

# Board in Brief

**For Metro Vancouver meetings on Friday, Oct. 29, 2010**

*Please note these are not the official minutes. Board in Brief is an informal summary. Material relating to any of the following items is available on request.*

*For more information, please contact Bill Morrell, Corporate Relations, 604-451-6107, or Glenn Bohn, Corporate Relations, at 604-451-6697.*

## **Greater Vancouver Water District**

### **GVWD Temporary Borrowing Authority**

**Approved**

A resolution brought forward each year authorizes temporary borrowing, in the event that operating expenditures and debt charges exceed monies available. The Board authorized the borrowing of as much as \$12 million at any one time during 2011.

### **Draft Metro Vancouver Districts' 2011 Budget**

**Approved**

The Board approved the 2011 Revenue and Expenditure Budgets. The total budget for all Metro Vancouver districts is about \$603 million. Overall, the next year's budget is up 5.8 per cent from the 2010 budget.

The total expenditures for the Water District in 2011 are budgeted at about \$222 million. The Water District Board set the Water Rate for 2011 at: \$0.6419 per cubic metre for June through September; and \$0.5135 per cubic metre for January through May and October through December.

The average water rate is below the projection endorsed by the Board in July, for an increase of about \$23 per household. Total estimated cost per average household is \$213.

## **Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District**

### **GVS&DD Temporary Borrowing Authority**

**Approved**

A resolution brought forward each year authorizes temporary borrowing, in the event that operating expenditures and debt charges exceed monies available. The Board authorized the borrowing of as much as \$12 million at any one time during 2011.



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## **Draft Metro Vancouver Districts' 2011 Budget**

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The Board approved the 2011 Revenue and Expenditure Budgets. The total budget for all Metro Vancouver districts is about \$603 million. Overall, the next year's budget is up 5.8 per cent from the 2010 budget.

The total expenditures for the Sewerage and Drainage District in 2011 are budgeted at almost \$285 million.

## **2011 Tipping Fee Bylaw**

**Approved**

The Board approved a 2011 Tipping Fee Bylaw that implements a small fee increase for "green" waste like yard trimmings and a larger fee increase for garbage. On Jan. 1, 2011, the tipping fee for garbage will be \$97 per tonne. The current fee for garbage is \$82 per tonne.

The 2011 tipping fee for green waste – organic materials such as grass clippings and tree branches – will be \$63 per tonne. The current fee for the green waste that waste haulers and residents take to transfer stations is \$59 per tonne.

## **Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District 2011 Cost Apportionment Bylaw 260, 2010**

**Approved**

In 1993, the Board agreed to principles on the allocation of liquid waste or sewer costs among member municipalities. A bylaw allocates sewer costs in an approved budget.

# **Greater Vancouver Regional District**

## **2011 Programs and Priorities of Parks Committee**

**Withdrawn**

A proposal that the Board approve up to \$10 million of internal borrowing from Metro Vancouver reserves when required to advance implementation of the Regional Parks and Greenways Plan was withdrawn from the agenda.

## **Regional Parks Development & Implementation**

**Received**

A report responds to a Board resolution in September that directs staff to report on policy issues related to park funding.

Metro Vancouver attracts more than nine million visits annually to its regional parks and greenways, manages about 13,000 hectares of park land and operates and maintains more than \$120 million of park facilities.

Park development is prioritized for existing and new parks, using a number of considerations. Those considerations include: Is the volume of use so high in an existing park that facilities, the land base or visitor experience is deteriorating and causing resource management and/or safety concerns? Is there a rapidly growing population centre generating demand or providing an opportunity for development of a new park nearby? Is a member municipality requesting upgrading or development of new park facilities?

## **2010 Metro Vancouver Cultural Grant Awards**

**Approved**

Since adopting its cultural grants policy in 1990, the Board has awarded annual grants to major professional arts organizations. The money for the grants comes from an endowment established in 1991.

This year's grants were awarded to the following arts and culture organizations:

- Access Gallery - \$2,500
- Arts Club Theatre Company - \$8,500
- Axis Theatre Society - \$5,000
- Carousel Theatre - \$6,000
- Chor Leoni - \$3,000
- Dream Rider - \$5,000
- Full Circle - \$2,500
- Green Thumb Players Society - \$8,500
- Pacific Cinematheque - \$6,000
- Playhouse Theatre - \$6,000
- Presentation House - \$5,000
- Richmond Gateway Theatre - \$3,000
- Vancouver East Cultural Centre - \$6,000
- Vancouver Opera Association - \$12,500
- Vancouver Symphony Society - \$14,500
- Vancouver Theatre Sports - \$6,000

The Board also directed staff to undertake a review of the eligibility criteria and allocation for the Metro Vancouver Cultural Grants in consideration of awarding of the 2011 Metro Vancouver Cultural Grants.

## **Options for Delegation of the Public Hearing for the Draft Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw**

**Approved**

The Board delegated the holding of a public hearing for the draft Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw to the following directors or their alternates:

- Director Derek Corrigan, Burnaby
- Director Richard Stewart, Coquitlam
- Director Malcolm Brodie, Richmond
- Director Ernie Daykin, Maple Ridge
- Director Gayle Martin, Langley City
- Director Catherine Ferguson, White Rock
- Director Maria Harris, Electoral Area A
- Director Don MacLean, Pitt Meadows
- Director Greg Moore, Port Coquitlam
- Director Darrell Mussatto, North Vancouver City
- Director Andrea Reimer, Vancouver
- Director Joe Trasolini, Port Moody
- Director Judy Villeneuve, Surrey
- Director Wayne Wright, New Westminster

**Additional Incentives for Natural Gas Appliance Use Under Metro Vancouver's Wood Stove Exchange Program**

**Approved**

The Board approved funding of up to \$15,000 for 2011 to provide additional incentives for natural gas appliance use under Metro Vancouver's Wood Stove Exchange Program. It also directed staff to actively promote the exchange of old wood burning appliances with cleaner burning energy efficient natural gas appliances.

**Assessment and Mitigation of Locomotive Idling in Metro Vancouver Rail Yards**

**Approved**

Metro Vancouver, in partnership with Environment Canada, has completed a study on the assessment of locomotive activities and mitigation of idling. Metro Vancouver is currently developing a non-road diesel engine bylaw which will include emission requirements for switch locomotives used in rail yards.

The Board approved staff recommendations to:

- a) Write to the federal Minister of Transport to strongly urge that new regulations under the federal Railway Safety Act address operational practices such as locomotive idling in rail yards and include mandatory requirements for rebuild or replacement (or both) of older locomotives which will facilitate wider use of idle reduction technologies,
- b) Write to the provincial Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to adopt the new federal regulations when enacted, under the BC Railway Safety Act for provincially regulated locomotives and railway operations; and
- c) Direct staff to:
  - i) Continue with the development of Metro Vancouver's Nonroad Diesel Engine Initiative which will include emission requirements for rail yard switch locomotives, and
  - ii) Collaborate with senior governments on the development of new federal and provincial regulations for the rail sector, and review them when enacted to ensure consistency with Metro Vancouver regulations.

**2011 Funding to External Organizations**

**Approved**

The Board approved the following contributions to external organizations:

1. Total cultural grants: \$100,000 (Grants to specific organizations are listed elsewhere in the agenda, in the 2010 Metro Vancouver Cultural Grant Awards report.)
2. Fraser Basin Council - \$310,000
3. The Burrard Inlet Environmental Action Program - \$25,813
4. Fraser River Estuary Management Program - \$25,813
5. Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee - \$324,610
6. Seymour Salmonid Society - \$100,000
7. SmartGrowth Conference - \$5,000
8. Agricultural Agencies - \$35,000
9. Parks Partnerships Annual - \$38,500
10. Pacific Parklands Foundation - \$175,000
11. Catching the Spirit Youth Society - \$70,000
12. Recycling Council of BC - \$60,000

### 13. Homelessness Secretariat - \$5,503,974

(In past years, this program has been administered by the Federal Government. Each year contributions were made by the Federal Government to a variety regional organizations, including Metro Vancouver, to fund homelessness initiatives within the region. Starting in 2011, the administration and distribution of this funding will become the responsibility of Metro Vancouver in order to better meet the needs of the region. The contribution to external organizations is a flow through from the Federal Government.)

#### **Draft Metro Vancouver Districts' 2011 Budget**

**Approved**

The Board approved the 2011 Revenue and Expenditure Budgets. The total budget for all Metro Vancouver districts is about \$603 million. Overall, the next year's budget is up 5.8 per cent from the 2010 budget.

The majority (52 per cent) of the Greater Vancouver Regional District budget funds the regional parks function, with the remainder going to several smaller functions ranging from air quality to the electoral area. The total property tax on the average household to fund all GVRD functions will increase to \$39.

The GVRD expenditure budget is up 16.5 per cent, or \$8.4 million. Some \$5.5 million of this increase pertains to a flow-through from the federal government for regional homelessness initiatives, a program now administered by Metro Vancouver. In addition, there is a one-time equipment upgrade in the Regional Global Positioning System and the development of a permit billing enforcement system in air quality.

The Board approved the 2011 Revenue and Expenditure Budget for: Regional Parks, 911 Emergency Telephone Service, Air Quality, General Government, Strategic Planning West Nile Virus, Regional Global Positioning System, Labour Relations and Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department.

#### **Initial Comments on TransLink's Potential 2011 Supplemental Plan Elements**

**Approved**

The Board approved a Finance Committee recommendation that:

- a) the Mayors Council on Regional Transportation reject any supplement that relies on property taxes as a source of additional revenue as it may jeopardize Metro Vancouver's ability to support other necessary regional projects in the future; and
- b) the Mayors Council and Municipal Finance Authority (MFA) reject any future TransLink borrowing that serves to increase the joint and several liability of Metro Vancouver, or its members.

#### **Letter Regarding Farm Crisis**

**Approved**

The Board approved an Agriculture Committee Recommendation that it send a letter to the Minister of Agriculture and lands and the Premier of British Columbia asking the Provincial government to provide financial support and other resources to assist the agricultural commodity groups that are facing hardships as a result of this years extreme weather conditions.

## Comments on Proposed UBC Land Use Amendments

Approved

The Board approved an Electoral Area Committee recommendation to offer the following initial comments to UBC on the proposed Land Use Plan amendments:

1. Metro Vancouver requests UBC to provide greater clarity on the expected commuter and resident populations for all Point Grey Campus Lands, including areas designated as academic, green academic, and family housing;
2. Metro Vancouver requests UBC to provide greater clarity on the expected impact of commuter and resident populations for the Point Grey Campus on regional transit networks and on other regional public infrastructure requirements, particularly regional utilities;
3. Metro Vancouver requests UBC to retain and strengthen policies in the existing Land Use Plan that work towards protecting Pacific Spirit Regional Park, including:
  - a) height regulations that address the concern of the visual impact of development on Pacific Sprit Regional Park; and b) provisions for green edges that contribute to protecting the integrity of Pacific Spirit Regional Park;
4. Metro Vancouver requests UBC to ensure that sufficient physical recreation amenities are provided on its lands, including built facilities, open space for recreation and associated municipal-type park facilities, therefore alleviating any future pressure for those type of uses to be provided in Pacific Spirit Regional Park;
5. as required by Ministerial Order 229, UBC provide an updated Regional Context Statement to Metro Vancouver for written comment, with enough time for staff comment and Metro Vancouver Board deliberation prior to public hearing; and b) delegate authority to provide formal comments on the actual proposed amendments to a special committee made up of the members of the Regional Planning Committee, Intergovernmental Committee and the Electoral Area Committee should the circumstance arise that a public hearing on the proposed land use amendments is scheduled at such a time that the Board would not be able to meet in time to provide comments.

That the Board direct staff to draft a letter from Chair Jackson, to the UBC Board of Governors, expressing concerns regarding the tight timeline given the size and importance of the material, and requesting an extension to the deadline to provide meaningful comment.

## Tenant Programs and Services

Received

The Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation exceeded its 2010 goal of assisting a minimum of five additional housing sites to form tenant associations. The housing corporation now works with eight new tenant associations in Vancouver, Coquitlam, Surrey, New Westminster and Delta.

## Delegations' Executive Summaries Presented at Committee, October 2010

Received

The Board received a report that summarizes presentations from five delegations, companies and associations.

## GVRD Representative on the 2010-2011 UBCM Executive

Approved

The Board called for nominations from among its members for the election of a Greater Vancouver Regional District representative to serve on the 2010-2011 executive of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

**GVRD Temporary Borrowing Authority Bylaw 1132, 2010**

**Approved**

A resolution brought forward each year authorizes temporary borrowing, in the event that operating expenditures and debt charges exceed monies available. The Board authorized the borrowing of as much as \$12 million at any one time during 2011.

**GVRD Financial Plan Bylaw No. 1133, 2010**

**Approved**

The Board approved Greater Vancouver Regional District Financial Plan Bylaw No. 1133, 2010.

**GVRD Geospatial Reference System Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 1134, 2010**

**Approved**

In 2005, the Board enacted a bylaw that established a regional GPS or Geospatial Reference System function that provides a highly accurate and consistent three-dimensional geo-reference infrastructure for the region.

Net costs are allocated to member municipalities on a per capita basis, at a set rate of \$0.242. Private sector users of the service will be charged \$2,400 annually, or \$250 per month.