

Board in Brief

For Metro Vancouver meetings on Friday, October 26, 2012

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 from Metro Vancouver.

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Greater Vancouver Regional District

Draft Metro Vancouver Districts' 2013 Budget

Approved

Metro Vancouver's Board of Directors approved an operational budget of \$635.6 million for the coming year, an increase of 2.5 percent over 2012.

Costs to the average household for drinking water, wastewater treatment and management of solid waste, as well as the Regional Parks system, Air Quality Management, Regional Planning and other services provided by Metro Vancouver, will rise by 1.35 percent, or approximately \$6 per average single-family household, to \$450 in 2013. Growth in the region accounts for the difference between the overall increase and average household impact. Impact per household is based on a \$714,000 region-wide average assessed value for a single family house.

Core utility services represent the majority of both operating and capital budgets, and are financed through utility fees. Property taxes account for a small portion of the regional budget, primarily supporting the Regional Parks system, but also Air Quality management and the 9-1-1 emergency service.

The costs for Greater Vancouver Regional District functions, including managing Regional Park, Air Quality Management, the 9-1-1 emergency service and general government, are recovered primarily through property taxes. The total cost of these GVRD programs on the average property tax bill is about \$40, which is up \$3 from 2012.

A summary of the 2013 operating and capital budget is posted on Metro Vancouver's website, www.metrovancover.org in the "About Us" section. Click on [2013 Budget in Brief](#) to see the web page where the Budget in Brief and more detailed budget-related information is posted.

2013 Funding to External Organizations

Approved

As part of its GVRD budget, the Board approved the following contributions to external organizations for 2013:

Fraser Basin Council - \$300,000

The Burrard Inlet Environmental Action Program - \$27,500



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Fraser River Estuary Management Program - \$27,500
 Seymour Salmonid Society - \$125,000
 Agricultural Agencies - \$40,000
 Parks Partnerships - \$38,500
 Kanaka Educational and Environmental Partnership Society - \$45,000
 Pacific Parklands Foundation - \$175,000
 Catching the Spirit Youth Society - \$65,000
 Federation of Canadian Municipalities - \$100,000
 Recycling Council of BC - \$60,000
 BC Search & Rescue - \$5,000
 Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable - \$20,000

Metro Vancouver Cultural Grants: Regional Projects

Approved

The Board awarded a total of \$100,000 in 2012 cultural grants, to the following arts groups:

Arts Club of Vancouver Theatre Society - \$5,000
 Axis Theatre Society - \$5,000
 Chor Leoní Men's Choir - \$5,000
 Documentary Media Society (DOXA) - \$5,000
 Dream Rider Theatre - \$7,000
 Elektra Women's Choir - \$2,500
 Firehall Theatre Society - \$5,000
 First Pacific Theatre Society - \$7,000
 Full Circle First Nations Performance - \$7,500
 Gallery Gachet - \$5,000
 Green Thumb Society - \$5,000
 Musart Cultural Society - \$2,500
 Nikkei National Museum and Cultural Centre - \$5,000
 Pacific Cinematheque Pacifique Society - \$5,000
 Turning Point Ensemble Society - \$3,000
 Vancouver Asian Canadian Centre - \$7,500
 Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival Society - \$5,000
 Vancouver International Children's Festival - \$3,000
 Vancouver International Dance Festival - \$5,000
 Vancouver Opera Association - \$5,000

An Analysis of the Lornie Report in Relation to Local Government Interests of the Outstanding Issues in Treaty Negotiations

Received

The Board received a staff analysis of the Lornie Report, which makes nine recommendations for responding to the seven Common Table issues and accelerating the BC Treaty Process.

Membership in E-Comm Emergency Communications for Southwest British Columbia Incorporated ("E-Comm")

Approved

The Board directed staff to:

- apply to have the Greater Vancouver Regional District ("Metro Vancouver") become a member (shareholder) of E-Comm by acquiring a Class B Share of E-Comm;
- prepare a bylaw authorizing Metro Vancouver to enter into the members' agreement governing E-Comm; and
- designate a member (or alternate) of the Metro Vancouver Board as a nominee to the E-Comm Board of Directors.

Future of the Region Sustainability Dialogues and Post-Dialogue Forum: Building Community – Social Connections Matter **Approved**

The Board directed staff to explore collaboration with the Vancouver Foundation to facilitate expansion of the Neighbourhood Small Grants program throughout the Metro Vancouver region. It also directed staff to forward the report, dated September 19, 2012 and titled "Future of the Region Sustainability Dialogues and Post-Dialogue Forum: Building Community: Social Connections Matter," to member municipalities and other related agencies for their information and comment.

Metro Vancouver External Appointments – Status Report October 2012 **Received**

The Board received the following reports from Metro Vancouver representatives to external organizations:

- a) Report on Recent Activities of Fraser Basin Council, from Director Richard Walton
- b) Report on Lower Mainland Local Government Association Flood Control and River Management Committee, from Councillor Moe Gill
- c) Report on the Fraser Valley Regional Library Board, from Director Gayle Martin
- d) Report on the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia, from Directors Malcolm Brodie, Derek Corrigan, Richard Walton, Wayne Wright
- e) A Year of Firsts for the Pacific Parklands Foundation, from Director Linda Hepner
- f) Report on the UBCM First Nations Relations Committee, from Director Ralph Drew
- g) Report on the International Centre for Sustainable Cities, from Director Derek Corrigan

Proposed Increase in Oil Tanker Traffic **Approved**

The Board approved a motion to write a letter to the provincial and federal Ministers of the Environment and informed them of concerns expressed by the Port Cities Committee at its meeting of July 26, 2012 regarding emergency response plans for oil spills in Metro Vancouver. The motion also requests that the provincial and federal governments actively participate in further discussions with all parties. A copy of the Board's letter will be forwarded to the B.C. Solicitor General for information.

GVRD Financial Plan Bylaw No. 1175, 2012 **Approved**

The Board adopted "Greater Vancouver Regional District Financial Plan Bylaw No. 1175, 2012.

GVRD Geospatial Reference System Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 1174, 2012 **Approved**

The Board approved a bylaw for Regional Geospatial Reference System (GPS) services. The bylaw outlines the allocation of net service costs and the fees charged for private sector usage.

GVRD Temporary Borrowing Authority – Bylaw No. 1176, 2012 **Approved**

The Board authorized the borrowing, from the district's banker or others, of a sum that shall not exceed \$12 million at any one time.

Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District

Draft Metro Vancouver Districts' 2013 Budget **Approved**

The solid waste tipping fee, charged at regional garbage transfer stations, is unchanged at \$107 per tonne for 2013. Expenditures will increase by 5.9 per cent, to \$104.7 million.

New Waste-to-Energy Procurement Process **Approved**

That the Board directed staff to proceed with the recommended procurement process, commencing with a technology-only request for qualifications (RFQ1), with an operational date for new waste-to-energy capacity no later than mid-2018. Proponents must demonstrate that at a minimum the proposed technology solution has operated continuously for one year in the last five years processing a minimum of 25,000 tonnes per year of municipal solid waste.

New Waste-to-Energy Capacity: Proposed Engagement and Consultation Program **Approved**

The Board approved the proposed engagement and consultation program for new waste-to-energy capacity, as described in the report titled "New Waste-to-Energy Capacity: Proposed Engagement and Consultation Program" dated October 2, 2012. The Board Chair will write the Minister of Environment asking for confirmation that Board approval of the procurement process for new WTE capacity will trigger the requirement to initiate consultation with the FVRD, and send a copy of the correspondence to the FVRD.

New Waste-to-Energy Capacity – Third Party Expert Panel **Received**

A third-party expert panel will advise staff on the various WTE technologies being considered; their associated potential health, sustainability and environmental impacts; and the overall objectivity and comprehensiveness of the procurement process.

Metro Vancouver Waste Composition and Energy Content Projections **Received**

A staff report concludes that achieving Metro Vancouver's aspirational targets for waste diversion will result in significant changes to the region's waste quantity, but only a marginal increase to the heating value of the waste. Based on the relatively small change in anticipated energy value, the most significant factor in determining new WTE capacity is total waste quantities rather than future composition.

Sample Municipal Bylaw for the Management of Waste and Recyclable Materials from Demolition Work **Approved**

In 2011, the demolition, land clearing, and construction sector disposed of about 307,000 tonnes of material, which represents about 22 per cent of the disposed waste from the region. The Board approved a municipal permit approach to encourage demolition material recycling and referred a sample municipal bylaw to member municipalities for consideration in their demolition permit processes.

Metro Vancouver 2012 Zero Waste Conference **Received**

Metro Vancouver's second annual Zero Waste Conference was held at the Vancouver Convention Centre on Friday, September 14th. It was attended by over 600 people. There were

an additional 600 livestream viewers.

The theme of the conference was, "Rethinking waste management... the design difference." The objectives were to energize a movement in support of waste reduction and recycling, encourage action to implement Goals 1 and 2 of the Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan, and to engage the public, businesses and government officials in the need to reduce the generation of waste by improving product and packaging design.

National Zero Waste Marketing Council – Inaugural Roundtable

Approved

Metro Vancouver has been collaborating with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities on the development of a National Zero Waste Marketing Council. The goal of the council would be to provide "a national, unified voice on waste prevention and reduction where collaborative action and communication among municipalities, businesses and others encourages behaviour change and influences the design of products and packaging."

The Board received a Sept. 20 report and directed staff to continue efforts to establish a National Zero Waste Marketing Council.

GVS&DD Food Sector Grease Interceptor Bylaw No. 268, 2012

Approved

Grease discharged from commercial kitchens may accumulate in sewer lines resulting in blockages and sewer overflows with associated public health concerns. Metro Vancouver estimates that the annual cost to Metro Vancouver and its member municipalities to deal with grease accumulations in the sewer system is over \$2 million. The proposed bylaw will improve the enforceability of the requirements as well as set out standards to better manage fats, oils and grease ("FOG") from commercial kitchens.

The Board approved a bylaw that includes:

- discharge limits from the grease interceptor to sewer;
- minimum standards for grease interceptors installed after the adoption of the bylaw;
- requirements to clean the interceptor when the accumulation of grease and solids exceeds 25% of the wastewater depth or every 90 days, whichever occurs first;
- re-inspection and sampling/analysis fees for kitchens not in compliance with the bylaw; and
- Minimum fines for specific contraventions of the bylaw.

2013 Tipping Fee Bylaw

Approved

The Board approved a 2013 tipping fee of \$107 disposal fee that Metro Vancouver charges for every tonne of garbage taken to waste transfer stations and disposal sites will not go up in 2013.

On January 1, 2013, the "tipping fee" for municipal solid waste or garbage will continue to be \$107 per tonne, which is the same as the 2012 tipping fee.

The disposal fee for "green waste" – which includes food scraps, yard trimmings and unpainted wood – will remain unchanged, at \$63 per tonne, except at one transfer station. At the North Shore Transfer Station, the green waste fee will be \$71 per tonne, to pay for a new storage depot for green waste.

Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (GVS&DD) Amending Bylaw No. 272, 2012 **Approved**

The Board approved bylaw amendments that include the expansion of the type of facilities regulated as well as changes to fees, primarily disposal fees. These changes may increase the amount of material recovered at these private licensed facilities and improve record keeping for monitoring progress in achieving Metro Vancouver's Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan (the Plan) goals.

Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District 2013 Cost Apportionment Bylaw 274, 2012 **Approved**

The Board approved a bylaw that allocates the sewer costs in an approved budget out to member municipalities, primarily using sewer flows.

Questions about Cost Proportionate Bylaw **Referred**

The Board referred the following questions to the Utilities Committee and requested that answers and recommendations be brought back to the Board when appropriate:

1. What changes would be required to next year's bylaw to provide flow allocation information for the coming year to the member municipalities by mid July instead of October and November?
2. Who reviews and verifies the flow measurements and allocations to the member municipality?
3. Has Metro Vancouver staff ever conducted an independent audit of the flow allocations to each municipality and the flow allocation changes over the past 10 years and if not, would it be possible for staff to do so?
4. Could Metro Vancouver staff provide the next year's sewer cost to each municipality by mid September?