

Board in Brief

For Metro Vancouver meetings on Friday, April 27, 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.

For more information, please contact either:

*Bill Morrell, 604-451-6107, Bill.Morrell@metrovancover.org or
Glenn Bohn, 604-451-6697, Glenn.Bohn@metrovancover.org*

Greater Vancouver Regional District

**Concerns with the Health Canada November 2011 Draft Guideline titled
"Turbidity in Drinking Water"**

Approved

Metro Vancouver is now constructing a \$110 million upgrade of water treatment at its Coquitlam source by adding ultraviolet light treatment. If a turbidity guideline proposed by Health Canada is implemented by provincial health authorities, Metro Vancouver may be required to add filtration treatment at Coquitlam, at an estimated cost of \$300 million.

According to a staff report, the proposed Health Canada guidelines have not been scientifically justified; are more stringent than regulations in other parts of the world, including regulations in the United States; and are not justified by any assessment of cost versus benefit.

The Board approved a resolution that the Board Chair:

- Together with the Utilities Committee Chair, write to Health Canada expressing Metro Vancouver's concerns regarding proposed changes to turbidity guideline;
- The 2003 Turbidity Guideline remain unchanged; or alternatively,
- The November 2011 draft turbidity guideline be revised to be consistent with regulations in other countries, and that it include a cost benefit analysis of any proposed changes from the 2003 Turbidity Guideline, and that a new round of public consultation be undertaken; and

Direct staff to forward a copy of the correspondence to the British Columbia Medical Health Authorities serving the Metro Vancouver region for distribution to local Medical Health Officers.

Draft Audited 2011 Financial Statements

Approved

The Board of Directors approved a 2011 budget with a \$607.6 million operating budget and \$304 million capital budget.



**metro
vancouver**

www.metrovancover.org

An independent audit of 2011 financial statements confirms that regional district expenditures are \$47 million less (or about five per cent less) than the Board-authorized budget. The main factors contributing to this surplus position are unexpected and often unavoidable deferrals of some construction projects and lower-than-budgeted debt costs in water and liquid waste. Unfilled staff positions and higher-than-projected revenues are some of the minor factors.

The Board approved the Audited 2011 Financial Statements for the Greater Vancouver Water District for the year ended on Dec. 31, 2011.

Status of Reserves

Received

The Board received the report titled "2011 Financial Results Year-End" dated April 2, 2012 for information.

Status of Utilities Capital Expenditures to Dec. 31, 2011

Approved

The Board approved the application of reserves, as set out in schedules 1 and 2 of a March 22, 2012 report.

2011 Financial Results Year-End

Received

The Water District's projected surplus of \$16.6 million is the result of lower debt charges as capital spending was less than budget. Savings from unanticipated delays in some maintenance projects and lower than expected distribution and water treatment costs were also contributing factors.

Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District

Implementation of an EPR Program for Mattresses and Other Large Furniture Items

Approved

Since 2009, local companies have been recycling mattresses, sofas, hide-a-beds and other bulky furniture items. In October 2010, the Board approved an amendment to the regional Tipping Fee bylaw to ban the disposal of mattresses and charge a \$20 per mattress fee for recycling. In 2011, about 100,000 mattresses and box springs were recycled and diverted from disposal. However, municipalities have experienced an increase in the number of abandoned or illegally dumped mattresses and springs.

If mattresses and springs were covered under an Extended Producer Responsibility program, costs for material management at the product's end of life would be funded by a fee paid at the time of purchase. A Board resolutions requests that the Chair send a letter to the Provincial Government highlighting the importance of implementing an Extended Producer Responsibility program for mattresses and other large furniture items.

Draft Audited 2011 Financial Statements**Approved**

The GVS&DD Board approved the Audited 2011 Financial Statements for the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District.

2011 Financial Results Year-End**Received**

Overall, the Districts and Housing Corporation are projecting a surplus of \$47.3 million for the 2011 fiscal year.

The Liquid Waste surplus of \$15.7 million for 2011 is due to savings in debt service costs, delays in some projects and the savings of the operating contingency.

The Solid Waste variance of \$9.2 million is primarily due to higher than expected demolition and construction waste as well as the savings of some operating costs and the deferral of some projects to the future.

Status of Utilities Capital Expenditures to December 31, 2011**Approved**

The Board approved the application of reserves, as set out in schedules 1 and 2 of a March 22, 2012 report.

Amendment - Fraser Sewerage Area Boundary - Boundary Bay Airport, Corporation of Delta**Approved**

That the GVS&DD Board approve the expansion of the Fraser Sewerage Area to include the mixed employment zoned lands at the Boundary Bay Airport in the Corporation of Delta as shown on Plan SA-2376 – Sheet 67 and described in the report titled "Amendment - Fraser Sewerage Area Boundary - Boundary Bay Airport, Corporation of Delta" dated February 20, 2012.

Greater Vancouver Regional District

Draft Audited 2011 Financial Statements**Approved**

The Board approved the audited financial statements for the Greater Vancouver Regional District and Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation. The statements were prepared by management in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles for local governments, as recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board.

During 2011, the PSAB expanded the scope of public sector accounting standards to include government not-for-profit organizations. As a result, MVHC, which is classified as a government not-for-profit organization, is required to adopt Canadian PSAB Standards.

Status of Reserves**Approved**

The Board approved the application of reserves, as set out in schedules 1 and 2 of a March 22, 2012 report.

2011 Financial Results Year-End**Received**

Overall, the Districts and Housing Corporation are projecting a surplus of \$47.3 million for the 2011 fiscal year.

The Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation had a net income of \$1.1 million because of higher than anticipated revenues and some favourable terms on mortgage agreements. Corporate programs achieved a surplus position of about \$2.9 million primarily due to savings in head office operating and project costs, some staff positions that were vacant for portions of the year and deferral of anticipated community outreach and education expenditures.

Greater Vancouver Regional District Electoral Area A Zoning Bylaw No. 1144, 2011: Third and Final Readings**Approved**

The Board amended a zoning bylaw for Electoral Area A by:

- Changing the heading of section 213 from "Setbacks from Non-Tidal Waters" to "Setbacks from Non-Tidal Waters (including Pitt Lake)"
- Replacing, in section 215, the reference to Section 302 (a) with Section 302
- Replacing Map 10 – Montizambert Wynd with a corrected version included as attachment 2.

Board Pre-Budget Workshop**Received**

Delia Laglagaron, Interim Chief Administrative Officer, and Jim Rusnak, Chief Financial Officer, made an oral presentation and responded to Directors' questions and comments about the development of the 2013 budget.