

Board in Brief

For Metro Vancouver meetings on Friday, October 28, 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 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 Water District

Draft Metro Vancouver Districts' 2012 Budget

Approved

The 2012 operating budgets for the Water District, Sewerage and Drainage District, Regional District and Housing Corporation is 1.2 per cent higher than the 2011 budgets. That's an increase of about \$7 million, for a total of \$614.6 million.

The overall impact on the average Metro Vancouver household for all regional services is an increase of \$11, to \$524 next year. However, the property tax component will decrease by \$2 per average household.

The Water District's 2012 budget is about \$223 million, a 0.03 per cent increase from the 2011 budget. The average household will pay the Water District an additional \$7 next year, or a total of \$220 next year.

The Board set the water rate for 2012 at \$0.6796 per cubic metre for June through September, or about 67 cents per 1,000 litres of water. During January through May and from October through December, the water rate is and \$0.5437 per cubic metre, or about 54 cents per 1,000 litres of water.

GVWD Temporary Borrowing Authority

Approved

The Water District Administration Board authorized a maximum of \$12 million in borrowing from the District's banker or others during 2012.

Updated Bank Signing Officers – GVWD Bylaw No. 244, 2011

Approved

A bylaw reappointed the Royal Bank of Canada as the banker for the Water District and designated officials who are authorized to sign financial documents.

Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District

Lions Gate Wastewater Treatment Plant Secondary Upgrade – Project Initiation

Approved

The Lions Gate Wastewater Treatment Plant, commissioned in 1961, has provided primary level treatment for North Shore communities for 50 years.

In 2008, Metro Vancouver purchased a three-hectare property from BC Rail Properties to construct a new secondary level treatment plant to replace the existing primary plant.

In May 2010, The Board directed staff to complete the work on project definition, land negotiation, detailed design and construction for the upgrade, and to include in the budget the assumption of a 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 contribution from the regional district, the provincial government and the federal government for the detailed design and construction phases. The BC Environment Minister subsequently approved an Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan with a 2020 timeline for completing an upgrade to secondary treatment.

At the Oct. 28, 2011 meeting, the Board also approved a Waste Management Committee recommendation to make its highest priority the discussion around the funding formula with the provincial and federal governments prior to committing significant funds to this project.

Lions Gate and Iona Wastewater Treatment Plants Secondary Upgrades

Approved

The Board directed staff to arrange an introductory tour of Federal and Provincial Cabinet Ministers for the Board Chair and key Committee Chairs in early 2012, for the purpose of obtaining provincial and federal commitments for cost sharing for the Lions Gate and Iona Wastewater Treatment Plant secondary upgrades.

Draft Metro Vancouver Districts' 2012 Budget

Approved

The 2012 budget for liquid waste expenditures is about \$196 million, a 2.2 per cent increase from the 2011 budget. Regional utility charges for liquid waste management will increase \$6 next year for an average household, to \$176 annually.

The 2011 budget for solid waste expenditures is about \$99 million. Solid waste functions are paid for by the tipping fee charged for every tonne of waste disposed.

GVS&DD Temporary Borrowing Authority

Approved

The GVS&DD Administration Board authorized the borrowing of a maximum of \$12 million in 2012.

2012 Tipping Fee Bylaw

Approved

The regional "tipping fee" for garbage disposal will increase by \$10 per tonne next year, to \$107 per tonne. As a result of reduced volumes, no increase for homeowners is expected.

The Bylaw also sets a lower \$63 per tonne tipping fee for “green waste” such as yard trimmings and clean wood waste, which provides a financial incentive to separate garbage from green waste that can be recycled.

Updated Bank Signing Officers – GVS&DD Bylaw No. 264, 2011 **Approved**

The general structure of signing officers’ authority for cheques and bank documents is one signer from the Finance Department, together with someone from outside of Finance, at the Manager level, or higher.

Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District 2012 Cost Apportionment Bylaw 266, 2011 **Approved**

In 1993, the Board agreed to principles on the allocation of liquid waste costs among member municipalities. The Bylaw allocates the sewer costs in an approved budget out to member municipalities, primarily using sewer flows.

Greater Vancouver Regional District

Experience the Fraser – Lower Fraser River Corridor Project Draft Concept Plan **Approved**

A draft concept plan lays out the framework for infrastructure to support a range of land and water based recreational opportunities that would appeal to residents and stimulate tourism along the river corridor, from Hope to the Salish Sea.

The Board endorsed the report in principle, as the basis for ongoing dialogue with stakeholders, governments, First Nations and agencies.

Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Plan Update: Response to Public Outreach **Approved**

A 2011 update to the Regional Park Plan reorganizes a 2005 plan under four new goals: promote ecological health; promote outdoor recreation for human health and wellness; support community stewardship, education and partnerships; promote philanthropy and economic opportunities.

The Board adopted the plan and directed staff to continue to work with member municipalities, stakeholders and other partners to generate an implementation plan as a companion document.

Integrated Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan Update **Approved**

Diesel soot is one of the air pollutants targeted in a new Integrated Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management. The plan outlines initiatives to reduce emissions from diesel-powered trucks, bulldozers and other off-road vehicles – initiatives that will help protect human health and reduce emissions of a pollutant that also contributes to climate change.

The Board adopted the plan and directed staff to forward the Plan to member municipalities, the Provincial Minister of Environment, Federal Minister of Environment, the region’s Chief Medical

Health Officers, First Nations, the Fraser Valley Regional District, the Northwest Clean Air Agency, and other key partners indicating the Board's continuing interest in working with them to maintain good air quality in the Lower Fraser Valley airshed and reduce the region's greenhouse gas emissions. The Board also asked staff to continue to work with municipalities and other partners to implement the actions.

Public Consultation Results and a Revised Ecological Health Action Plan

Approved

The Ecological Health Plan summarizes how ecological health has been incorporated into Metro Vancouver's planning and operations and then proposes 12 projects with the regional district's existing mandate. A consultation process provided input from more than 80 members of the public, as well as the input of staff from member municipalities.

The Board adopted the plan and directed staff to circulate it to member municipalities, the provincial and federal governments and their agencies, and stakeholders. The Board also asked staff to bring forward detailed project plans and budgets for proposed projects but to take no further action on the proposed projects until detailed project plans and budgets for the projects are approved by the Board.

Regional Engineers Advisory Committee (REAC) Letter to the Green Communities Committee on Local Government Carbon Neutrality

Approved

Metro Vancouver and most member municipalities have signed the BC Climate Action Charter and made a voluntary commitment to become carbon neutral by 2012.

One of the key principles expressed by REAC is that local governments should be able to use their limited resources for climate actions within their own communities instead of purchasing offsets from an outside provider.

The Board approved a REAC recommendation that it request that the Chair write to UBCM and the Provincial Government to convey the Board's support for the REAC position paper summarizing REAC's concerns regarding the Provincial Government's framework on local government carbon neutrality outlined in *Becoming Carbon Neutral – A Guidebook for Local Governments in British Columbia*.

Implications of Provincial Greenhouse Gas Cap-and-Trade Program on Metro Vancouver Operations

Approved

The regional district's solid waste management system includes both landfills and waste-to-energy technology. The Province's proposed cap-and-trade program includes the region's existing Waste-to-Energy Facility in Burnaby but does not include landfills. Cap-and-trade could impose additional costs for the existing WTEF of \$3 million or more a year, potentially as soon as 2012, which is equivalent to 30 per cent of revenues.

The Board will write to the Provincial government to request that it implement equitable greenhouse gas policies for all forms of waste disposal, requiring all waste disposal facilities to be carbon responsible.

Lower Fraser Valley Visual Air Quality Pilot Project**Received**

Visibility, or visual air quality, is the pollution that affects how people see the environment around them. The white haze that can degrade air quality in the Lower Fraser Valley is, at times, caused by fine particulates in the air. A report summarizes the progress made on a visual air quality pilot project by a cross-agency committee.

2012 Funding to External Organizations**Approved**

The Board approved 2012 funding for external organizations: cultural grants (\$100,000 in total grants); Fraser Basin Council (\$310,000); Burrard Inlet Environmental Action Program and Fraser River Estuary Management Program (\$26,563 each); Seymour Salmonid Society (\$125,000); agricultural agencies (\$35,000); park partnerships (\$38,500); Pacific Parklands Foundation (\$175,000); Catching the Spirit Youth Society (\$65,000).

2012 Funding to the Recycling Council of British Columbia**Approved**

The Board approved a \$60,000 grant in 2012 for the RCBC's recycling hotline. It also approved a motion that RCBC and Metro Vancouver continue to work together to integrate and optimize recycling services. If no agreement is reached by June 2012, Metro Vancouver will reconsider its contribution to the recycling hotline.

Draft Metro Vancouver Districts' 2012 Budget**Approved**

The cost of Greater Vancouver Regional District functions – including regional parks, air quality management, the 9-1-1 emergency phone service and other general government services – are recovered through property taxes. For the average homeowner, the total costs of these functions will decrease by \$2 in 2012, to \$37 a year, for a budget of \$60 million. The Board approved the 2012 Revenue and Expenditure Budget.

2011 International Regions Benchmarking Consortium (IRBC) Conference**Approved**

On Sept. 20, 21 and 22, 2011, Metro Vancouver hosted the annual IRBC conference. There were 91 participants, including 34 international delegates, Metro Vancouver Directors and staff, and municipal officials and staff. Energy, water and waste were the conference themes.

The Board directed staff to: a) Maintain a working relationship with the International Regions Benchmarking Consortium (IRBC) through 2012 and review the effectiveness and value of that relationship at the end of the year; b) Convene an international solid waste working group from interested parties that attended the 2011 IRBC Conference for the purpose of exploring enhanced international solid waste management opportunities and strategies.

LMTAC's Draft Discussion Paper on "Voting in Local Government Elections and Referenda by Residents Living on Indian Reserves"**Approved**

The BC Voters Guide states that residents living on Indian Reserves can participate in local elections as voters and candidates. However, those residents are not subject to local government regulations and do not pay local government taxes.

The Board endorsed the report dated October 3, 2011, titled “LMTAC’s Draft Discussion Paper on Voting in Local Government Elections and Referenda by Residents Living on Indian Reserves”, in support of LMTAC’s draft discussion paper. It will convey its comments to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, to the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, and to the Chair, Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee.

LMTAC’s 2011 Updated Discussion Paper on “Local Government Service Agreements with First Nations – Recommendations and Considerations” **Approved**

A staff report summarizes an update of a Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee discussion paper about local government services provided to First Nations communities. The Board endorsed the report and conveyed its recommendation to LMTAC.

Metro Vancouver Support for the Agricultural Land Commission **Approved**

The findings of a B.C. Auditor-General’s audit of the provincial Agricultural Land Commission emphasized the challenges of administering the Agricultural Land Reserve in the face of continued pressures to convert these lands to non-farm use and the lack of adequate budget and staff resources provided to the Commission.

The Board approved a motion to: a) communicate to the Minister of Agriculture its support for the mandate and work of the Commission and the allocation of adequate resources to this agency. The report will be forwarded all member municipalities, the Fraser Valley Regional District and all Agricultural Advisory Committees in Metro Vancouver.

Adoption of “Regional Growth Strategy Amendment Bylaw No. 1150, 2011” **Approved**

On Sept. 23, 2011, the Board initiated amendments to Metro Vancouver 2040, the Regional Growth Strategy. A bylaw implements eight amendments requested by the City of Coquitlam, the City of Richmond, the District of West Vancouver and Tsawwassen First Nation.

GVRD Financial Plan Bylaw No. 1152, 2011 **Approved**

The B.C. Local Government Act includes a requirement that the board adopt a five-year financial plan bylaw and consult with the public before its implementation. This year, in addition to Committee meetings, the Board Budget Workshop and municipal consultations, Metro Vancouver held an on-line public consultation the week of Oct. 11, 2011.

The Board adopted the “Greater Vancouver Regional District Financial Plan Bylaw No. 1152, 2011”.

Update to the Electoral Area A Zoning Bylaw **Approved**

An amended zoning bylaw includes new references to development setbacks along riparian areas and changes to the definition of building heights. The proposed bylaw will be referred to a public hearing with Board Directors who are appointed to the Metro Vancouver committee responsible for Electoral Area matters.

GVRD Geospatial Reference System Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 1154, 2011

Approved

A bylaw for the Regional Geospatial Reference System outlines the allocation of net service costs and fees charged for private sector usage.

Spring MFA Borrowing for City of Port Moody – GVRD Security Issuing Bylaw 1155, 2011

Approved

The City of Port Moody adopted a loan authorization bylaw for \$16 million for the construction of a firehall. The Board authorized a financing agreement between the Greater Vancouver Regional District and the Municipal Finance Authority.

GVRD Temporary Borrowing Authority

Approved

The Board authorized the temporary borrowing, from the Greater Vancouver Regional District's banker or others, of a maximum of \$12 million during 2012.