provided to the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee.

Housing

- **Greater Vancouver Housing Corporation Board**

APPROVED

GVRD Directors Kichii Kumagai (President), Judy Villeneuve (Vice President), Kurt Alberts, Tom Blom, Don Lee, as well as Councillors John Braithwaite, Judy Forster and Diane Thorne were appointed to the Board of the Greater Vancouver Housing Corporation.

Other Business

- **Area Code 604 Relief Planning**

ENDORSED

The proliferation of demand for telecommunications services in a range of applications is rapidly exhausting the availability of telephone numbers in the 604 area code. This report notes that at current growth rates the supply will be used up by mid-2003, and proposes the concept of an overlay on the 604 area code in response. Splitting the area presents many difficulties, including the prospect of 1.6 million subscribers having to change telephone numbers. Instead, the overlay concept introduces a second area code into the 604 coverage area. No changes are required to numbers but all subscribers must dial ten digits for local calls. The board endorsed the concept.

Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District

- **GVS&DD Capital Projects 2000**

APPROVED

The board approved an expenditure of budgeted capital funds for two projects – Phase I construction of the Lake City Interceptor (\$4.35 million), and design of the Columbia Street Forcemain (\$150,000).

- **Chilco Pump Station Upgrade**

APPROVED

This report sought and received board approval for the pre-purchase of mechanical equipment and partial construction of the Chilco Pump Station upgrade. Upgrading of the station will be completed in three phases to accommodate construction restrictions in Stanley Park.

- **Iona WWTP Grit Disposal Facility Closure**

APPROVED

The grit facility at Iona has reached capacity and must be closed, as required by the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, by March 31, 2000. Board approval was granted for the closure plan's estimated cost of \$380,000. The plan is subject to provincial approval. Grit from the treatment plants will now be disposed of at the Vancouver Landfill.

• **Extension of Glenbrook Combined Trunk Sewer**

APPROVED

Extension of a serviceable trunk sewer in Sapperton that would impact on the environment of a waterfront park to be built as part of the SkyTrain expansion was approved. The board agreed to a contribution, not to exceed \$400,000, and to be matched by the GVTA/Province, for extension of the outfall into the Fraser River.

• **Request to waive leaky condo tipping fees**

DENIED

A request, brought forward by the City of Port Moody, to waive tipping fees for the disposal of waste arising from leaky condo repairs was denied. While sympathetic to the plight of affected residents, various reasons for the denial were cited. The board, noting action by senior levels of government in response to financial hardships caused by flooding or ice-storms in other parts of the country, will continue to call on those senior governments to address the financial hardships experienced by leaky condo owners.

• **Secondary Treatment Report**

RECEIVED

The secondary treatment program is virtually complete at both Annacis and Lulu Island Waste Water Treatment Plants, on schedule, some \$91 million under budget, and is providing excellent operational results.

• **Capital Expenditure Project report**

RECEIVED

This report updates the board on the range of GVS&DD capital projects anticipated or underway this year. In the region's 2000 capital budget, emphasis has been placed on sewer infrastructure projects, which account for \$44 million of the anticipated \$65 million expenditure.

Greater Vancouver Water District

• **GVWD Borrowing Bylaw 228**

APPROVED

The board adopted Bylaw 228, which authorizes borrowing in the amount of \$90 million on behalf of the water district.

- **Little Mountain and Cape Horn Reservoirs – seismic upgrade/replacement**

APPROVED

An expenditure of \$2.4 million for detailed design of an upgrade or replacement of the Little Mountain reservoir, and of \$1 million for the seismic upgrade to Cape Horn reservoir, was approved.

- **Watershed Management Planning**

ADOPTED

This report outlines several options for proceeding with completion of a long-term management strategy for GVRD watersheds, and seeks board support for a specific alternative. Under the terms of its lease with the provincial government for the watersheds, and an Amending Indenture to that lease, the region is required to submit a management plan to provincial authorities. Following a comprehensive ecological inventory and other activities, including extensive public consultation, the board adopted *Alternative 4: Proceed with the drafting of the strategic level watershed plan and commence the related public process as prescribed in this report as the basis for determining the future of the Amending Indenture Agreement.* This alternative, in conjunction with a series of principles previously adopted by the board, supports a conservative management regime that has as its focus water quality, the minimal level of intervention absolutely necessary, and public participation in the process.

- **Watershed Management Public Consultation report**

RECEIVED

This report provides information on the detailed public consultation activities undertaken during 1999 in regards to the Watershed Management Ecological Inventory and Analysis Report. In addition to providing a summary of public comments and polling results, the report concludes that consultation has resulted in the creation of a new and more collaborative approach to watershed issues with stakeholders.

- **Capital Expenditure Project report**

RECEIVED

This report updates the board on the range of GVWD capital projects anticipated or underway this year. In the region's 2000 capital budget, emphasis has been placed on sewer infrastructure projects, with \$21 million of the anticipated \$65 million expenditure going to water projects.