

For Metro Vancouver meetings on Friday, September 29, 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@metrovancouver.org.

Metro Vancouver Regional District**E1.1 Code of Conduct for Elected Officials Policy****REFERRED**

On April 28, 2023, the Board directed staff to bring forward a code of conduct based on the *Model Code of Conduct* produced by the Working Group on Responsible Conduct (WGRC). The WGRC is a joint initiative of the Union of BC Municipalities, the Ministry of Community Sport and Cultural Development, and the Local Government Management Association. The establishment of a Code of Conduct is a requirement introduced in the *Community Charter* in June 2022.

The Board referred the Code of Conduct for Elected Officials Policy back to staff for further revisions, including the addition of clauses that address confidentiality, conflict of interest, and accepting gifts, and directed staff to develop a companion procedure document setting out: how complaints will be handled, investigation process, resolution, enforcement, and whistleblower protections.

E2.1 Appointment of Enforcement Officers**APPROVED**

Recent changes in staffing have resulted in a need to update staff appointments as Board-designated officers under the *Air Quality Management Bylaw 1082, 2008*, the *Environmental Management Act*, and the *Offence Act*.

The Board, pursuant to the *Air Quality Management Bylaw* and the *Environmental Management Act*:

- rescinded the appointment of Ana Nic Lochlainn as an officer
- appointed Metro Vancouver employees Jason Assam, Karnjit Bains, Cynthia Barros, Amanda Craft, and Mike Mijares as officers

Furthermore, pursuant to section 28 of the *Offence Act* for the purpose of serving summons for alleged violations under the *Air Quality Management Bylaw*, the Board:

- rescinded the appointment of Ana Nic Lochlainn
- appointed Metro Vancouver employees Jason Assam, Karnjit Bains, Cynthia Barros, and Amanda Craft

E2.2 Metro Vancouver’s Climate 2050 Agriculture Roadmap

APPROVED

The *Climate 2050 Agriculture Roadmap* is one in a series of 10 *Climate 2050* roadmaps that present a pathway to achieving a carbon-neutral and resilient region by the year 2050. Agriculture in Metro Vancouver contributes approximately four per cent of the region’s total GHG emissions from using fertilizer, farm equipment, and fossil natural gas to heat greenhouses. The *Agriculture Roadmap* establishes a target of reducing GHG emissions by 35 per cent, relative to 2010 levels, by 2030. This will be achieved by maximizing carbon sequestration and by implementing the best management practices and technologies available to support powering agricultural operations, equipment, and machinery with clean, renewable energy. The long-term resilience of the region is the biggest climate challenge facing the sector and, therefore, increasing the resilience of local agriculture is a significant focus.

The Board endorsed the *Climate 2050 Agriculture Roadmap* as presented as the initial roadmap to achieve the *Climate 2050* vision, goals, and targets for a net-zero and resilient agricultural sector; directed staff to continue working with member jurisdictions and other partners to implement the actions of said roadmap, and directed staff to update the roadmap, as needed, in response to new information.

E2.3 Metro Vancouver Climate 2050 Annual Report 2022/2023

RECEIVED

The Board received for information a report regarding progress toward Metro Vancouver’s climate targets, the status of *Climate 2050* roadmap development and implementation of their actions, and project highlights addressing both regional and corporate climate action. The actions in the *Climate 2050* roadmaps are expected to achieve over 80 per cent clean, renewable energy by 2050, but accelerated, scaled-up and coordinated action is needed by Metro Vancouver and others to meet the 2030 and 2050 emissions reduction targets. This annual report highlights projects that have the potential to significantly reduce regional and corporate emissions and improve resilience to climate impacts. Among these, proposed requirements for existing large buildings, the *Driving Down Emissions* initiative for transportation, and various corporate emissions reduction initiatives are critical for meeting Metro Vancouver’s climate commitments.

E2.4 Initial Engagement Outcomes on Developing GHG Emission Reduction Requirements for Existing Large Buildings

RECEIVED

The Board received a report that provides an update on work to date to develop requirements to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from existing large buildings (over 2,322 square metres or 25,000 square feet). Buildings comprise a quarter of the region’s GHG emissions, and large buildings make up approximately 35 per cent of this amount, while representing less than two per cent of the region’s building stock. Reducing this source of emissions is a priority climate action, and referred to as a “big move” in Metro Vancouver’s *Clean Air Plan* and *Climate 2050 Buildings Roadmap*. This action would have the largest impact on reducing GHG emissions from the building sector and address a gap in GHG emission reduction policy for existing buildings across the region.

From June through November 2022, staff engaged with audiences connected to the building sector, focusing on those most likely to comment on, be impacted by, or have a role in reducing emissions from large buildings. Engagement was supported by a discussion paper, which described a proposed approach to develop reporting requirements and GHG emission limits for buildings. There was broad general support for the proposal, but there were also concerns identified. Concerns were related to implementation, financial and affordability implications, and jurisdictional alignment. Staff are developing a regulatory intentions paper with more details that will reflect input heard to date. Later in 2023, staff will seek direction from the Board to use the intentions paper as the basis for a second phase of engagement.

E2.5 Metro Vancouver’s Application to Intervene in the BC Utilities Commission Proceeding Related to BC Hydro’s 2021 Integrated Resource Plan **RECEIVED**

In December 2021, BC Hydro submitted its *2021 Integrated Resource Plan* to the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC). On July 25, 2023, the BCUC re-scoped this proceeding to focus on BC Hydro’s load forecast scenarios and their near-term acquisition of 3,700 gigawatt hours of clean power, and opened the process to late intervener registration. BC Hydro’s demand forecast and energy acquisitions could potentially impact the ability of Metro Vancouver to achieve its greenhouse gas reduction and air quality improvement targets, as it directly relates to the ability of BC Hydro to supply sufficient clean electricity to the region.

Metro Vancouver has applied as a late intervener in the BCUC proceeding, and is coordinating with member jurisdictions that are also interveners, to evaluate the potential impacts of BC Hydro’s plan on Metro Vancouver’s and member jurisdictions’ interests. Staff will report back to the Board, through the Climate Action Committee, with an evaluation of BC Hydro’s plan for alignment with *Climate 2050*, and seek direction on Metro Vancouver’s position.

The Board received the report for information.

E3.1 Streamlining the Delivery of Rental Housing Through Pre-Approved Plans and Off-Site Construction **APPROVED**

There is a significant and urgent need for rental housing in the Metro Vancouver region, and the province as a whole. In recent years, housing delivery (particularly affordable rental housing) has been challenged by unprecedented construction cost escalation, a result of multiple factors including rising interest rates and labour shortages. Exploring new technologies and methods for delivering rental housing such as off-site construction has the potential to drive housing supply, affordability, climate action, and construction sector innovation in the region. The Province, in anticipation of the launch of BC Builds, is seeking municipal partners to advance these efforts in the Metro Vancouver region.

The Board received the report for information and directed staff to send correspondence to member jurisdictions, in an effort to identify municipalities interested in joining a project led by the Province to explore pre-approved building plans and off-site construction to streamline the delivery of rental housing.

E3.2 Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory 2020 Update - Change Summary

RECEIVED

The Board received for information a report that summarizes the results of the *2020 Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory* (SEI) update, which identifies and maps ecologically important areas in Metro Vancouver as part of *Metro 2050* performance monitoring. Between 2014 and 2020, approximately 900 hectares of sensitive and modified ecosystems were lost due to human activity in the region, with over 600 ha (67 per cent) of that loss occurring within the regional core (the majority of which was “modified” ecosystems). The region experienced significant population growth, economic activity, and development during this period, and although ecosystem loss was not unexpected in areas planned for development, the speed and scale of the loss observed is concerning, given the associated loss of the critical ecosystem services (e.g., carbon storage and sequestration, cooling, floodwater absorption, pollination, recreation, human health benefits) that support community resilience, and the loss of habitat connectivity. The 2020 SEI update supports the urgent need to take collective action toward the *Metro 2050* target to “increase the area of lands protected for nature from 40 to 50 per cent of the region’s land base by the year 2050,” and implement the associated policy actions that seek to protect, enhance, restore, and connect ecosystems.

E3.3 Regional Coordination on Provincial Housing Initiatives and Targets

RECEIVED

To address housing supply and affordability challenges, the Province of BC has introduced a number of new measures to proactively encourage housing supply and accelerate housing approvals, including legislation that enables the Province to set housing targets for specified municipalities. Metro Vancouver recognizes the potential for regional coordination and collaboration to ensure the most effective implementation of new housing initiatives. This report outlines various options for a regional role given recent and forthcoming provincial policy and regulatory changes, and summarizes input received from the Regional Planning Advisory Committee regarding how Metro Vancouver can best support its members to successfully respond to provincial housing initiatives and targets going forward.

The Board received the report for information.

E3.4 Metro Vancouver 2040: Shaping our Future – 2022 Annual Performance Monitoring Report

RECEIVED

The *Local Government Act* and *Metro 2040* require the preparation of an annual report on progress towards the *Regional Growth Strategy’s* goals and actions. The 2022 Annual Performance Monitoring Report provides a summary update on the performance measures with relevant annual change and available data. Within the spectrum of 29 performance measures, 25 indicators are either on track or under observation, including directing housing growth to Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas. However, indicators concerning employment growth in Urban Centres, loss of sensitive ecosystems or modified ecosystems, and reducing regional greenhouse gas emissions require close monitoring. This will be the last report on the performance measure of *Metro 2040* given that it was replaced with the adoption of *Metro 2050* in February 2023.

The Board received the report for information and directed staff to forward a copy to the Province of BC’s Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Local Government Division.

E4.1 Tree Management on Metro Vancouver Lands – Revised Board Policy

APPROVED

In February 2018, the Board approved a *Tree Management on Metro Vancouver Lands* policy. The policy directed Metro Vancouver to maintain a consistent approach regarding the inspection and management of trees to ensure that its processes are aligned and standardized for risk assessment across all operating departments.

The revised policy aims to continuously improve Metro Vancouver’s tree management practices. Changes include new and revised definitions, an updated policy statement, and the removal of procedure-based language (now that a new set of corporate procedures has been developed to support the policy).

New to the policy is a section that embeds direction regarding tree replacement requirements while managing for hazard trees, or when accommodating new development on Metro Vancouver lands in urban settings. The policy will require that Metro Vancouver replace any trees removed at a minimum replacement ratio of 2:1 or the standard set by the local municipality, whichever is higher.

The Board approved the revised *Tree Management on Metro Vancouver Lands Policy* as presented.

E5.1 2024 Schedule of Board Meetings

RECEIVED

The Board receive for information the schedule of Board meetings, as follows:

Regular Meeting Dates

- Friday, January 26, 2024
- Friday, February 23, 2024
- Friday, March 22, 2024
- Friday, April 26, 2024
- Friday, May 31, 2024
- Friday, June 28, 2024
- Friday, July 26, 2024
- Friday, September 27, 2024
- Friday, October 25, 2024
- Friday, November 29, 2024
- Friday, December 13, 2024

Special Meeting Dates

- Wednesday, April 17, 2024
- Wednesday, October 16, 2024

All regular meetings are scheduled for 9:00 am, unless otherwise specified on the meeting notice. All regular meetings will take place in the Metro Vancouver Boardroom on the 28th Floor, 4515 Central Boulevard, Burnaby, BC, and may include the simultaneous use of electronic facilities.

E5.2 2022 General Local Election for Electoral Area A – Notice of Elector Organization Deregistration and Candidate Disqualification **RECEIVED**

The *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* requires all elector organizations and candidates in a general local election to file documents by a compliance deadline. During the 2022 General Local Election, Progress Vancouver (elector organization) registered Jonah Gonzales as a candidate for the position of Director, Electoral Area A, Metro Vancouver Regional District. Elections BC notified Metro Vancouver that Progress Vancouver failed to file a supplementary report to address reporting deficiencies by May 29, 2023 as required under the Act, with the result that effective July 4, 2023, Progress Vancouver is deregistered, and candidate Jonah Gonzales is disqualified from being nominated for, elected to, or holding office on a local authority until after the 2026 General Local Elections. Elections BC has opened an investigation of Progress Vancouver’s finances and will notify Metro Vancouver of the outcome of the investigation once concluded.

The Board received the report for information.

G1.1 Board Procedure Bylaw **APPROVED**

On April 28, 2023, the Board directed staff to bring forward a new *Procedure Bylaw*. This report presents a new Procedure Bylaw, and includes updates that 1) provide greater procedural clarity, 2) reduce redundancies, 3) facilitate interpretation through the use of plain language, and 4) allow for differentiation between electronic meetings and electronic participation which enables greater flexibility in determining the appropriate format for each meeting.

The Board gave first, second, and third readings to *Procedure Bylaw No. 1368, 2023*, then adopted said bylaw.

G2.1 Regional Growth Strategy Amendment Bylaw No. 1365 – 23699 and 23737 Fraser Highway, Township of Langley **APPROVED**

In June 2023, the Board initiated a Type 2 Amendment to *Metro 2050*, the regional growth strategy, and gave first, second, and third readings to *Regional Growth Strategy Amendment Bylaw No. 1365*. The amending bylaw would re-designate the subject properties from Rural to Industrial to permanently allow for industrial uses granted under a temporary use permit, as well as allow for additional industrial uses subject to meeting certain development prerequisites.

As required by the *Local Government Act* and *Metro 2050*, Metro Vancouver notified affected local governments and agencies of the proposed amendment. Eight responses were received from affected local governments and agencies; five expressing no objection, two expressing some concern, but no objection, and one expressing opposition.

The Board received for information the comments from the affected local governments and agencies, then adopted *Regional Growth Strategy Amendment Bylaw No. 1365, 2023*; and accepted the Township of Langley’s amended and corresponding Regional Context Statement showing, for the lands located at 23699 and 23737 Fraser Highway, regional land use designation amended from Rural to Industrial.

E2.2 Regional Growth Strategy Amendment Bylaw No. 1366 – City of Surrey (Fraser Heights)

APPROVED

In June 2023, the Board initiated a Type 3 Amendment to *Metro 2050*, and gave first, second, and third readings to *Regional Growth Strategy Amendment Bylaw No. 1366*. The amending bylaw would re-designate 11420 –157A Street from Industrial to General Urban to accommodate a residential development of 38 single-detached lots on the 10.2-hectare subject site.

As required by the *Local Government Act* and *Metro 2050*, Metro Vancouver notified affected local governments and agencies of the proposed amendment. Responses were received from five affected local governments and agencies, all of which expressed either support or no objection. The City of Surrey expects to submit an amended regional context statement that reflects this application and several other previously approved ones for consideration of acceptance in the near future.

The Board received for information the comments from the affected local governments and agencies, and adopted *Regional Growth Strategy Amendment Bylaw No. 1366, 2023*.

I 1 Committee Information Items and Delegation Summaries

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

Regional Planning Committee – September 8, 2023

Delegation Summaries:

3.1 Alex Boston

Subject: Metro Vancouver Innovation to Market Transformation on Housing Supply & Affordability

Information Items:

5.6 Invasive Species Best Management Practices – Butterfly Bush and Orange Hawkweed

Adding to the existing library of technical guidance for priority invasive species, Metro Vancouver has been working with the Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver, the City of Burnaby, other member jurisdictions and local experts to continue to produce best management practice guides. The latest set of guides are for Orange Hawkweed and Butterfly Bush. These documents provide information for practitioners about how to identify, track, report, dispose, prevent further spread, and effectively control these species, as well as regulatory requirements, monitoring and restoration tips, references and additional resources. Each guide also describes how these species may adapt as our climate changes, increasing the urgency to proactively control and prevent the spread of these invasive plants. An accompanying one-page fact sheet for each invasive species has been created to raise public awareness.

5.7 Regional Food System Strategy Update – Scope of Work

A sustainable food system that meets the needs of the region is one that supports ongoing profitability in the food sector, addresses inequities in food access, and is resilient and capable of recovering from unforeseen setbacks and short-term crises. A healthy food system also improves the well-being of individuals and reduces the stress on the health care system through better local food choices and eating habits.

Food systems are complex and dynamic and represent an inter-dependent range of industries that regularly evolve in the face of changing economic forces, environmental constraints, and community priorities. During the preparation of the *Climate 2050 Agriculture Roadmap*, several issues of concern were identified that are better addressed under a food system model (e.g. food insecurity increases during the global pandemic; the direct connection between climate change and food security; Indigenous food sovereignty; and supporting a circular food waste system). *Metro Vancouver’s Regional Food System Strategy* was completed in 2011, and therefore an update is needed to address these and other emerging issues of concern related to food security for the region.

5.8 2023 Inventory of Licensed Child Care Spaces and Policies in Metro Vancouver – Scope of Work

Every four years Metro Vancouver prepares an inventory of licensed child care spaces and policies to track changes and trends in the provision of child care in Metro Vancouver. Since the 2019 inventory was completed, significant progress has been made with the launch of the ChildCareBC program in 2018, which has resulted in enhancing the number of child care spaces, reducing the cost of child care for families, and supporting the early childhood educator work force. The 2023 update to the *Inventory of Licensed Child Care Spaces and Policies* in Metro Vancouver will capture the changes in the provision of child care since 2019 and is intended to support member jurisdictions in planning for child care and help build more complete communities.

Finance Committee – September 14, 2023

Information Items:

5.2 Treasury Report – April 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023

The *Corporate Investment Policy* requires that the committee receive an investment update at least three times per year. To align with industry practices, Finance changed the reporting cycle to quarterly in 2022. This report provides the investment results for the second quarter ending June 30, 2023.

The annualized investment returns for Metro Vancouver at June 30, 2023 were 4.88 per cent for short-term, 3.02 per cent for long-term, and 3.28 per cent for the cultural reserve fund. Due to timing of long-term maturities, investment performance slightly lags below benchmarks. Total long-term borrowing for Metro Vancouver Districts for 2023 will be \$100 million (\$65M for GVS&DD and \$35M for GVWD). This is considerably less than the previous forecast due to delays in spending on capital projects.

Inflation has been trending downward for several months with June CPI at 2.8 per cent, compared to its peak at 8.1 per cent in June 2022. The current rate is at the high end of the Bank of Canada’s target inflation rate between one and three per cent. To tackle inflation, over the past 18 months, the Bank of Canada increased the overnight lending rate from 0.25 per cent to 4.75 per cent as of June 30, 2023. As inflation rates decrease, there is sentiment that the bank will pause on any further rate increases.

Greater Vancouver Water District

E1.1 Tree Management on Metro Vancouver Lands – Revised Board Policy

APPROVED

In February 2018, the Board approved a *Tree Management on Metro Vancouver Lands* policy. The policy directed Metro Vancouver to maintain a consistent approach regarding the inspection and management of trees to ensure that its processes are aligned and standardized for risk assessment across all operating departments.

A revised policy aims to continuously improve Metro Vancouver's tree management practices. Changes include new and revised definitions, an updated policy statement, and the removal of procedure based language (now that a new set of corporate procedures has been developed to support the policy).

New to the policy is a section that embeds direction regarding tree replacement requirements while managing for hazard trees, or when accommodating new development on Metro Vancouver lands in urban settings. The policy will require that Metro Vancouver replace any trees removed at a minimum replacement ratio of 2:1 or the standard set by the local municipality, whichever is higher.

The Board approved the revised *Tree Management on Metro Vancouver Lands Policy* as presented.

E2.1 Water Supply Update – Stage 2 Restrictions

RECEIVED

The Board received a report on the state of the regional water supply, water use trends in the high-demand season and the effects of the activation of Stage 2 water restrictions of the *Drinking Water Conservation Plan* on August 4. Regional water consumption data shows that the average day water demand increased steadily from 1.23 billion litres per day (BLD) in May to 1.35 BLD in June and to 1.46 BLD in July. Since the activation of Stage 2 watering restrictions, the average day water demand has slightly reduced to 1.32 BLD in August. During Stage 2 watering restrictions (August 4 to August 31) there were no days with regional water demands over 1.5 BLD compared to 11 days during Stage 1 (May 1 to August 3). However, daily water use patterns in the high season indicated peak water use occurring during early Saturday and Sunday mornings that did not reduce as significantly as expected since the implementation of Stage 2, indicating that lawn watering may still be occurring. Currently, a move to Stage 3 restrictions is not anticipated, but Metro Vancouver staff continue to monitor both supply and demand trends carefully. With increased and sustained enforcement of the lawn watering ban in Stage 2, there is opportunity to reduce water consumption beyond what was seen in August. Stage 3 introduces restrictions which significantly affect local businesses.

I 1 Committee Information Items and Delegation Summaries

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

Water Committee – September 13, 2023

Information Items:

5.1 In-System Reservoir Upgrades Update

Metro Vancouver Water Services staff clean, maintain, upgrade, and expand Metro Vancouver’s in-system reservoirs to ensure the delivery of high-quality drinking water. This work is key in meeting the goals identified in the *Board Strategic Plan 2022 to 2026* for the Water Services function. The work is successfully completed through close collaboration with internal departments, member jurisdictions, and external partners.

5.2 GVWD Capital Program Expenditure Update to June 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 June 30, 2023 in comparison to the prorated annual capital cash flow. In 2023, the annual capital expenditures for the GVWD are \$93.5 million to date compared to a prorated annual capital cash flow of \$200M. Forecasted expenditures for the current water utility capital program remain within the approved budgets through to completion.

5.3 Water Supply Update – Stage 2 Restrictions

Regional water consumption data shows that the average day water demand increased steadily from 1.23 billion litres per day (BLD) in May to 1.35 BLD in June and to 1.46 BLD in July. Since the activation of Stage 2 watering restrictions, the average day water demand has slightly reduced to 1.32 BLD in August. During Stage 2 watering restrictions (August 4 to August 31) there were no days with regional water demands over 1.5 BLD compared to 11 days during Stage 1 (May 1 to August 3). However, daily water use patterns in the high season indicated peak water use occurring during early Saturday and Sunday mornings that did not reduce as significantly as expected since the implementation of Stage 2, indicating that lawn watering may still be occurring. Currently, a move to Stage 3 restrictions is not anticipated, but Metro Vancouver staff continue to monitor both supply and demand trends carefully. With increased and sustained enforcement of the lawn watering ban in Stage 2, there is opportunity to reduce water consumption beyond what was seen in August. Stage 3 introduces restrictions which significantly affect local businesses.

Greater Vancouver Sewage and Drainage District

E1.1 Interim Reclaimed Water Policy

APPROVED

Metro Vancouver has the opportunity to encourage regional use of water that is reclaimed after wastewater treatment. Doing so will reduce the use of valuable, scarce drinking water, and will support commitments to use waste as a resource. Reclaimed water filling facilities have been included in the designs of the new wastewater treatment plants. These facilities will make reclaimed water available to users outside of the plants. An *Interim Reclaimed Water Policy* is proposed to enable the use of reclaimed water from Metro Vancouver’s wastewater treatment plants. The policy is labeled as interim as it’s expected there will be amendments based on knowledge gained through initial pilot work.

The Board approved the *Interim Reclaimed Water Policy* as presented.

E1.2 Appointment of Enforcement Officers

APPROVED

Recent changes in staff at Metro Vancouver and the City of Vancouver have resulted in a need to update staff appointments as Board-designated officers and deputy sewage control manager under the *District Sewer Use Bylaw 299, 2007*, the *Environmental Management Act* and the *Offence Act*.

The Board, pursuant to the *Sewer Use Bylaw 299, 2007* and the *Environmental Management Act*:

- rescinded the appointment of Metro Vancouver employee Ana Nic Lochlainn as an officer
- appointed Metro Vancouver employees Jason Assam, Karnjit Bains, Cynthia Barros, Amanda Craft, and Mike Mijares as officers
- rescinded the appointment of former City of Vancouver employee Nicole Montgomery as a deputy sewage control manager

Pursuant to section 28 of the *Offence Act* for the purpose of serving summons for alleged violations under the *Sewer Use Bylaw*, the Board:

- rescinded the appointment of Metro Vancouver employee Ana Nic Lochlainn
- appointed Metro Vancouver employees Jason Assam, Karnjit Bains, Cynthia Barros, and Amanda Craft

E2.1 Tree Management on Metro Vancouver Lands – Revised Board Policy

APPROVED

In February 2018, the Board approved a *Tree Management on Metro Vancouver Lands* policy. The policy directs Metro Vancouver to maintain a consistent approach regarding the inspection and management of trees to ensure that its processes are aligned and standardized for risk assessment across all operating departments.

A revised policy aims to continuously improve Metro Vancouver’s tree management practices. Changes include new and revised definitions, an updated policy statement, and the removal of procedure based language (now that a new set of corporate procedures has been developed to support the policy).

New to the policy is a section that embeds direction regarding tree replacement requirements while managing for hazard trees, or when accommodating new development on Metro Vancouver lands in urban settings. The policy will require that Metro Vancouver replace any trees removed at a minimum replacement ratio of 2:1 or the standard set by the local municipality, whichever is higher.

The Board approved the revised *Tree Management on Metro Vancouver Lands Policy* as presented.

E3.1 Appointment of Enforcement Officers

APPROVED

Recent changes in staff have resulted in a need to update staff appointments as Board-designated officers under the *Municipal Solid Waste and Recyclable Material Regulatory Bylaw No. 181, 1996*, the *Environmental Management Act*, and the *Offence Act*.

The Board, pursuant to the *Municipal Solid Waste and Recyclable Material Regulatory Bylaw No. 181, 1996* and the *Environmental Management Act*:

- rescinded the appointment of Ana Nic Lochlainn as an officer
- appointed Metro Vancouver employees, Jason Assam, Karnjit Bains, Cynthia Barros, and Amanda Craft as officers

And then, pursuant to Section 28 of the *Offence Act* for the purpose of serving summons for alleged violations under the *Municipal Solid Waste and Recyclable Material Regulatory Bylaw No. 181, 1996*, the Board:

- rescinded the appointment of Ana Nic Lochlainn
- appointed Metro Vancouver employees Jason Assam, Karnjit Bains, Cynthia Barros, and Amanda Craft

G1.1 Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Food Sector Grease Interceptor Bylaw No. 365, 2023

APPROVED

Proposed bylaw changes incorporate feedback from food sector establishments and provides more clarity and flexibility to encourage compliance, while updating bylaw requirements to minimize grease contributions to the system. Fee increases related to bylaw contraventions are included to better reflect current costs of re-inspections and sampling (fees have only been charged 25 times in the last 10 years).

The Board gave first, second, and third readings to *Food Sector Grease Interceptor Bylaw No. 365, 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 – September 13, 2023

Information Items:

5.2 2022 GVS&DD Environmental Management & Quality Control Annual Report

Annual reporting of GVS&DD Environmental Management & Quality Control is a regulatory requirement under the *Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan*. This report summarizes the performance, process control, and regional environmental quality information gathered through various monitoring programs and other environmental management initiatives. In 2022, Metro Vancouver wastewater treatment plants met performance expectations with respect to reduction of contaminant loadings to the receiving environment. Regional liquid waste discharges were effectively managed in a manner that protects human health and aquatic life.

5.3 2023 Unflushables Campaign Results

The 2023 Unflushables campaign ran from April 1 to May 28. The campaign aims to reduce the disposal of seven key problem items into the wastewater system. The media strategy targeted adults aged 25 to 54 and included social media, television, radio, Google Search, and placements in elevators and on bus sides. The campaign produced solid results, generating 20 million impressions, 1.6 million video views, and 4,957 engagements. De-ragging incidents have generally dropped since 2017, but have increased the last two years, likely due in part to improved measurement. A post-campaign survey showed that most residents are aware of what can't be flushed, though there was a slight increase in willingness to flush campaign items. Metro Vancouver continues to work with the Health Products Stewardship Association to leverage joint opportunities to promote the medications take-back program. The campaign will run again in 2024.

5.5 Liquid Waste Services Capital Program Expenditure Update as at June 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 second 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 June 30, 2023 in comparison to the annual capital cash flow. As of June 30, 2023, the capital expenditures for Liquid Waste Services are \$134.8 million, compared to a prorated annual capital cash flow of \$340.9 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. Forecasted expenditures for the current Liquid Waste Services capital program generally remain within the annual capital cash flow planned for 2023.

Zero Waste Committee – September 14, 2023

Information Items:

5.1 Summary of Municipal Waste Collection Service Models

Metro Vancouver member jurisdictions typically provide or coordinate solid waste collection services for single family properties in the region. Currently, 84 per cent of the single-family properties in Metro Vancouver receive every-other-week garbage collection and 95 per cent receive weekly green bin collection. The majority of single-family residences in the region receive weekly multi-stream recycling collection using bags and bins, with the remainder receiving every-other-week single-stream recycling collection using wheeled carts. Members fund single-family garbage and green bin programs through utility fees, property taxes, or a combination of both. Residential recycling of packaging and paper is funded through Recycle BC with the service provided by the municipalities under contract with Recycle BC or directly by Recycle BC. Most municipalities have a standard set of material collected as determined by Recycle BC. Any deviation from the standard requires specific approval by Recycle BC.

5.2 Waste-to-Energy Facility Environmental Monitoring and Reporting 2022 Update

All air-emission-related parameters monitored during 2022 were similar to 2021, and well below regulatory limits in the Waste-to-Energy Facility Provincial Operational Certificate. The Waste-to- Energy Facility’s contributions of nitrogen dioxide, fine particulates, and anthropogenic greenhouse gases are less than one per cent of regional emissions. In the fall of 2020 Metro Vancouver began monitoring ambient air parameter concentrations at a temporary air monitoring station immediately adjacent to the Waste-to-Energy Facility, and installed additional monitoring equipment at an existing monitoring station near the facility. Sulphur dioxide and hydrogen chloride ambient levels at less than 10 per cent of ambient air objectives at both stations. Ninety-eight per cent of the time, ambient sulfur dioxide and hydrogen chloride concentrations were less than three per cent of ambient objectives. Ambient nitrogen dioxide levels are within ambient air quality objectives and lower than many other monitoring stations within the region. Analysis suggests that other regional sources are the primary drivers of ambient concentrations of these pollutants at both ambient air monitoring stations. Metro Vancouver is working on a request to the Province of British Columbia to amend the Waste-to-Energy Operational Certificate to reflect the low ambient concentrations of sulfur dioxide and hydrogen.

5.3 Solid Waste Services Capital Program Expenditure Update as of June 30, 2023

The capital expenditure reporting process, as approved by the Board, provides for regular status reports on capital expenditures four times per year. In previous years, these reports were provided three times per year. This is the second report for 2023 which includes both the overall capital program for the solid waste utility with a multi-year view of capital projects, and the actual capital spending for the 2023 fiscal year to June 30, 2023 compared to the annual Capital Cash Flow. As of June 30, 2023, the capital expenditures for Solid Waste Services are \$2.1 million compared to a prorated annual Capital Cash Flow of \$21.4 million. The underspend is primarily due to the timing of the pre-construction phases of Waste-to-Energy Facility projects and recycling and waste centre projects. Projects underway are expected to be completed within approved budgets.

Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation

E1.1 Tree Management on Metro Vancouver Lands – Revised Board Policy

APPROVED

In February 2018, the Board approved a *Tree Management on Metro Vancouver Lands* policy. The policy directs Metro Vancouver to maintain a consistent approach regarding the inspection and management of trees to ensure that its processes are aligned and standardized for risk assessment across all operating departments.

A revised policy aims to continuously improve Metro Vancouver’s tree management practices. Changes include new and revised definitions, an updated policy statement, and the removal of procedure based language (now that a new set of corporate procedures has been developed to support the policy).

New to the policy is a section that embeds direction regarding tree replacement requirements while managing for hazard trees, or when accommodating new development on Metro Vancouver lands in urban settings. The policy will require that Metro Vancouver replace any trees removed at a minimum replacement ratio of 2:1 or the standard set by the local municipality, whichever is higher.

The Board approved the revised *Tree Management on Metro Vancouver Lands Policy* as presented.