

Board in Brief

For Metro Vancouver meetings on Friday, May 21, 2010 and Wednesday, May 12, 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 Water District May 21, 2010

Douglas Road Main No. 2 – Hastings Street Crossing Pre-Build **Approved**

The Board authorized the expenditure of up to \$250,000 of capital funds for construction of a new water main to coordinate with the reconstruction of Hastings Street in Burnaby. The existing water main, built in the 1950s, is in poor condition.

Seymour-Capilano Filtration Project – Project Status **Received**

In February, water flows to the filtration plant were increased to provide about two-thirds of the region's drinking water supply. The plant operated successfully, meeting all of its water quality objectives. Work continues on minor construction deficiencies. Overall completion was 99 per cent at the end of March.

Tunnelling continues on the raw and treated water tunnels, so Capilano source water can be treated at the filtration plant in the Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve. To the end of March, the tunnels were both at 5.7 kms, or 80 per cent of the tunnel boring. Projected substantial completion of the twin tunnels project is spring, 2013, with the tunnels in service by mid-2013.

Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District May 21, 2010

Amendment – Fraser Sewerage Area Boundary – 17032 and 17076 Fraser Highway and 7700 – 168 Street, City of Surrey **Approved**

The Board approved an amendment of the Fraser Sewerage area boundary to include portions of the properties at 17076 Fraser Highway and 7700 – 168 Street, City of Surrey and to exclude a portion of the property at 17032 Fraser Highway as shown on Plan SA-2376, Sheet 52.



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Amendment – Fraser Sewerage Area Boundary – 6890 - 176 Street, City of Surrey

Approved

The Board approved an amendment of the Fraser Sewerage area boundary to include portions of the property at 6890 - 176 Street as shown on Plan SA-2376, Sheet 62.

The Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan Secondary Treatment Timelines

Approved

Revisions to the draft liquid waste plan include new text about the financial plan and the roles and responsibilities of the regional, provincial and federal governments.

The revisions include text that notes: "The cost of the upgrades for the Iona and North Shore plants is estimated to be in the order of \$1.4 billion. The current regional average household levy for Metro Vancouver services varies from \$160 to \$180 . . . Without senior government cost sharing, Metro Vancouver average household levies are estimated to increase by over 600 per cent over the next two decades for North Shore and Vancouver Sewerage Area homeowners. . ."

The GVS&DD Board approved a resolution to:

- (a) incorporate the revisions to the *Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan* (the Plan), November 2009 as recommended in this report titled "The Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan Secondary Treatment Timelines"; dated May 11, 2010;
- (b) adopt the Plan, and circulate the Plan for municipal council endorsement specific only to the municipal actions in the Plan;
- (c) submit the Plan to the Minister of Environment;
- (d) direct staff to include funds in the 2011 budget and future years to complete the work on project definition, land negotiation, preliminary design, detailed design and construction for Lions Gate WWTP upgrade;
- (e) direct staff to include funds in the 2011 budget and future years to complete the work on project definition, land negotiation, preliminary design and detailed design and construction for Iona Island WWTP upgrade, and to include in the budget the assumption of 1/3, 1/3 1/3 contribution from the regional district, the provincial government and the federal government for the detailed design and construction.
- (f) direct staff to review and provide a recommendation, through the Regional Administrative Advisory Committee, of the definitions of Tier I and II costs as included in the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District cost allocation formula for all wastewater treatment plant projects, current and proposed.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Resolution on Environment Canada's Proposed Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations

Approved

The Board agreed to co-sponsor with Halifax Regional Municipality, Nova Scotia, the following resolution:

PROTECT PROPERTY TAX PAYERS BY COST-SHARING PROPOSED NEW FEDERAL WASTEWATER REGULATIONS

- WHEREAS Environment Canada has recently proposed draft regulations that would set a baseline standard for all wastewater systems in Canada; and
- WHEREAS Municipalities support efforts to improve wastewater treatment and protect Canada's rivers, lakes and oceans; and

- WHEREAS These regulations will require upgrades to one in four wastewater systems in Canada, directly affecting over 400 municipalities; and
- WHEREAS Cities and communities are already facing an estimated \$123-billion municipal infrastructure deficit that does not include the cost of meeting these new wastewater regulations and \$115 billion more is needed to expand and build new infrastructure to serve growing populations and support economic development; and
- WHEREAS The cost of meeting these new regulations in just four cities is estimated by the local authorities at more than \$4 billion, which accounts for almost all of Environment Canada's \$5.9 billion estimate for the entire country, suggesting that the government's estimates are far too low; and Environment Canada has proposed these draft regulations without a cost-shared funding strategy, which means that the cost of meeting these new obligations would be, by default, imposed on municipal taxpayers; and
- The cost of upgrading waste water systems without a cost-shared funding strategy will result in the largest property tax increase in Canadian history, resulting in an average increase of \$1000 for hundreds of thousands of households in affected communities, and/or will require displacing projects that meet other local priority needs; and
- WHEREAS These regulations, although not directly affecting every community, reflect the infrastructure challenges facing every municipal government in the country, where councils are forced to balance the need to deliver safe drinking water with the need to upgrade crumbling overpasses and insufficient waste water treatment and congested roads, all while collecting just eight cents of every tax dollar paid; and
- WHEREAS There are serious concerns with Environment Canada's cost estimates and technical aspects of the regulations that can not be resolved within the 60 day public comment period; and therefore, be it
- RESOLVED That the Federation of Canadian Municipalities call on the federal government to work with municipalities, provinces and territories to develop a cost-shared financing and implementation plan for these new wastewater regulations, as part of a long-term national plan to eliminate the municipal infrastructure deficit; and be it further
- RESOLVED That the Federation of Canadian Municipalities call on Environment Canada, as a first step in the development of a cost-shared funding plan, to commit to work in partnership with municipalities to establish a thorough and objective estimation of the front line costs and trade offs of meeting the regulations and to resolve outstanding technical and implementation issues.

Attendance at the Recycling Council of British Columbia 2010 Zero Waste Conference in Whistler, May 25-27, 2010

Approved

The Board approved the attendance of the Chair of the Waste Management Committee, Director Greg Moore, at the RCBC 2010 Zero Waste Conference being held in Whistler, BC May 25 to 27, 2010, at an approximate cost of \$1,229.50.

GVS&DD Sewer Use Amending Bylaw No. 256, 2010

Approved

Changes to the existing Sewer Use Bylaw better recover costs from industry for the regulatory and treatment services they receive. For example, the current uniform fee of \$1,400 per permit holder is being replaced by a fee based on volume discharged, as well as the type of discharge.

**Greater Vancouver Regional District
May 21, 2010**

Metro Vancouver's International Program and Analysis of Participation in ICLEI, UCLG, Metropolis, ICSC/PLUS Network and IRBC **Approved**

That the Board, beginning in 2011, enforce a policy requiring that Metro Vancouver's representatives on international organizations be Directors of the board.

Metro Vancouver's Membership in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities **Approved**

The Board requested the Chair to write a letter, signed by all member municipality Mayors, to the FCM board expressing Metro Vancouver's strong interest in becoming a member, and therefore requesting the FCM board to amend its bylaw to enable such a membership.

Summary of Election Task Force Submissions by Metro Vancouver Member Municipalities **Received**

That the Board receive for information the report dated April 20, 2010, titled "Summary of Election Task Force Submissions by Member Municipalities".

Updated Sustainability Framework Booklet **Received**

That the Board receive for information, an updated version of the Metro Vancouver Sustainability Framework.

Supplementary Report on Proposed Change in the Administration of Federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy Funds in Metro Vancouver **Approved**

The Board approved a resolution to:

- a) accept the proposal by the Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness for Metro Vancouver to apply to Human Resources and Skills Development Canada to assume responsibility for managing and administering the annual \$8 million federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy fund for the Metro Vancouver region;
- b) authorize staff to negotiate with:
 - i. Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) for additional financial contribution to offset all or part of the incremental management and administration cost that will be incurred by as a result of the transfer of the program administration from Service Canada in addition that staff be authorized to enter into negotiations with HRSDC on receiving a proportionate share of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy funding used on population, along with an automatic inflation adjustment and retroactivity to year 2000; or
 - ii. one or more partners in the region to deliver the program in order to reduce management and administration cost and/or provide more effective delivery; and direct staff to report back on the progress of the negotiations within 60 days.
- c) That the Board authorize staff to enter into negotiations with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada on receiving a proportionate share of the Homelessness

Partnering Strategy funding based on population, along with an automatic inflation adjustment and retroactivity to year 2000.

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 2010 - 2012 term:

- John C. Lee representing Montizambert Wynd
- Sharon Kennedy representing Strachan Point
- Michael Linton representing Upper Indian Arm
- Chris Forsyth representing Pitt Lake
- John Russell representing Barnston Island
- Roger Gale representing Passage Island

Transfer of Responsibility for Barnston Island Dike and Drainage Facilities from the Province to Metro Vancouver

Approved

The Board will express its concern for the provincial proposal to transfer responsibility for the Barnston Island dike system to Electoral Area and request a meeting of the GVRD Board Chair and the Electoral A Director with the Minister for the Environment.

International Regions Benchmarking Consortium – Conference and Membership

Approved

Intergovernmental Committee Recommendation:

That the Board:

- a) appoint or authorize the Chair to appoint a Metro Vancouver Director to participate in the Third Annual International Regions Benchmarking Consortium conference in Fukuoka, Japan, July 7-9, 2010, at an estimated cost of \$12,539;
- b) direct a staff person to be part of the delegation accompanying the Director; and
- c) refer to staff the matter of financial remuneration related to travel and bring forward a report to the Finance Committee.

Metro Vancouver Ownership of Local Infrastructure in the Electoral Area

Approved

The Board will express its concern for the provincial proposal to transfer responsibility of the Barnston Island dike system to Electoral Area A and request a meeting with the Minister of Environment.

Greater Vancouver Regional District Road Dedication of Part of Tynehead Regional Park for the 96th Avenue Widening Project Bylaw No. 1124, 2010

Approved

The Board introduced a bylaw for a proposed land exchange with the City of Surrey, to allow for a 96th Avenue widening project. Staff will implement an alternative approval process to obtain elector approval for the Bylaw pursuant section 797.5 of the *Local Government Act*.

**Greater Vancouver Regional District
May 12, 2010**

Dale Wall, Deputy Minister of Community and Rural Development

Received

During an oral presentation, the provincial deputy minister outlined:

The proposed legislative changes contained in Bill 20 to address planning and land use responsibilities in the area of the UBC campus:

- The current Official Community Plan, with one amendment, deems to be the land use plan for UBC campus land;
- The Minister has the authority to require UBC Board to develop a UBC campus plan, prescribe matters that UBC has to address in the plan and prescribe additional requirements concerning public consultation;
- The Minister is the final approver of the land use plan;
- Metro Vancouver will have regional authority (Metro Vancouver regional bylaws will continue to apply) but will no longer have local planning and land use regulatory authority.

Implications of Bill 20 changes to planning and land use responsibilities in the area of the University of B.C. campus

Approved

The Board requested the Chair to send a letter to the Minister of Community and Rural Development, outlining the concerns expressed and questions raised at the May 12, 2010 Board meeting. The Board also directed staff to provide a written report analysing the implications of the legislation for Metro Vancouver, to provide a status report on actions outlined in the GVRD/UBC Memorandum of Understanding, and to prepare a written communication strategy for UBC-area residents.

Advancing a National Housing Strategy through Bill C-304 - An Act to Ensure Secure, Adequate, Accessible and Affordable Housing for Canadians

Approved

The Board approved a resolution to inform regional Members of Parliament and members of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Big City Mayor's Caucus that they endorse Bill C-304: An Act to ensure secure, adequate, accessible and affordable housing for Canadians.

Major Industrial Property Taxation Review Underway – News Release, March 10, 2010

Approved

That the Board send a letter to the Ministry of Community and Rural Development and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities seeking appointment of a Metro Vancouver representative to the steering committee and the advisory committee established to review major industrial property assessment and taxation.

Update on Metro Vancouver's Wood Smoke Emission Reduction Program

Approved

The Board approved a resolution to:

- a) Direct staff to continue with the development of a wood smoke emissions reduction program including the development of appropriate regulations; and

- b) Authorize the participation of two additional wood burning appliance retailers in Metro Vancouver's wood stove exchange program by:
 - i) directing staff to publish Metro Vancouver's intention to work with the two additional wood burning appliance retailers listed in (b) below to carry out the program, and
 - ii) authorizing the Chief Administrative Officer to enter into a partnering agreement with each of the following retailers to establish the terms and conditions of the services they would provide to Metro Vancouver as part of the program:
 - I) BC Fireplace Service Inc., New Westminister, BC
 - II) Woodbros Construction Ltd., West Vancouver, BC.

The Board also directed staff to report back to the Board through the Environment and Energy Committee on the advisability and feasibility of increasing the subsidy from \$250 to \$500 for participants, switching to natural gas appliances.

3.2 Reinstatement of the Home Renovation Tax Credit Program Approved

The Board approved a resolution to send a letter to the Federal Government, requesting them to reinstate the Home Renovation Tax Credit, including a component related to environmental improvements.

Early Observations as Local Governments Establish Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets, Policies, and Actions in Official Community Plans in Accordance with the Local Government Act Approved

The Board approved a resolution to advise the Provincial Ministers of Environment and Community and Rural Development that:

- a) member municipalities in Metro Vancouver have made steady progress to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act to establish greenhouse gas reduction targets, policies, and actions in official community plans;
- b) further legislative and fiscal actions by the provincial government are necessary to enable local and regional government actions to maximize reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, such as:
 - i) in the buildings sector, accelerate the modernization of the BC Building Code, and increase incentives and regulations for residential and commercial building retrofits;
 - ii) in the transportation sector, enable the region and member municipalities and similar local authorities to implement comprehensive transportation demand management measures, coordinate current provincial greenhouse gas emissions standards for light-duty vehicles with new federal standards, and, increase funding for sustainable transportation infrastructure and the Scrap-It Program;
 - iii) in the solid waste sector, accelerating legislative measures to reduce waste and emissions in product lifecycles, and extended producer responsibility; and,
 - iv) establishing standard tools, assumptions, data, and forecasting methods so that local and regional targets, policies, and actions are coordinated.

The Board also requested that the Chair send a letter to the Ministries, outlining initiatives taken by local governments in the buildings, transportation, solid waste and other sectors to-date and reaffirming the need to have provincial assistance in these sectors.

The Board directed staff to send a copy of the correspondence to municipal councils and similar local authorities in the Lower Mainland.