

For Metro Vancouver meetings on Friday, November 24, 2023

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: media@metrovancover.org.

Metro Vancouver Regional District

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The Board acclaimed George V. Harvie as Board Chair and John McEwen as Board Vice Chair.

E1.1 Kanaka Creek Regional Park – Contribution Agreement for Operation of the Kanaka Creek Bell-Irving Hatchery 2024 – 2026 **APPROVED**

The Board approved a contribution agreement with the Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society toward the operation of the Kanaka Creek Bell-Irving Hatchery for a three-year term in the amount of \$21,525 in Year 1, \$25,000 in Year 2, and \$28,000 in Year 3, commencing January 1, 2024 and ending on December 31, 2026.

E2.1 Air Quality Advisories during the Summer of 2023 **RECEIVED**

British Columbia experienced a record-breaking wildfire season in 2023 with more than twice the area burned compared with the previous record in 2018. This resulted in widespread wildfire smoke impacts. Metro Vancouver issues air quality advisories for the Lower Fraser Valley airshed, including Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley Regional District, to help protect public health during periods of degraded air quality.

Metro Vancouver issued five air quality advisories during the summer of 2023, resulting in advisories being in effect for a total of 10 days. Wildfire smoke advisories in seven of the last nine summers, and elevated ground-level ozone due to extreme heat waves emphasize how climate change is presenting new challenges for air quality.

The Board received the report for information.

E3.1 Metro 2050 Implementation Guideline – Regional Growth Strategy Amendments **APPROVED**

Metro Vancouver staff are in the process of developing and updating a suite of guidelines to support the interpretation and implementation of *Metro 2050*. The main changes in the updated *Metro 2050* Implementation Guideline – Regional Growth Strategy Amendments include:

- New information on submission requirements, engagement timelines, and relationship with Regional Context Statements
- New examples of council resolutions and submission cover letter
- A new regional growth strategy amendment process diagram
- Formatting for better readability

The Board endorsed the *Metro 2050* Implementation Guideline – Regional Growth Strategy Amendments as presented.

E3.2 Request for Sanitary Service Connection at 14500 Silver Valley Road, Maple Ridge **APPROVED**

The City of Maple Ridge submitted an application to amend the Fraser Sewerage Area boundary to include four building footprints at 14500 Silver Valley Road, to service the expansion of an existing UBC forestry research facility and accessory uses. The Board resolved that sewer service is generally consistent with the provisions of *Metro 2050*, and forwarded the request to the GVS&DD Board for consideration.

E3.3 Support for The National Housing Accord: A Multi-Sector Approach to Ending Canada’s Rental Housing Crisis **APPROVED**

The National Housing Accord is a national campaign and policy proposal put forward by various housing sector organizations. It outlines 10 recommendations to the federal government to address the shortage of rental housing in Canada, with the aim of building over two million new affordable and market rental units by 2030. The recommendations align strongly with the housing policy and actions in *Metro 2050*, as well as with other regional housing policy initiatives underway in the region.

- Create a coordinated housing plan involving all three orders of government
- Create a national workforce and immigration strategy on housing
- Reform CMHC fees and the federal tax system
- Provide low-cost, long-term fixed-rate financing for constructing purpose-built rental housing
- Develop a robust innovation strategy for housing
- Reform the National Building Code for innovation and productivity
- Streamline the CMHC approvals process
- Create property acquisition programs for non-profit housing providers
- Create a Homelessness Prevention and Housing Benefit
- Reform the Canada Housing Benefit

The Board endorsed the National Housing Accord.

E3.4 Regional Context Statement from the University of British Columbia **RECEIVED**

As part of the Campus Vision 2050 process, the University of British Columbia has developed a land use plan and updated its Regional Context Statement, which has been submitted to Metro Vancouver. Unlike the typical local government process for submitting Regional Context Statements, the *Municipalities Enabling and Validating Act* requires the UBC Board to forward any new or amended Regional Context Statement to Metro Vancouver’s Chief Planning Officer for written comments on the relationship between the Regional

Context Statement and the regional growth strategy. UBC then submits these comments to the provincial minister responsible for UBC for review and consideration of adoption.

Regional Planning staff have reviewed UBC’s Regional Context Statement relative to *Metro 2050*’s goals and policy actions, provided feedback to UBC, and UBC has revised its Regional Context Statement accordingly. Metro Vancouver staff, including the Chief Planning Officer, have reviewed the updated UBC Regional Context Statement and Metro Vancouver’s Chief Planning Officer will send a letter to UBC noting that the submitted Regional Context Statement is generally consistent with the regional growth strategy.

The Board received the report for information.

E3.5 Costs of Providing Infrastructure and Services to Different Residential Densities Study RECEIVED

Staff have completed the Costs of Providing Infrastructure Services to Different Residential Densities Study as an initiative to support the implementation of *Metro 2050*. The study aims to better understand the costs and revenues associated with different types of housing by exploring the associated municipal infrastructure capital and operating costs, property taxation, and utility fees.

Similar analyses have been completed in other jurisdictions around the world, but not in the Metro Vancouver region. Drawing from available sources, this study provides data specific to this region to inform the discussion about the possible costs, benefits, and implications of development within the existing urban/high density (infill) areas of the region versus expansion into new suburban/low density (greenfield) areas.

Consistent with the findings of studies completed in other jurisdictions, the data confirms that low-density “urban sprawl” is costlier to build and maintain than redevelopment and intensification in established urban areas.

The Board received the report for information and directed staff to provide a copy of the report to BC MLAs and MPs.

E4.1 Greater Vancouver Regional Fund – Options for Program Renewal APPROVED

The Board directed staff to prepare a new *Greater Vancouver Regional Fund (GVRF) Policy* and work with UBCM staff to revise the administrative agreement on the Federal Gas Tax Fund in British Columbia for the years 2024 to 2034 based on:

- Member jurisdictions continuing to pool 95 per cent of the federal Canada Community-Building Fund distributions in support of regional transportation projects (via TransLink) with the remaining five per cent allocated to community projects (via member jurisdictions)
- The allocation of any future one-time or permanent increases in Canada Community-Building Fund distributions, beyond the indexed annual rate, being considered on a case-by-case basis by the MVRD Board upon confirmation of the additional funding

- The project eligibility criteria being updated to specify that zero-emission transportation projects are preferred to be funded through the renewed program
- The funding allocation and criteria set out in the GVRF Policy being reviewed by the MVRD Board after five years of implementation

E4.2 Fraser Basin Council: Renewed Three-Year Agreement with Metro Vancouver APPROVED

Since 1997, Metro Vancouver has provided an annual financial contribution to the Fraser Basin Council (FBC) in recognition that many of its activities align with Metro Vancouver’s priorities. This contribution has been set at \$300,000 annually since 2018. Recent examples of FBC activities include electric vehicle incentive programs, Lower Mainland flood planning, and the Realizing UNDRIP Initiative, among others. The current contribution agreement will expire on December 31, 2023, and FBC requested to enter into a new three-year agreement for 2024-2026. Staff have done a high-level assessment of FBC’s activities in the region relative to Metro Vancouver’s priorities and financial contribution.

The Board directed staff to develop a contribution agreement with the Fraser Basin Council for an annual amount of \$300,000 for the three-year term from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2026.

E4.3 Award of an Enterprise Agreement to Microsoft Canada under Government of British Columbia Master Business and Services Agreement APPROVED

Metro Vancouver's current enterprise agreement with Microsoft Canada has been in place since 2020. This agreement is set to expire at the end of 2023 and allows for corporate-wide use of Microsoft products. Metro Vancouver plans to continue using and expanding its use of Microsoft products. Therefore, it is recommended to enter into a new five-year agreement with Microsoft.

This new agreement will offer support for existing Microsoft products and grant access to additional services, including Microsoft's cloud-based Azure, Office 365, and cybersecurity platforms.

The Board approved award of the enterprise agreement for up to \$10.8 million (exclusive of taxes) to Microsoft Canada and its reseller Partner Softchoice LP for a term of five years, subject to final review by the Chief Administrative Officer.

E5.1 Policing Our Ports APPROVED

The Board resolved to send a letter to the Prime Minister of Canada, Premier of British Columbia, and appropriate federal and provincial ministers requesting a response to the following concerns outlined in the report dated September 12, 2023 titled *Policing Our Ports* by Peter German & Associates:

- The absence of dedicated, uniformed, community-oriented port police services
- The reduced federal capacity to effectively conduct drug and other controversial investigations, and to respond to seizures conducted by the Canada Border Services Agency
- The flow of contraband, including illicit drugs, in and out of Canada through its ports
- The urgent need for concerted and strategic action to fortify our ports, protect our communities, and preserve the integrity of our nation’s security.

G1.1 MVRD Regional Parks Regulation Amendment Bylaw No. 1372, 2023 – Amendment Bylaw No. 1177, 2012 **APPROVED**

The annual bylaw update ensures that fees and charges are appropriate and based on current market conditions. Fee changes brought forward as part of the bylaw amendment are for implementation in the coming calendar year. While most fee increases are inflationary, including parking permit rates, camping fees, and indoor facility rental rates, a number of additional changes are proposed that will affect administration of the schedule and the fees charged for public services provided by Regional Parks. The changes are expected to generate a net increase of approximately \$150,000 in revenues to offset increasing operational costs and are to take effect January 1, 2024.

The Board gave first, second, and third readings to *Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Parks Regulation Amendment Bylaw No. 1372, 2023* then adopted said bylaw.

G2.1 MVRD Air Quality Management Fees Regulation Amendment Bylaw No. 1373, 2023 **APPROVED**

Metro Vancouver protects air quality through emission regulations and site-specific conditional authorizations for the discharge of air contaminants. Metro Vancouver charges regulatory fees for authorized air emissions to recover administrative costs and to encourage emission reductions.

After broad engagement in early 2021, the Board adopted an updated bylaw that establishes emission fee rates for different categories of air contaminants depending on their potential harm and emission reduction benefits, in particular for methane and other greenhouse gases based on their global warming potential. New amendments clarify the meaning of “global warming potential,” and clarify and confirm the regulatory fee rate chargeable for methane emissions, to align with the intent of *Bylaw 1330*.

The Board gave first, second, and third readings to the amendment bylaw, then passed and finally adopted it.

G3.1 MVRD Temporary Borrowing Bylaw No. 1374, 2023 **APPROVED**

Metro Vancouver introduced temporary borrowing in 2022 as a cash management strategy for infrastructure financing for GVWD and GVS&DD. Although the *GVWD Act* does not include provisions for temporary borrowing, MVRD can access temporary borrowing on behalf of the GVWD, through the *Municipal Enabling and Validating Act*. Approval of the *Metro Vancouver Water District Temporary Borrowing Bylaw No. 1374, 2023* provides the authority for temporary borrowing in the amount not exceeding \$1.833 billion, the amount of the *Greater Vancouver Water District Borrowing Bylaw No. 261, 2023* and the maximum borrowing authorized. This will provide Metro Vancouver with borrowing methods

equivalent to what is used in municipalities and provides the optimization of cash and investment portfolio decisions which can reduce overall debt servicing costs and provide maximum investment returns.

The Board authorized temporary borrowing on behalf of GVWD an amount, or amounts in aggregate, not exceeding \$1.833 billion dollars, the maximum amount authorized by the *Greater Vancouver Water District Borrowing Bylaw No. 261, 2023*, then gave first, second, and third readings to *Metro Vancouver Regional District Temporary Borrowing Bylaw Number 1374, 2023*.

I 1 Committee Information Items and Delegation Summaries

The Board received information items and delegation summaries from standing committees.

Regional Parks Committee – November 1, 2023

Information Items:

5.2 Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy Implementation Update

Public programs and events in regional parks are designed to inspire appreciation and understanding of the environment. In 2022, 39,389 people participated in 525 programs, events, and outreach activities. All programs and events are guided by the *Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy* that was approved by the MVRD Board in April 2022. Significant progress has been made regarding the implementation of the adopted strategic goals. This report provides an update on the deliverables of the strategy.

Climate Action Committee – November 2, 2023

Information Items:

5.1 Climate Action Committee and Regional Planning Committee Joint Discussion on the Metro 2050 Climate Policy Enhancement Study

As directed by the Board, Regional Planning has undertaken a *Metro 2050 Climate Policy Enhancement Study* with an aim to strengthen climate action language and policy, and to better integrate climate action into *Metro 2050's* priorities. The study included engagement with regional stakeholders, municipal staff, First Nations, industry experts, and academic institutions to explore best practices and opportunities.

The feedback received informed draft recommendations to enhance the policies of *Metro 2050* that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve climate resilience in the region. An initial list of policy ideas was presented and workshopped in early 2023, and has been refined based on the feedback received. Pending Regional Planning Committee and Board direction, recommendations for stronger climate action policy actions in *Metro 2050* may be forthcoming via a proposed amendment to be considered in early 2024. The *Metro 2050 Climate Policy Enhancement Study* was closely coordinated with the engagement and process to develop the *Climate 2050 Land Use and Urban Form Roadmap*.

George Massey Crossing Task Force – November 2, 2023

Information Items:

5.1 Fraser River Tunnel Project Environmental Assessment Process – Update

The Fraser River Tunnel Project is proposing to replace the existing George Massey Tunnel on Highway 99 with a new eight-lane immersed tube tunnel. The project is undergoing an environmental assessment by the BC Environmental Assessment Office (BC EAO) and is in the process planning phase of the review process. Metro Vancouver staff are participating in the environmental assessment review. This phase has a legislated timeline of 120 days, which would end on January 12, 2024. Once the BC EAO issues the process order, the project will proceed to the application development and review phase. TI Corp is expecting to complete the Environmental Assessment Certificate process before fall 2025.

5.2 Fraser River Tunnel Project Procurement Process – Update

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has announced a shortlist of teams that will move forward to the Request for Proposals phase of procurement for the Fraser River Tunnel Project to three selected bid teams. The new crossing will be an eight-lane immersed tube tunnel with three general-purpose travel lanes and one dedicated transit lane in each direction. The new tunnel will have bike and pedestrian crossings to support active transportation options in the region. Following evaluation of the proposal submissions, the Province will select a single proponent to enter into a design-early works agreement for the project. The Province expects to select a design-build team by spring 2024. Award of a separate design-build RFP is scheduled for 2025. The estimated cost of the new tunnel is approximately \$4.15 billion and is projected to be complete in 2030.

Finance Committee – November 9, 2023

Delegation Summaries:

3.1 David Marshall, Chief Executive Officer, Fraser Basin Council

Subject: Metro Vancouver – Fraser Basin Council Agreement Renewal

3.2 Roderick V. Louis

Subject: *GVWD Borrowing Bylaw No. 261, 2023 and GVWD Temporary Borrowing Bylaw No. 262, 2023*

Information Items:

5.1 MVRD Audit Plan from BDO Canada LLP

Metro Vancouver Districts and the Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation are required under provincial legislation to prepare annual financial statements, audited by a public accounting firm and approved by the Board, by May 15 each year. The 2023 annual financial statements, along with the draft auditor’s report, will be presented to the Finance Committee at its April meeting, prior to Board approval. Metro Vancouver auditors, BDO Canada LLP, presented their audit planning report to the Finance Committee.

This report outlines the audit approach, key audit areas, auditor responsibilities and audit deliverables. In addition, the report highlights a number of upcoming accounting standards, the most significant being the Asset Retirement Obligation requirement, effective fiscal year 2023.

Management will be working with BDO Canada to review scoping and measurement estimates during BDO’s interim audit to complete the audit standard.

5.3 Metro Vancouver Quarterly Financial Report – September 30, 2023

At September 30, 2023, operating expenditures are at \$777.7 million (71 per cent) of the annual budget of \$1.09 billion and 95 per cent of the year-to-date expected budget and capital expenditures are at \$462.8 million (37.1 per cent) of total annual cash flow of \$1.25 billion and 48.9 per cent of the prorated year-to-date cash flow target of \$946.8 million. The projected year-end operating surplus to budget is forecasting to be \$13.7 million, or 1.3 per cent of the annual budget, with revenues expected to be \$12.2 million higher than budget and expenditures at \$1.5 million under budget. Higher-than-budgeted operating revenues are due to greater-than-anticipated waste flows and water consumption, offset by lower transfers from reserves for capital replacement and maintenance projects due to seasonality of expenditures. Key factors contributing to lower-than-expected operating expenditures of \$1.5 million include staff vacancies, deferred operating projects, and seasonality of expenditures, offset by higher-than-anticipated landfill costs and biosolids program work. The capital spending is forecasting to be \$781.2 million, or 62.7 per cent of the annual capital cash flow largely due to major project complexities, design completion and unplanned delays for the Iona, North Shore, Northwest Langley, and Coquitlam Water Main projects. Additional factors including ongoing supply chain delays, protracted property negotiations, as well as issues with permitting, tendering works, and initiating construction.

5.4 Treasury Report – July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023

The investment performance for this period has met expectations, with annualized investment returns in the third quarter rising to 4.13 per cent from 4.04 per cent in the second quarter. The overall rate of return is expected to continue to rise in the fourth quarter, as prior years' investments mature and are locked in at more attractive rates. Due to timing of maturities, long-term investment performance is slightly below benchmark. Short-term investments are now trending above benchmark. A significant percentage of the portfolio will continue to be held in cash for liquidity to meet operational and capital expenditure needs.

In addition to stronger investment returns, there is a forecasted surplus of \$4.2 million in debt financing as the targeted borrowing with MFA was over \$300 million for 2023, which is considerably less than actual long-term borrowing for Metro Vancouver Districts of \$100 million (\$65 million for GVS&DD and \$35 million for GVWD). This is expected to pick up as the major capital spending advances over the five-year plan. Overall, inflation has been trending downward to 3.8 per cent in September from its peak at 8.1 per cent in June 2022. Bank of Canada announced on October 25 that they will continue to hold steady at five per cent but warns that more increases are possible until inflation comes back to its two per cent target. Rise in interest rates will be mitigated with extending the amortization periods and locking in 10-year terms with MFA. MFA long-term borrowing rates are projected between three and five per cent.

Mayors Committee – November 9, 2023

Information Items:

5.1 Metro Vancouver Industrial Lands and Property Taxation Overview

The *Regional Industrial Lands Strategy* and the *Regional Growth Strategy, Metro 2050*, include policies and actions to address industrial lands. Metro Vancouver continues to work on initiatives to implement

these strategies, and is now providing an industrial lands and property taxation overview to support the Mayors Committee discussion.

Greater Vancouver Water District

G1.1 GVWD Borrowing Bylaw No. 261, 2023

APPROVED

GVWD does not borrow in advance of spending but borrows only when capital expenditures accumulate to such a level that long-term funding is beneficial relative to funding through working capital. The GVWD estimates long-term borrowing needs of up to \$1.833 billion over the next five years in order to fund its significant capital program. The existing *Borrowing Bylaw No.248, 2015*, for \$700 million, has a remaining borrowing capacity of \$233 million, which is insufficient to meet the requirements of GVWD’s approved five-year capital plan.

The Board approved a borrowing limit of \$1.833 billion and gave first, second, and third readings to *Greater Vancouver Water District Borrowing Bylaw No. 261, 2023*, and then forwarded said bylaw to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval.

G1.2 GVWD Temporary Borrowing Request Bylaw No. 262, 2023

APPROVED

Metro Vancouver introduced temporary borrowing in 2022 as a cash management strategy for infrastructure financing for GVWD and GVS&DD. Although the *GVWD Act* does not include provisions for temporary borrowing, MVRD can access temporary borrowing on behalf of the GVWD, through the *Municipal Enabling and Validating Act*. Approval of the *Greater Vancouver Water District Temporary Borrowing Request Bylaw No. 262, 2023* provides the authority for temporary borrowing in the amount not exceeding \$1.833 billion, the amount of the *Greater Vancouver Water District Borrowing Bylaw No. 261, 2023*, and the maximum borrowing authorized. This will provide Metro Vancouver with borrowing methods equivalent to what is used in municipalities and provides the optimization of cash and investment portfolio decisions which can reduce overall debt servicing costs and provide maximum investment returns.

The Board authorized the Metro Vancouver Regional District to temporarily borrow on behalf of GVWD an amount, or amounts in aggregate, not exceeding \$1.833 billion, the maximum amount authorized by the *Greater Vancouver Water District Borrowing Bylaw No. 261, 2023*, then gave first, second, and third readings to *Greater Vancouver Water District Temporary Borrowing Request Bylaw No. 262, 2023* and then forwarded said bylaw to the Inspector of Municipalities for statutory approval.

I 1 Committee Information Items and Delegation Summaries

The Board received information items from a standing committee.

Water Committee – November 8, 2023

Information Items:

5.1 Summer 2023 Water Supply Performance

The water supply system performed well during the high demand season of 2023 despite the challenges imposed by the significant summer drought. Stage 1 of the *Drinking Water Conservation Plan* was activated on May 1, 2023 and Stage 2 was implemented on August 4 due to the mid-season long-range weather forecast indicating a high likelihood of a continued drought into the fall together with the sustained higher daily demands from May to July. While there were observed reductions in drinking water demands through August and September, the regional data implies that lawn watering was still occurring despite being banned in Stage 2 and that with increased education, enforcement, and progress in universal metering across the region, additional reductions are achievable. The success of water conservation measures will continue to be an essential factor in determining the need for and timing of future system expansion.

5.2 2023 Water Communications and Public Outreach Results

Metro Vancouver undertakes annual communications initiatives to support drinking water conservation across the region. These include the We Love Water campaign, the Water Wagon program, and communication of lawn watering restrictions in accordance with the *Drinking Water Conservation Plan*.

The promotional strategy for these initiatives in 2023 included region-wide reach through television, radio, multicultural print, direct mail, online, outdoor digital billboards, and social media. These broadcast and digital promotions delivered a combined total of 59.7 million impressions. Earned media resulted in a total potential combined reach and impressions of 1.4 billion (compared to 69 million in 2022) with an ad value equivalent of \$52 million. The hot, dry weather and province-wide drought made water conservation and supply top of mind for both residents and the media. The Water Wagon program resulted in 24,104 water bottle refills and fountain uses, and 3,094 engagements with residents about drinking water conservation and quality.

5.3 GVWD Capital Program Expenditure Update to September 30, 2023

The capital expenditure reporting process as approved by the Board provides for regular status reports on capital expenditures. This report includes both the overall capital program for the water utility with a multi-year view of capital projects, and the actual capital spending for the 2023 fiscal year to September 30, 2023 in comparison to the prorated annual capital cash flow. In 2023, the annual capital expenditures for the GVWD are \$159.8 million to date compared to a prorated annual capital cash flow of \$300 million. Forecasted expenditures for the current water utility capital program remain within the approved budgets through to completion.

5.4 Kennedy Newton Main Phase 3 – Scott Road Section Completion Report

The Scott Road section of the Kennedy Newton Main consists of the installation of approximately 450 metres of 1.8-metre-diameter welded steel pipe along Scott Road, between 88th and 86th avenues. Due to the significant impacts on traffic along this major transit corridor, the schedule, sequencing, and duration of construction were closely coordinated with the cities of Surrey and Delta and TransLink's R6 Scott Road RapidBus upgrade project. The installation work for this project was awarded in November 2022 and in July

2023, the water main installation work was completed ahead of schedule and on budget, while also successfully mitigating many of the construction impacts to the public and area businesses.

The completion of this section of the Kennedy Newton Main is an example of how careful project planning, strong member jurisdiction collaboration, and active engagement with the community can help alleviate the community impacts associated with these significant water infrastructure projects.

5.5 Corrosion Control Program: Copper Pipes Protection Monitoring Update

This report summarizes key corrosion control initiatives undertaken by Metro Vancouver. Metro Vancouver’s untreated drinking water supply is naturally low in pH, making it corrosive to building plumbing systems. Corrosion control, through an increase in pH and alkalinity, has been implemented in Metro Vancouver over the past two decades. In June 2021, Metro Vancouver once again increased the pH of the drinking water to a target range of 8.3 to 8.5 and alkalinity to about 20 mg/L as calcium carbonate (CaCO₃) as a way to further protect copper pipes, fixtures, and hot water tanks in buildings throughout the region.

Monitoring showed reduced copper concentrations in water samples collected from residences across the region and continued compliance with the *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality*.

Greater Vancouver Sewage and Drainage District

E1.1 Proposed Capital Investment for the Oval Village District Energy Utility Sewer Heat Recovery Project APPROVED

Metro Vancouver’s *Climate 2050* strategy includes a target to achieve a 45 per cent reduction in regional greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, from 2010 levels. Sewer heat recovery facilities will provide renewable, fossil-fuel-free heat extracted from sewage to residents and businesses in the region. There is enough excess heat in the liquid waste collection system to heat 700 high-rise buildings throughout the region, which would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 250,000 tonnes.

The Oval Village District Energy Utility Sewer Heat Recovery Project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to the *Climate 2050* strategy, as guided by the *Sewage and Waste: Heat Recovery Policy*. The investment will be capped at \$20 million out of a total estimated district energy expansion project cost of \$146 million, based on application of the *Carbon Price Policy*. The investment is based on the value of the anticipated greenhouse gas reductions over the life of the project, and was included in the endorsed 2024-2028 capital plan. Metro Vancouver will receive carbon credits based on relative costs incurred by both parties, which will contribute toward Metro Vancouver’s goal of carbon neutrality.

The Board directed staff to enter into contract negotiations with Lulu Island Energy and authorized expenditures up to \$20 million as endorsed in the 2024-2028 capital plan.

E2.1 Coffee Cup Revolution Funding Support APPROVED

The Bidders’ Project, which is part of MakeWay Charitable Society, organizes the Coffee Cup Revolution event, which recruits local bidders to collect discarded coffee cups and redeem them for a cash refund. Coffee Cup Revolution highlights the importance of reducing single-use coffee cups while raising awareness

of marginalized populations and green communities. Metro Vancouver has supported the event since 2017. The current three-year funding agreement provides \$10,000 per year and expires in December 2023. This report proposes a new three-year funding agreement in the amount of \$12,000 per year.

The Board approved entering into an agreement with MakeWay Charitable Society in support of the Bidders’ Project Coffee Cup Revolution for a three-year period in the amount of \$12,000 per year, commencing January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2026.

G1.1 Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Sewerage and Drainage Areas Boundaries Amending Bylaw No. 372, 2023 – Fraser Sewerage Area – Township of Langley APPROVED

At the October 27, 2023 meeting, the MVRD Board resolved that the extension of sewerage services for the properties at 1565 200th Street and 19925 12th Avenue in the Township of Langley was generally consistent with the provisions of *Metro 2050*. The Township of Langley submitted a sewer area amendment application to the GVS&DD requesting an extension of sewer service to 1565 200th Street to serve two existing dwellings and a new farm equipment storage building, and 19925 12th Avenue to accommodate an additional dwelling unit. A technical review indicated no material financial impact and negligible impact on the regional sewerage system.

The Board gave first, second, and third readings to the *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Sewerage and Drainage Areas Boundaries Amendment Bylaw No. 372, 2023*, then passed and finally adopted said bylaw.

I 1 Committee Information Items and Delegation Summaries

The Board received information items and delegation summaries from standing committees.

Liquid Waste Committee – November 8, 2023

Information Items:

5.2 Liquid Waste Services Capital Program Expenditure Update as at September 30, 2023

The capital expenditure reporting process as approved by the GVS&DD Board provides for regular status reports on capital expenditures.

This is the third report for 2023, which includes the overall capital program for Liquid Waste Services with a multi-year view of capital projects, and the actual capital spending for the 2023 fiscal year to September 30, 2023 in comparison to the annual capital cash flow. As of September 30, 2023, the capital expenditures for Liquid Waste Services are \$233.7 million, compared to a prorated annual capital cash flow of \$511.3 million. This shortfall is primarily due to invoicing and project delays and the timing of some construction work for the latter portions of the year. Forecast expenditures for the current Liquid Waste Services capital program will be under the annual capital cash flow planned for 2023.

Zero Waste Committee – November 9, 2023

Information Items:

5.1 Scaling Up Regional Reuse, Repair, and Food Recovery

Moving up the waste reduction hierarchy toward reuse and repair is a key *Board Strategic Plan* priority. Work is underway to scale up reuse and repair through a number of initiatives including scaling up reuse collection at recycling and waste centres, co-funding for member jurisdiction repair cafés, and expanding the regional food recovery network. These and other reuse and repair initiatives have a number of benefits beyond waste reduction including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, feeding people and animals, collaboration with community partners, building social cohesion, and increasing green jobs and volunteer positions.

5.3 Solid Waste Services Capital Program Expenditure Update to September 30, 2023

As of September 30, 2023 the capital expenditures for Solid Waste Services are \$4.4 million compared to a prorated annual capital cash flow of \$32.1 million, or 14 per cent of projected expenditures. In contrast, in 2022, the actual capital expenditures were 78 per cent of the approved expenditures because significant capital projects such as the United Boulevard and Central Surrey recycling and waste centres were in the final stages of construction. The 2023 underspend is primarily due to longer-than-anticipated design phases for Waste-to-Energy capital projects and the Langley and North Surrey recycling depot projects, which has delayed the construction phases. Key capital projects in development are expected to begin construction in 2024, meaning that expenditures in 2024 will better align with the budgeted capital cash flow. Additional third-party engineering support and resources have been added to support Waste-to-Energy project management and to assist with moving forward the significant capital projects at that facility.