

**For Metro Vancouver meetings on Friday, April 24, 2020**

*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 [Greg.Valou@metrovancouver.org](mailto:Greg.Valou@metrovancouver.org).*

**Metro Vancouver Regional District****E 1.1 Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy****APPROVED**

The Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy provides strategic direction for staff delivering public programs and events within regional parks. The purpose of the strategy is to provide recommendations on how Regional Parks programming and interpretation will help Metro Vancouver meet the future needs of the region's growing diverse population. It recommends strategic directions and actions for 2020 - 2025, grouped within five themes:

1. Broaden Your Base
2. Extend Your Reach
3. Deepen the Connection
4. Invest in Youth
5. Ensure Financial Sustainability

The Board endorsed the Regional Parks Public Programming Strategy as presented and directed staff to include the financial implications associated with advancing the Strategy in the annual budget process.

**E 1.2 Status of Regional Parks Capital Expenditures to December 31, 2019****RECEIVED**

The capital expenditure reporting process to Standing Committees and Boards provides for regular status updates on capital expenditures. This year-end report for 2019 compares capital spending for the 2019 fiscal year to the annual budget.

In 2019, annual capital expenditures for Regional Parks Services were \$18.8 million compared to an amended capital budget of \$19.4 million. Any capital funding surplus will remain with Regional Parks and will be returned to its reserves to fund future capital.

The Board received the report for information.

**COVID-19 Correspondence****APPROVED**

The Board approved a motion providing Board authorization for the Board Chair to send correspondence to relevant agencies and other orders of government, regarding COVID-19, as it relates to the region.

**G 1.1 Township of Langley – Metro Vancouver Regional District Security Issuing Bylaw No. 1307, 2020** **APPROVED**

The Township of Langley has requested borrowing in the amount of \$85,987,360 as related to three Loan Authorization bylaws whose purposes include McLeod Athletic Park construction and land acquisitions. The Township of Langley has met the regulatory requirements and has the legislative authority to undertake the planned infrastructure borrowing.

The Township of Langley currently has a significant outstanding balance of temporary capital borrowing related to Strategic Land Acquisition. Converting the outstanding temporary borrowing balance to long term borrowing and fully funding all of their request will help free up the Municipal Finance Authority's short term borrowing program so it can be used to fund Revenue Anticipation borrowing by BC local governments anticipating delayed collection of taxation revenue as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Board:

- pursuant to Sections 182(1)(b) and 182(2)(a) of the Community Charter, gave consent to the request for financing from the Township of Langley in the amount of \$85,987,360;
- gave first, second and third readings to Metro Vancouver Regional District Security Issuing Bylaw No. 1307, 2020 to authorize the entering into an agreement respecting financing between the Metro Vancouver Regional District and the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia;
- passed and finally adopted said bylaw and forwarded it to the Inspector of Municipalities for Certificate of Approval.

**Greater Vancouver Sewage and Drainage District****E 1.1. Capital Projects and Project Delivery****RECEIVED**

In the autumn of 2019, the Board expressed interest in undertaking a review of the way Metro Vancouver delivers major infrastructure projects in order to ensure value for residents.

Metro Vancouver staff have taken the initial steps in responding to this request, including the creation of a new department, engaging a consultant to undertake a high level review of major projects. Staff will be providing periodic updates on progress on implementing consultant recommendations.

Responding to capacity needs due to population growth and meeting regulatory requirements have led to a dramatic increase in the scope of Metro Vancouver's capital project program budget and the scale of projects within this program. The current construction market dynamics coupled with the complex nature of these projects adds additional challenges. In the face of these challenges, Metro Vancouver is undertaking a best practices response, including establishing a Project Delivery department as a Centre of Expertise for the organization on project delivery, engaging a consultant to undertake a high-level review of major projects and implementing a forward-looking plan.

The Board received the report for information.

**1.2 Solid Waste System Tipping Fee Deferral/Reduction Request****APPROVED**

Many of Metro Vancouver's solid waste system customers are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and Metro Vancouver has received two requests to reduce tipping fees and extend account payment terms.

Reducing tipping fees would result in an operating budget deficit for the solid waste function for 2020. Extending payment terms from 35 days to 90 days for the remainder of 2020 is expected to result in a cost to the solid waste function of approximately \$300,000 due to foregone investment income from the deferred revenues. Extending payment terms would assist both commercial and municipal solid waste system customers.

The Board directed staff to grant an additional 55 days' interest free payment grace period for all solid waste customer charge accounts for invoices issued prior to May 1, 2020, and to extend the payment period from 35 days to 90 days for all solid waste customer charge accounts for the period May 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.