

Board in Brief

For Metro Vancouver meetings on Friday, Feb. 25, 2011

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

Request for Sponsorship – Water for Life Benefit Concert

Approved

Mark Angelo, Chair of the Rivers Institute at the B.C. Institute of Technology, is producing a Water for Life benefit concert on April 7 that will be broadcast by Global BC Television in June. The Board authorized a \$5,000 contribution.

Seymour-Capilano Filtration Project – Project Status

Received

Tunneling in the raw water tunnel was completed in October, 2010; tunneling in the treated water tunnel was completed in November, 2010. Overall completion of the twin tunnels project is 72 per cent to the end of December, 2010. The tunnels should be in service by mid-2013.

The projected final cost of the Seymour-Capilano water filtration plant, the twin tunnels project, and other parts of the Seymour-Capilano Filtration Project is about \$804 million.

Attendance at the AWWA 2011 Annual Conference and Exposition

Approved

Water Committee Recommendation:

The annual conference and exposition of the American Water Works Association is the foremost drinking water industry conference in the world. The Board approved the attendance of the Water Committee Chair at the June 12-16 conference in Washington, D.C., at an approximate cost of \$9,500.

Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District

Zero Waste Challenge Strategy

Received

Metro Vancouver's Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan has a commitment to minimize waste generation and maximize reuse, recycling and material recovery (goals one and two.) It also establishes a set of targets to be achieved by the region:

- A minimum of 70% waste diversion by 2015
- An aspirational target of 80% diversion by 2020
- A minimum of 10% reduction in per capita waste generation by 2020



The Zero Waste Challenge Strategy presents a series of initiatives and actions in support of goals one and two. The strategy focuses on sectors and materials with immediate opportunity for change and success in these priority areas:

- Organic materials
- Multi-family housing complexes
- Construction and demolition industry
- Businesses and Institutions

Additionally, in order to begin the more fundamental changes needed to achieve the 2020 targets of a 10% per capita reduction in waste generation and an 80% diversion rate, the strategy also includes a set of initiatives aimed to influence product design.

Four basic tools or levers are identified to reduce waste and influence recycling rates:

- Imposing new regulations that require materials to be diverted or recycled
- Providing the infrastructure to divert, collect and process recyclable material
- Setting differential pricing that provides incentives for the desired behaviours
- Enhancing communications programs to encourage the desired behaviour changes

North Shore Transfer Station Organic Waste Management

Approved

The three North Shore municipalities collect yard trimmings and use a transfer site adjacent to the existing North Shore waste transfer station. In order to begin curbside collection of food scraps, an organics storage facility will be built at the yard trimmings site. Costs will be recovered from North Shore users of the facility.

The Board approved an expenditure of up to \$400,000 for Metro Vancouver to build the infrastructure for food waste handling at the North Shore Transfer Station.

Zero Waste Challenge Christmas Campaign

Received

Metro Vancouver's 2010 Christmas campaign encouraged residents to minimize waste related to the holiday season. The theme: Create memories, not garbage.

According to a survey of 495 residents, about one third of those who recalled the 2009 and 2010 Christmas campaigns reported changing their behaviour as a result of the campaigns. 2010 respondents reported more practical and longer-lasting gifts purchased; more home-made gifts, re-gifting and giving experiences.

Greater Vancouver Regional District

Public Consultation Results and Revised Regional Food System Strategy

Approved

Agriculture Committee Recommendation:

A Regional Food System Strategy developed after a public consultation program has five goals:

- Increased capacity to produce food close to home
- Improve the financial viability of the food sector
- People make healthy and sustainable food choices
- Everyone has access to healthy, culturally diverse and affordable food

- A food system consistent with ecological health

The Board approved an Agriculture Committee recommendation to:

- a) adopt the Regional Food System Strategy and circulate to member municipalities, the provincial and federal governments and their agencies, and stakeholders;
- b) direct staff to prepare an Action Plan to implement the Regional Food System Strategy, including the formation of a Steering Committee made up of implementation partners from government agencies, the food sectors, and community organizations.

Metro Vancouver's Comments on the Regional Context Statement for the UBC Land Use Plan **Approved**

In June 2010, the Province of B.C. transferred responsibility for local land use planning to the Province and gave UBC the ability to manage amendments to its land use plan, subject to ministerial approval. UBC is in the process of amending its land use plan and is required to prepare a revised Regional Context Statement.

The Board approved an Electoral Area Committee recommendation that the Board:

- a) endorse the report dated January 26, 2011, titled "Metro Vancouver's Comments on the Regional Context Statement for the UBC Land Use Plan" as Metro Vancouver's Chief Planning Officer's comments on the UBC Regional Context Statement and forward it to the UBC Board of Governors;
- b) convey to the UBC Board of Governors that the Regional Context Statement and the level of growth contemplated to the year 2021, given the significant commitment to increased student housing, are generally consistent with the current growth management strategy, the Livable Region Strategic Plan.

Building Sustainable Financial Strategies **Approved**

Metro Vancouver commissioned a report by professor emeritus Harry Kitchen of the economics department at Trent University. In May 2010, Dr. Kitchen submitted a report titled: Principles and Best Practices for Funding, Financing and Cost Sharing Metro Vancouver's Municipal Services.

The Kitchen report concluded that the regional services delivered by Metro Vancouver are appropriate, the property tax burden imposed by BC municipalities is no higher than other comparable jurisdictions and the region's current mix of user fees and property taxes is appropriate.

A November, 2010 report by the regional district's Chief Financial Officer states that the region is currently in sound financial shape, as confirmed by the Kitchen study, but funding for Translink and regional transportation continues to be a major challenge and a potentially significant cost driver. The CFO also noted that upgrades to the primary wastewater treatment plants at Lions Gate and Iona are required, and that financial support from the provincial and federal governments is needed to mitigate costs to the region – especially to host sewerage areas.

The Board approved a Finance Committee recommendation:

- a) That the Board request all member municipalities to confirm that the top Metro Vancouver priority to be considered for future provincial and federal infrastructure grants are the required upgrades to Lions Gate and Iona Waste Water Treatment Plants, pursuant to the new Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan;

b) That the Board encourage the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation, TransLink and the provincial Transportation Ministry to develop and implement a long term, sustainable financing model for regional transportation, incorporating appropriate transportation related fees, demand side management and pricing mechanisms;

c) That the Board work with TransLink and the Province, in consultation with municipalities, to better align the governance structures of Metro Vancouver and TransLink to optimize contribution to Regional goals;

d) Metro Vancouver and member municipalities should advocate for diversification of sources of revenue available to them, through legislative amendment if necessary, in order to augment property tax revenues;

e) That the Board transmit this report to all member municipalities, along with an invitation to have representatives of Metro Vancouver make a presentation to their council, if so desired;

f) That the Board communicate to the provincial and federal governments that each is expected to significantly participate in funding initiatives associated with provincially or federally-mandated regulatory change; and

g) That the Metro Vancouver Board transmit, to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the report titled "Building Sustainable Financial Strategies."

**Attendance at the 2011 Western Transportation Advisory Council
Semi-Annual Meetings**

Approved

The Board authorized the attendance and payment of expenses of either Director Jackson or Director Corrigan at WESTAC's 2011 semi-annual meetings being held April 5 and 6, 2011 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and October 8 and 19, 2011 in Calgary, Alberta. The estimated total cost for the Winnipeg meeting is \$3,310. The estimated total cost for the Calgary meeting is \$3,155.

Web-based Arts and Culture Regional Calendar – MAXguide.org

Received

MAX is an abbreviation for Metro Arts Xperience, Metro Vancouver's new arts and culture website.

MAXguide.org provides free listings of arts and culture events for arts organizations, individuals and selected art businesses. It features a clean design and easy-to-use interface, advanced search capabilities, image, video and social media. It will also host an archive of past events, and provide easy access to links to arts reviews, professional associations and volunteer opportunities.

Approved

**City of Port Coquitlam Regional Context Statement Amendment
Consideration**

The Board accepted a Regional Context Statement amendment for the City of Port Coquitlam. The amendment accommodates a 21-acre, 600-unit residential townhouse and apartment development on lands identified in the city's official community plan as light industrial.

Spring MFA Borrowing for City of Surrey – GVRD Security Issuing Bylaw 1139, 2010 **Approved**

The Board approved a bylaw that facilitates the borrowing of up to \$16 million from the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia for a new City Centre Library at Surrey City Centre.

Spring MFA Borrowing for City of Surrey – GVRD Security Issuing Bylaw 1141, 2010 **Approved**

The Board approved a bylaw that facilitates the borrowing of up to \$32 million from the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia for a new parking facility at Surrey City Centre.

Spring MFA Borrowing for City of Surrey – GVRD Security Issuing Bylaw 1142, 2010 **Approved**

The Board approved a bylaw that facilitates the borrowing of up to \$97 million from the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia for a new City Hall at Surrey City Centre.

Non-Road Diesel Engine Emission Regulation Bylaw **Approved**

Bulldozers, excavators, forklifts and other non-road diesel machines are one of the primary contributors to emissions of diesel particulate matter. These tiny particles of smoke or soot are often emitted close to where people live, work and play – resulting in higher exposures and increased risk of health problems. A Metro Vancouver study estimated that about two thirds of the cancer risk from air contaminants in the region was due to diesel soot.

A bylaw targets older, dirty diesel engines, using economic and social levers to promote emission reductions. The Board adopted Greater Vancouver Regional District Non-Road Diesel Engine Emission Regulation Bylaw No. 1137, 2011.

Metro Vancouver's air quality target is to reduce diesel soot in the region by 50 per cent by 2015.

GVRD Air Quality Management Fees Regulation Amending Bylaw No. 1135, 2011 **Approved**

Metro Vancouver regulates air emissions in the region. It collects fees from permit holders for air contaminant discharges. The highest per tonne emission fees are assessed for contaminants that pose the highest to human health and the environment.

The amending bylaw creates new categories and per tonne fees for fine particulates, the tiny particles that people can breathe deep into their lungs.

The bylaw also changes the free structure for VOCs or volatile organic compounds, which contribute to ground-level ozone or smog.