

# Board in Brief

For Metro Vancouver meetings on Friday, April 24, 2009

*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*

## Greater Vancouver Water District

### Status of Utilities Capital Expenditures to December 31, 2008

Received

The water district is projecting a favourable variance of \$24.33 million (1.9 per cent) upon completion of ongoing projects. The sewerage and drainage district is projecting a favourable variance of \$11.25 million (5.4 per cent).

### Audited 2008 Financial Statements

Approved

The Board approved the Audited 2008 Financial Statements for the Greater Vancouver Regional District, the Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation, the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District and the Greater Vancouver Water District.

### Status of Reserves

Approved

The Board approved the application of reserves as set out in Schedules 1, 2 and 3 of the report titled "Status of Reserves" dated March 27, 2009.  
Total reserve application: almost \$12 million.

### 2008 Grants in Lieu as a Result of Changes to Property Taxes

Approved

The Board approved a total of \$3,791,314 to member municipalities in lieu of property taxes.



**Update on the Progress of Resolving Fisheries Issues on the Capilano River**

**Received**

Last year, almost 10,000 coho salmon smolts and about 300 steelhead trout smolts were trapped in the Upper Capilano River and along the shoreline of Capilano Reservoir. The fish were released in the Lower Capilano near the fish hatchery, to reduce the number of fish that die when they go over the Cleveland Dam spillway. A similar project to reduce smolt mortality is underway this spring.

The Board received an Update on the Progress of Resolving Fisheries Issues on the Capilano River and directed staff to post an overview of the Capilano River smolt program on the Metro Vancouver website.

**Tsawwassen First Nation Membership to the Greater Vancouver Regional District and Greater Vancouver Water District**

**Received**

On April 3, Tsawwassen First Nation became a member of the Greater Vancouver Regional District and the Greater Vancouver Water District. TFN Chief Kim Baird attended her first meeting April 24 as a director; TFN Councillor Andrew Bak is an alternate director.

**Delegations' Executive Summaries Presented at Committee – March 2009**

**Received**

Joe Foy, National Campaign Director of the Wilderness Committee, proposed that a peak within the Metro Vancouver water catchment area be named after the late forester and conservationist Mark Wareing.

## **Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District**

**Amendment of the Solid Waste Management Plan to Authorize Disposal of Municipal Solid Waste to the United States**

**Approved**

The Board directed staff to submit an updated application for amendment to Metro Vancouver's 1995 Regional Solid Waste Management Plan authorizing the disposal of municipal solid waste in the United States to the B.C. Minister of Environment, along with a public consultation report. Metro Vancouver proposes the export of up to 600,000 tonnes of garbage annually to Washington or Oregon state landfill, for an interim period no longer than five years.

**Audited 2008 Financial Statements**

**Approved**

The Board approved the Audited 2008 Financial Statements for the Greater Vancouver Regional District, the Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation, the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District and the Greater Vancouver Water District.

**Status of Reserves****Approved**

The Board approved the application of reserves as set out in Schedules 1, 2 and 3 of the report titled "Status of Reserves" dated March 27, 2009. Total reserve application: almost \$12 million.

**Status of Utilities Capital Expenditures to December 31, 2008****Received**

The water district is projecting a favourable variance of \$24.33 million (1.9 per cent) upon completion of ongoing projects. The sewerage and drainage district is projecting a favourable variance of \$11.25 million (5.4 per cent).

**Delegations' Executive Summaries Presented at Committee****Received**

Urban Wood Waste Recyclers outlined its plan to build an "ecocentre" on its New Westminster property to replace the current Coquitlam waste transfer station, which is scheduled to closed in March, 2011.

**Tipping Fee Bylaw****Approved**

The Board amended the Tipping Fee Bylaw fees, because of Waste Management Committee concerns that a discounted tipping or garbage disposal fee is being charged for the Matsqui Transfer Station,

These new or amended fees will apply at Matsqui Transfer Station: Loads weighing less than 140 kilograms: \$10 per Load – flat fee; Loads weighing 140 kilograms and more: \$72 per tonne.

## **Greater Vancouver Regional District**

**Experience the Fraser – Lower Fraser River Corridor Project****Received**

In 2007, the Fraser Valley Regional District and Metro Vancouver began discussing how to develop trails along both sides of the Fraser River, from Hope to the Strait of Georgia. On April 9, 2009, the B.C. government announced a \$2.5 million grant for two demonstration projects – one in each regional district.

Metro Vancouver is proposing a trail from the Golden Ears Bridge through Derby Reach Regional Parks. The FVRD is proposing a trail along the Mission waterfront. Both projects should be completed in 2009/2010.

**2009 Agriculture Awareness Funding Grants****Approved**

The Board provided these grants:

- a) a \$5,000 grant to the BC Agriculture in the Classroom to implement the "Take a Bite of BC" pilot program in Metro Vancouver high schools;
- b) a \$7,500 grant to the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at the University of B.C. Farm for delivering teacher training workshops in Metro Vancouver school districts; and
- c) a \$5,000 grant to the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition to implement the new "Great Rides" project in Metro Vancouver farming areas.

## **Future of the Region Sustainability Dialogues: Agriculture**

**Forwarded**

The Board forwarded the report dated March 12, 2009, titled "Future of the Region Sustainability Dialogues: Agriculture" to member municipalities, and other related agencies for their information and comment.

The report summarizes six sets of regional dialogues about the regional economy, regional growth, transportation, waste management, climate change and agriculture. Metro Vancouver hosted the dialogues in 2008, in collaboration with local chambers of commerce and boards of trade.

## **Implementation of Metro Vancouver's Wood Stove Exchange Program**

**Approved**

The intent of the program is to reduce the impact of wood smoke by providing an incentive for residents to replace old and uncertified wood burning appliances with new, lower emission appliances, such as certified wood stoves, pellet stoves and high-efficiency gas stoves or fireplaces.

The Board directed staff to publish Metro Vancouver's intention to work with the individual wood-burning appliance retailers and enter into agreements to carry out the program.

## **Intergovernmental Committee - 2009 Strategic Priorities and Actions**

**Approved**

The Board approved three motions:

1/ It tabled a motion to appoint the Chair, Vice-Chair and three additional Metro Vancouver Board Directors as members to the Premier's Liaison Committee.

2/ It appointed the following Metro Vancouver directors as Metro Vancouver "liaisons/ambassadors" to build relationships with specific first nations:

- Squamish Nation - Director Pamela Goldsmith-Jones
- Tsleil-Waututh Nation - Vice-Chair Richard Walton
- Musqueam Indian Band - Director Maria Harris
- Katzie First Nation - Director Don McLean
- Kwikwetlem First Nation - Director Ralph Drew

3/ The Board determined an annual budget for Metro Vancouver's international engagement will include:

- Commitment to at least three fact finding trips per year (such as the Sweden infrastructure, U.K. housing tours)
- Commitment to participating in not more than four international organizations (The Sustainable Cities: PLUS Network; United Cities and Local Governments; Metropolis and ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability) with attendance of a maximum of two directors at one annual meeting of each organization
- Commitment to building a special relationship with at least 2 cities (one in a 'developed' country and one in a 'developing' country) with the aim of linking these together in a mini network (could use the PLUS Network as a starting point)
- Commitment to hosting visiting officially sanctioned delegations from other countries
- Provide for contingency funds for unanticipated opportunities (e.g., the Water conference in Istanbul).

**2008 International Engagement Activities**

**Received**

Metro Vancouver participated in three international events:

- 1/ Second Biennial Sustainable Cities: PLUS Network Conference, in Durban, South Africa, Sept. 15-19, 2008 (Bill Morrell, Corporate Relations).
- 2/ Ninth Annual World Congress of Metropolis, Sydney, Australia, Oct. 22-25, 2008 (Director Trasolini and Heather Schoemaker, Corporate Relations)
- 3/ United Cities and Local Governments World Council, Istanbul, Turkey, Nov. 28-30, 2008 (Chair Jackson, Director Corrigan and Laurie Fretz, Corporate Relations)

**Board Travel Policy and Budget**

The travel policy for board and committee members is established through the Board and Committee Remuneration Bylaw. The 2009 budget provides for about \$226,000 in expenses. To date, about \$104,000 is committed.

**Audited 2008 Financial Statements**

**Approved**

The Board approved the Audited 2008 Financial Statements for the Greater Vancouver Regional District, the Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation, the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District and the Greater Vancouver Water District.

**2008 Financial Results Year-End**

**Received**

The financial results for 2008 show an overall consolidated surplus position of \$26.7 million, net of a \$1.4 million deficit in solid waste, for all districts as well as the housing corporation.

**Status of Reserves**

**Approved**

The board approved the application of reserves as set out in Schedules 1, 2 and 3 of the report titled "*Status of Reserves*" dated March 27, 2009.

**Building Maintenance and Improvements Re 5945 Kathleen Ave.**

**Approved**

The Board approved additional 2009 expenditures of \$600,000 for the first phase of maintenance and minor improvement work at Metro Vancouver's head office in Burnaby.

**Charter, Metro Vancouver Port Cities and Port Metro Vancouver**

**Approved**

A new charter, signed by the chairs of Metro Vancouver, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority and the Chair of Metro Vancouver Port Cities Committee, formalizes the relationship and establishes ongoing liaison between the agencies.

**Proposed Resolutions to FCM on Criminal Code Reform**

**Approved**

At an April 4, 2009 special meeting of the Mayors Committee, the committee discussed policing issues and the need for criminal law reform. A list of issues facing law enforcement agencies was developed into a resolution that asks the Government of Canada to amend the Criminal Code of Canada and other relevant legislation to address the issues.

**Tsawwassen First Nation Membership to the Greater Vancouver Regional District and Greater Vancouver Water District**

**Received**

The entry of Tsawwassen First Nation into the Greater Vancouver Regional District is in accordance with a treaty negotiated between Canada, B.C. and the first nation. Tsawwassen First Nation and the Greater Vancouver Water District also negotiated the first nation's entry into the water district. The first nation became a member of both the GVRD and GVWD on April 3, 2009.

**Delegations' Executive Summaries Presented at Committee – April 2009**

**Received**

University Town resident Charles Menzies spoke to the Electoral Area A Committee about "the current democratic deficit in Electoral Area A and the lack of effective local governance of this unincorporated area of Metro Vancouver."