

Board in Brief

For Metro Vancouver meetings on Friday, September 23, 2011

Please note these are not the official minutes. Board in Brief is an informal summary. Material relating to any of the following items is available on request from Metro Vancouver.

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Greater Vancouver Water District

Seymour-Capilano Filtration Project – Project Status

Received

Tunnelling in the raw water and treated water tunnels is complete. Blasting of the underground chamber at the Capilano end was scheduled to resume in mid-September and take about eight weeks. Installation of shotcrete lining in the central sections of the tunnels continues. Restoration of the km 4 disposal site in the Lower Seymour Conservation Area is underway. The filtration plant is complete and treating water from the Seymour source.

Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District

Regional Organics Strategy

Approved

The Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan calls for Metro Vancouver to work with municipalities to establish new organics processing capacity. The goal is to divert an additional 265,000 tonnes per year of food scraps, yard waste and soiled paper from homes and businesses away disposal by 2015.

The Board endorsed a regional organics strategy in which the regional district implements regulations and economic incentives to drive organic waste by the private sector, monitors local processing capacity, and prepares to enact greater regulation if required.

Inclusion of Milk Containers into the BC Deposit System

Approved

The Board requested the Chair write a letter to the B.C. Minister of Environment and the Union of BC Municipalities restating Metro Vancouver's support for a levy on milk containers as part of the recycling program and encourage other jurisdictions to take the same action.



Provincial ruling on environmental assessment for Ashcroft Landfill **Received**

In 2004, Metro Vancouver submitted a proposal to the B.C. Environment Ministry to develop a landfill at the regional district-owned Ashcroft Ranch property.

On Sept. 9, 2011, the B.C. Environment Ministry announced that Metro Vancouver has not granted an environmental assessment certificate for its proposal.

Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Sewer Use Bylaw No. 299, 2007 – Staff Appointments **Approved**

The Board appointed Scott Brown and Sukhjeet (Sonny) Johal as Officers with legal powers to promote compliance of the bylaw.

Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Municipal Solid Waste and Recyclable Material Regulatory Bylaw – Staff Appointments **Approved**

The Board appointed Scott Brown and Sukhjeet (Sonny) Johal as Officers with legal powers to promote compliance of the bylaw.

Greater Vancouver Regional District

Tobacco Smoking Policy **Approved**

The Board prohibited smoking in Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, except for those areas designated as smoking areas, effective January 1, 2012.

This fall, staff will identify areas in parks where smoking will still be permitted. Criteria to identify areas where smoking is permitted are: Need to manage smoking activity at a place where people are likely to congregate for extended periods of time such as beaches, shelters, reservable buildings and campsites; Need to manage smoking activity to avoid pushing smoking activity further into undeveloped areas.

Additionally, smoking-permitted zones will only be designated where there is little risk of second-hand smoke exposure to others, smoking litter is contained and there is no risk of fire starts. In times of high to extreme fire danger ratings, smoking-permitted zones may be closed.

Proposal to Co-host the 2013 Special Park Districts Forum **Approved**

The Special Parks District Forum is an annual gathering of park, recreation and natural areas from the United States and Canada. The Board granted approval for Metro Vancouver to co-host, with the Capital Regional District, the 2013 Special Park District Forum.

Colony Farm Regional Park Plan and Academy for Sustainable Food Production **Approved**

Metro Vancouver is exploring the concept of a Sustainability Academy at Colony Farm, a former B.C. government-owned farm with some of the best agricultural soils in B.C. The Academy would focus on urban agriculture, sustainable food production, the study and protection of fish

and wildlife, and the provision of compatible passive recreation. A proposed \$5 million capital program would involve 37 hectares of the 262-hectare park

The Board adopted in principle the Draft Colony Farm Regional Park Plan for the purposes of public discussion and to explore external funding possibilities.

Greater Vancouver Regional District Air Quality Management Bylaw No. 1082, 2008 - Staff Appointments **Approved**

The Board, pursuant to the *Environmental Management Act* and Greater Vancouver Regional District Air Quality Management Bylaw No. 1082, 2008, appointed Scott Brown and Sukhjeet (Sonny) Johal as Officers.

MAXguide.org – Update **Received**

A staff report provides a six-month update of MAXguide.org – Metro Vancouver’s new regional arts and culture events calendar. Since its launch in February 2011, membership has more than tripled, to 300 from 90.

Metro Vancouver 2011 Cultural Grants: Regional Projects **Approved**

The Board awarded cultural grants to the following organizations:

- 221A Artist Run Centre Society - \$5,000;
- ArtsConnect Tri-Cities Arts Council - \$5,000
- Chor Leoni Men’s Choir - \$5,000
- Community Arts Council of White Rock and District - \$5,000
- DreamRider Theatre Society - \$7,500
- Full Circle First Nations Performance - \$7,500
- Greater Vancouver Alliance for Arts and Culture - \$5,000
- Green Thumb Players Society - \$5,000
- I.E. Artspeak Gallery Society - \$7,000
- North Vancouver Community Arts Council - \$5,000
- Pacific Cinematheque Pacifique Society - \$5,500
- Playhouse Theatre Centre of British Columbia - \$7,500
- Presentation House Gallery - \$5,000
- Satellite Video Exchange Society - \$5,000
- Societe francophone de Maillardville - \$5,000
- The Documentary Media Society - \$5,000
- Vancouver Opera Association - \$5,000
- West Vancouver Community Arts Council - \$5,000

Additional Comments on TransLink’s Draft 2012 Supplemental Plan and Outlook **Approved**

The Board advised the TransLink Board, Mayors’ Council on Regional Transportation, and Regional Transportation Commissioner that:

- i. the revised draft 2012 Supplemental Plan and Outlook provides an acceptable contingency strategy in the event that new funding sources, alternative to the proposed time-limited property tax increase, cannot be activated starting in 2013;

ii. the proposed increase in the debt cap from \$2.8 billion to \$3.5 billion should be reviewed and modified as appropriate in the preparation of the 2013 strategic transportation plan, including reporting back to Metro Vancouver, to ensure the debt cap is set at an appropriate level and that approved funding sources and rates can support debt servicing;

iii. it is undesirable from a regional planning and growth management perspective for future supplemental plans to follow the model of the 2012 Supplemental Plan and Outlook in which fund levels are fully accounted for but neither the precise funding sources nor their permanence have been assured;

The Board also advised the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation that under the *South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Act*, it must consult with the Greater Vancouver Regional District Board of Directors on any proposed debt cap increase prior to taking action on a supplemental plan that proposes an increase in TransLink's debt cap.

It requested that the TransLink Board initiate in fall, 2011 a comprehensive consultation process with Metro Vancouver and the broader public on alternative funding sources and investments to support the new Regional Growth Strategy, regional environmental objectives, and the economic development of the region.

Comments on TransLink's Draft 2012 Supplemental Plan and Outlook **Approved**

The Board advised the TransLink Board and Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation that:

- The consultation process on these vital TransLink planning documents is too compressed and in the future needs to be expanded sufficiently to respect the input that Metro Vancouver and others could provide;
- The inclusion of the Evergreen Line program in the draft 2012 Supplemental Plan and Outlook is consistent with the number one rapid transit expansion priority set out in the new Regional Growth Strategy
- The remaining projects proposed in the draft 2012 Supplemental Plan and Outlook are consistent with the Regional Growth Strategy.
- *Transport 2045* should include a comprehensive and coherent strategy to invest in infrastructure and services to support the key growth areas identified in the Regional Growth Strategy and to facilitate the safe and efficient movement of goods and service vehicles in support of the economic development of the region and the air emissions objectives of the Metro Vancouver Board; TransLink should be requested to seek input from or participation by Metro Vancouver in that process.

Overview of Requested Amendments to Metro Vancouver's Regional Growth Strategy **Received**

A staff report, dated September 7, 2011, provides and summarizes requested amendments to Metro Vancouver's Regional Growth Strategy.

Request by the City of Coquitlam for Type 1 Amendment to the Regional Growth Strategy **Approved**

The Board initiated the process for an amendment requested by the City of Coquitlam to delete from section 6.3.4b) of the Regional Growth Strategy the phrase “Conservation and Recreation lands utilized only for commercial extensive recreation facilities.”

It also directed staff to provide written notice of the proposed Type 1 amendment to all affected local governments, with the intent to commence bylaw introduction in early 2012.

Request by the District of North Vancouver for a Type 1 Amendment to the Regional Growth Strategy **Approved**

The Board declined to initiate a Regional Growth Strategy amendment process for the amendment request by the District of North Vancouver to require a 2/3 majority Board vote to redesignate land from Agricultural to Industrial, where that land had previously been redesignated from Conservation and Recreation to Agricultural.

It also directed staff to incorporate within the forthcoming Metro Vancouver “Regional Growth Strategy Amendment Guidelines,” guidance which specifies that the land designation history be documented and considered in the amendment review process.

Request by the District of North Vancouver for Type 2 Amendment to the Regional Growth Strategy **Approved**

The Board deferred consideration of the Regional Growth Strategy amendment requested by the District of North Vancouver with regard to the addition of Lower Lynn as a second Municipal Town Centre in the District of North Vancouver until such time as the District of North Vancouver brings forward a new Regional Context Statement.

Metro Vancouver Sponsorship – Speaker at International Walk 21 Conference **Approved**

The Board approved a Metro Vancouver sponsorship of \$9,200 to fund a speaker at the 2011 Walk 21 Conference in Vancouver.

Regional Transportation Funding Sources: Investigation of a Container Levy **Approved**

As Canada’s busiest port, Port Metro Vancouver is said to generate \$22 billion in direct and indirect economic output. The Board requested that staff to work with TransLink, the province and the federal government to explore the use of a container levy, or other mechanisms of achieving federal participation, in advancing transportation and regional growth management objectives.

Municipal Auditor General Survey **Approved**

The Board decided not to respond to the “Municipal Auditor General Survey,” but endorsed the UBCM context paper dated July 2011, suggesting that further policy analysis is needed to properly identify what issues or problems exist and the options for addressing them.

Attendance at the 2011 Annual Union of BC Municipalities Convention and Tour of Recycling and Energy Recovery Facilities sponsored by the Canadian Plastics Industry Association

Approved

The Board approve the attendance of Director Maria Harris at the 2011 Annual Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Convention, being held September 26-30, 2011 in Vancouver, BC and a tour of recycling and energy recovery facilities on October 6, 2011 in Burnaby, sponsored by Canadian Plastics Industry Association.

Financial Projections for 2012 to 2016

Approved

Five-year financial projections are used to set the context for budget development. Overall, the projections will increase the “average household” cost in 2012 for district services by \$43, compared to \$57 in 2011. The average household remains at about \$600,000 in assessed value.

The total annual household cost in 2012 is estimated to be \$556 for that average household. In 2016, cost is projected to increase to \$740 if there are no provincial or federation contributions to major capital projects.

Results of Alternative Approval Process for “Greater Vancouver Regional District Sale of Property Within Kanaka Creek Regional Park Bylaw No. 1147, 2011”, and Proposed Final Adoption of the Bylaw

Approved

That the Board reconsider, pass and finally adopt “Greater Vancouver Regional District Sale of Property Within Kanaka Creek Regional Park Bylaw No. 1147, 2011”.

Request for Type 3 Amendments to the Regional Growth Strategy

Approved

The Board initiated the process for Type 3 amendments to the Regional Growth Strategy in accordance with section 857.1(2) of the Local Government Act and sections 6.4.2 and 6.4.5 of the Regional Growth Strategy for amendment requests received from:

- the City of Coquitlam (Westwood Plateau golf course, existing public parks, riparian areas);
- City of Richmond (Terra Nova lands, Garden City lands, Department of National Defence lands
- District of West Vancouver (Old Growth Conservancy lands, expansion of special study area); and
- Tsawwassen First Nation (population, employment and dwelling data)

The Board directed staff to provide written notice of the proposed Type 3 amendments to all affected local governments.