

Board in Brief

For Metro Vancouver meetings for Friday, Sept. 10, 2010

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.

For more information, please contact Bill Morrell, Corporate Relations, 604-451-6107, or Glenn Bohn, Corporate Relations, at 604-451-6697.

Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District

Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan – Meeting with Minister Penner

Received

Metro Vancouver Board Chair Lois E. Jackson and Director Joe Trasolini, Chair of the Environment and Energy Committee, made a verbal presentation about the plan at a Sept. 1, 2010 meeting in Victoria with B.C. Environment Minister Barry Penner.

The percentage of garbage diverted through recycling programs – which is now 55 per cent, or about double the Canadian average – would climb to a minimum of 70 per cent by 2015 because of new waste reduction initiatives such as region-wide composting, more bans on things that cannot be recycled, and mandatory recycling in all multi-family and commercial buildings.

The Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management plan also proposes additional waste-to-energy capacity – the construction of one or more modern facilities, either within or outside the region – to recover energy from waste that cannot yet be recycled.

Greater Vancouver Regional District

Surrey Bend Regional Park Management Plan

Approved

Surrey Bend, a 348-hectare park adjacent to the Fraser River, is the largest publicly-owned natural area in the City of Surrey. In 1995, with assistance from the B.C. government, the City of Surrey and Metro Vancouver acquired the land and jointly completed a park management plan. The plan proposes a modest trail network and entrance area with parking and basic facilities. Seventy five per cent of the park will remain undisturbed.

The Board approved the long-range park management plan. At a budget discussion later this year, staff will submit a report about budgetary implications and cost sharing between Metro Vancouver and the City of Surrey. Metro Vancouver and the City of Surrey have each contributed about \$350,000 for planning and development at Surrey Bend.



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Profile of Renter Households at Risk of Homelessness in Metro Vancouver

Approved

Housing is considered to be affordable for low to moderate income households when the household pays less than 30 per cent of total income on shelter costs, including heat and utilities. "At risk" households are unable to find housing suitable in size and in good repair without spending more than 50 per cent or more of their gross income on housing costs. These households are "one paycheque away from homelessness." Almost all "at risk" renter households have incomes under \$30,000.

According to blended data from the 2006 national census and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, there were almost 56,000 households "at risk" of homelessness in Metro Vancouver in 2006.

The Board approved a Housing Committee recommendation to "request the Province expand the Rental Assistance Program beyond its current mandate of families with children under 18 to assist low-income non-senior single and other renter households with significant affordability needs.

Appointment of the Electoral Area Advisory Planning Commission Members

Approved

A panel of voluntary citizens provides advice to the Board and Electoral Area Director on referred matters concerning land use, community planning, zoning and building within the Electoral Area. The Board appointed Bruce Bingham, representing Bowyer Island, as a member of the Electoral Area Advisory Commission for the 2010-2012 term.

BC Solar hot Water Ready Regulation for Electoral Area A

Approved

A new B.C. government regulation requires builders of new homes to piping that would be needed if solar hot water heating systems were constructed at a later date.

The regulation is expected to add about \$150 to \$200 to the cost of constructing a new single detached home, but represents a significant cost savings over the cost of retrofitting an existing home for solar hot water.

The Board authorized the inclusion of Metro Vancouver's Electoral Area A in the Solar Hot Water Ready Regulations of the Provincial Ministry of Housing and Social Development's Building and Safety Standards Branch.

Metro Vancouver Ownership of Local Infrastructure in the Electoral Area

Approved

Generally, Metro Vancouver does not provide local infrastructure such as roads, sewers, water and local parks for that part of the region known as the Electoral Area. Local services provided in the Electoral Area include planning, administration, emergency response preparation and building inspections.

Some property owners in a few different communities are now asking Metro Vancouver whether it is willing to own specific items of local infrastructure.

The Board approved a resolution to:

- a) Consider whether or not to assume ownership of local infrastructure in the Electoral Area on a case by case basis in situations where the following conditions are met:
 - i. GVRD is in receipt of a satisfactory petition for service from the property owners within the proposed service area in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act;
 - ii. The petition for services proposed that 100% of the costs of the infrastructure including the necessary property interests, the design, construction, and ongoing maintenance costs will be borne by the property owners within the service area; and
 - iii. All necessary project approvals, including any regulatory/permitting approvals and any acquisition of any necessary property interests have been obtained;
 - iv. Arrangements for financing are in place; and v. The Service Bylaw and the corresponding Loan Authorization Bylaw receive approval of the Inspector of Municipalities, as required by the Local Government Act.
- b) Request staff to report back to the Board on specific requests for local service area improvements in Electoral Area A.

Third Annual Members Meeting of the International Regions Benchmarking Consortium, Fukuoka, Japan

Approved

According to the International Regions Benchmarking Consortium, the IRBC is "a network of sophisticated city-centered metropolitan regions that find it mutually beneficial to compare and learn from each other through economic and social data statistics and in-depth research into specific issues of common interest."

The Board directed staff to make the IRBC part of the Board's international program and to consider hosting the 2011 IRBC conference and direct staff to develop a conference proposal, including a budget.

Invitation to bid for hosting the ICLEI World Congress 2012

Approved

The World Congress of Local Government invited Metro Vancouver to consider hosting the organization's World Congress in 2012.

The Board directed staff to write a letter declining to host the ICLEI World Congress 2013.

Board Chair – Term of Office Options

Referred

One year is the current term of office for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors. The Intergovernmental Committee recommended that the Board request the Minister of Community and Rural Development to amend the Local Government Act to reflect a two-year term of office for the Chair and Vice-Chair, subject to the term of office for elected municipal officials being changed from three to four years.

The Board requested additional information from staff and referred the recommendation to its Sept. 24 meeting.

