

Board in Brief

For Metro Vancouver meetings on Friday, July 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.

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Greater Vancouver Regional District

Financial Projections for 2013 to 2017

Approved

Five-year financial projections reflect anticipated program budget changes, based on Board-supported initiatives and legislative and operational requirements. Some of the key financial drivers impacting on operations are general inflation and inflation affecting labour costs, along with a need for increased maintenance on our aging water and liquid waste system infrastructure.

Overall, the projections suggest the average household cost for all regional district services would increase by \$11 in 2013, to \$455 per household. That would be a 2.5 per cent increase in costs since 2012. The average regional household is about \$714,000 in assessed value.

2013 Metro Vancouver Programs and Budget Consultation

Received

A staff report outlines how Metro Vancouver has engaged member municipalities and the public while developing next year's programs and budgets. The consultation process so far included six sub-regional Council of Council sessions in early July. Over four days, more than 90 elected officials and 30 municipal staff members participated.

Metro Vancouver Response to the Provincial Carbon Tax Review

Approved

In 2008, the B.C. government began levying a carbon tax on the purchase and use of fossil fuels in the province, such as gasoline, diesel, natural gas, heating fuel, propane and coal. This July, the carbon tax rose to its highest level: \$30 per tonne of greenhouse gas emissions.

The Board approved a motion to send a letter to the B.C. Minister of Finance communicating Metro Vancouver's support for the carbon tax, as approved in the *Integrated Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan*. The letter will also request that the Province extend the comment period for 90 days for the carbon tax review to allow local governments to conduct a



more thorough review of the impact of the carbon tax on the region, conduct more stakeholder consultation and request the Province consult with Metro Vancouver and its member municipalities on any significant changes to the carbon tax subsequent to this current consultation period.

**Greater Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy
Amendment Bylaw No. 1168, 2012**

Approved

Metro Vancouver received a Village of Anmore request to amend the Regional Growth Strategy. This amendment would change the regional land use designation of a proposed middle school site from Rural to Urban and include the site within the Urban Containment Boundary. The amendment would enable the extension of regional sewer services to the proposed School District 43 middle school building site.

The Board adopted Greater Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Amendment Bylaw No. 1168, 2012.

**MFA Borrowing for Member Municipalities – GVRD Security Issuing
Bylaw 1170, 2012**

Approved

The Board authorized a financing agreement, between the GVRD and Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia, which provides for \$4,441,330 in financing for the Village of Belcarra.

Greater Vancouver Water District

2011 Quality Control Annual Report for GVWD

Received

An annual report provides an assessment of drinking water quality relative to drinking water standards and guidelines. Results from water samples collected from Metro Vancouver's transmission system continued to meet the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality. Monitoring programs continue to identify areas of success in terms of maintaining and improving water quality. For example, the Seymour Capilano Filtration Plant has resulted in significant improvements in water quality. Further improvements in water quality are anticipated when the remaining components of the Drinking Water Treatment Program are completed.

Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District

Interim Strategy for Addressing Sewage Heat Opportunities

Approved

Over the past few years and with increasing frequency, member municipalities and the private sector have expressed interest in using sewage heat from Metro Vancouver sewers for district energy systems. An Interim Strategy enables sewage heat recovery projects that do not impair sewage operations by allowing access to sewage at a nominal charge so that heat can be recovered.

The GVS&DD Board approved the Interim Strategy and directed staff to develop a long-term sewage heat policy framework, as outlined in the report dated June 28, 2012, titled "Interim Strategy for Addressing Sewage Heat Opportunities".

2011 Quality Control Annual Report for GVS&DD

Received

Metro Vancouver's five wastewater treatment plants treated over 440 billion litres of wastewater in 2011. The quantities of suspended solids and biochemical oxygen demand removed were, respectively, about 51,649 tonnes and 48,755 tonnes.

The overall performance of the GVS&DD's five wastewater treatment plants generally met operational certificate requirements. A review of the effluent monitoring program results showed that over 99.8% of the test results met requirements listed in the operational certificates. A Board report and annual report lists the incidents in which requirements were not met, as well as the results of the regional district's biosolids and environmental monitoring programs.

Waste-to-Energy Facility – Feedwater Treatment Plant Upgrade Budget Request

Approved

In order to complete the Feedwater Treatment Plant Upgrade at Metro Vancouver's Waste-to-Facility in Burnaby, the existing floor slab must be replaced. The Board approved an additional \$300,000 in 2012 capital funding.

**Future of the Region Sustainability Dialogues and Post-Dialogue Forum:
Dematerialization: Transitioning to an Economy Without Waste**

Approved

Metro Vancouver hosted sustainability dialogues in Surrey (March 6), Vancouver (March 7), the Central Northeast, (March 27) and the North Shore (March 28), followed by a post-dialogue forum (June 8). The theme: *Dematerialization. Transitioning to an Economy Without Waste*" to member municipalities.

The Board approved a recommendation to forward a report about the discussion and public input received to member municipalities and other related agencies for their information and comment.