

Board in Brief

For Metro Vancouver meetings on Friday, April 13, 2012

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 Regional District

Metro Vancouver Caring for the Air Report

Received

Air quality in the Lower Fraser Valley continued to improve in 2011, maintaining the trend seen over the last two decades.

Although cars, trucks and buses are increasingly cleaner, they continue to be a significant source of air contaminants in the airshed. This trend will continue with growth in population and distances travelled.

Cars, vans and other "light duty vehicles" are the largest source of smog in the airshed, followed by bulldozers, excavators and other diesel-powered "non-road engines."

Regional emission forecasts predict that smog-forming pollutants will decrease until 2020, after which some emissions will begin to rise. After 2030 – if no new air emission control programs or initiatives are launched – solvent use and agricultural activity are projected to become the largest contributors to smog-forming emissions.

These forecasts help to identify where progress has been made and where new actions are needed. As a result, Metro Vancouver's new Integrated Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan, adopted in 2011, has targeted measures to reduce emissions from these and other sources that contribute to smog.

The Board received the Caring for the Air report, for information. It also directed staff to forward the report to member municipalities, the Fraser Valley Regional District, the Northwest Clean Air Agency, the Federal Minister of Environment, the Provincial Minister of Environment, the region's Chief Medical Health Officers, and other key partners in the airshed.



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University of British Columbia Proposal - Innovative Tools for Enhanced Energy and Climate Change Community Planning **Approved**

Approve funding for the project titled, "Innovative Tools for Enhanced Energy and Climate Change Community Planning" in the amount of \$30,000 in 2012, with similar grants to be brought forward for consideration in the 2013 and 2014 budgets. Funding in each of 2013 and 2014 will be contingent upon the submission of an annual progress report to the Environment and Parks Committee and an annual review of project progress by Metro Vancouver staff.

Attendance at the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) 2012 Conference **Approved**

The Board authorized the Chair to appoint two delegates to attend the Lower Mainland Local Government Association Conference being held on May 11, 2012 in Whistler, BC, at the estimated cost of \$1,460.

Experience the Fraser Project Update **Approved**

Experience the Fraser is a unique vision to connect communities, parks, natural features, historic and cultural sites and other points of interest along the Lower Fraser River, from Hope to the Salish Sea, by means of 550 kilometres of trails and via the river itself. On April 9, 2012, the provincial government announced a \$1 million grant to help Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley Regional District open new parkland, enhance riverfront access and park amenities along the river, and continue to build the Canyon to Coast Trail.

A Board resolution requests the Province to undertake the integration of the multi-use path across the new Port Mann Bridge with the Experience the Fraser Project, minimize the exposure of pedestrians and cyclists to highway traffic and improve access by pedestrians and cyclists to parks and greenways on both sides of the Fraser.

Appointment of the Electoral Area Advisory Planning Commission Members **Approved**

The Board appointed the following persons as members of the Electoral Area Advisory Planning Commission for the 2012 - 2014 term:

- John Lee, representing Montizambert Wynd
- Jane Maisonville-Phillips, representing Ocean Point
- John Russell, representing Barnston Island
- Elmer Froese, representing Upper Indian Arm
- Kelly Petersen, representing Pitt Lake
- Jim Huffman, representing Passage Island

Possible Changes to Canada Fisheries Act **Approved**

Recent media reports have suggested the federal government plans changes to the federal law that protects fish habitat. According to Otto Langer, a former Department of Fisheries and Oceans staff member, DFO documents Fisheries Act to replace "*banning/limiting activities that result in the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat*" under Section 35 (1) of the Fisheries Act with reducing the "*adverse effect*" on "*fish of economic, cultural or ecological value.*"

The Board approved a motion to:

- a) write to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, strongly opposing changing to the *Canada Fisheries Act* which would weaken fish habitat protection; and
- b) direct staff to notify Metro Vancouver partners, including the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and Metro Vancouver municipal councils, of Metro Vancouver's concerns and action taken.

Greater Vancouver Regional District Electoral Area A Board of Variance **Approved**
Amending Bylaw No. 1166, 2012

A bylaw amendment addresses a minor wording error identified by staff, by deleting "Supreme Court of Canada" and replacing it with "Supreme Court of British Columbia."

Greater Vancouver Regional District Board and Committee **Approved**
Remuneration Amending Bylaw Number 1167, 2012

The Board approved an amendment to the remuneration bylaw that sets the salary of the electoral area director position at 14.5% of the Board chair's salary.

Regional District of North Okanagan **Approved**

The Board approved a Regional District of North Okanagan request for a contribution of \$900 toward a study of the cumulative impacts of annexations on electoral areas. The \$900 contribution will come from Metro Vancouver's 2012 Electoral Area budget.