

# Board in Brief

**For Metro Vancouver meetings on Friday, Sept. 19 and Friday, Oct. 3, 2008.**

*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*

## **Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Regular Meeting, October 3, 2008**

**Metro Vancouver's draft Liquid Waste Management Plan Progress Report** **Approved**

The board will ask the Province to consider renaming the Liquid Waste Management Plan and the Solid Waste Management Plan to the Liquid Resource Management Plan and the Solid Resource Management Plan.

**Management of Disposable Shopping Bags** **Approved**

Metro Vancouver will:

- 1) work with business associations, retailers and consumers to discourage the use of disposable shopping bags;
- 2) recommend that each member municipality join with Metro Vancouver to ask the Province to ban disposable shopping bags;
- 3) direct staff to prepare an education program together with a budget;
- 4) work in conjunction with delegations and stakeholders to develop a strategy that will be brought back to the board and determine whether the strategy can be developed in a shorter time frame.

**Amendment – North Shore Sewerage Area Boundary – Lower Seymour  
Conservation Reserve** **Approved**

The board approved the expansion of the North Shore Sewerage Area to allow sewer connections from several water treatment and maintenance buildings. The boundaries now include the footprints of the Seymour Capilano Filtration Plant, Rice Lake Gatehouse, Learning



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Lodge, LSCR Operations and "bone yard" watershed operations centre.

**Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Borrowing Bylaw  
Number 242, 2008**

**Approved**

The board reconsidered, passed and gave final adoption to a bylaw that gives Metro the legal power or authority to issue a \$700 million debenture or bond through the GVRD and the Municipal Finance Authority of B.C.

**Greater Vancouver Regional District  
Regular Meeting, October 3, 2008**

**Compensation from BC Hydro on transmission & distribution lines**

**Approved**

The board approved this resolution:

Whereas the Government of British Columbia has stated that all Crown Corporations would pay their fair share of property taxes;

And whereas the Provincial Government, Municipalities, School Districts and First Nation local governments either directly or indirectly are compensated with grants-in-lieu of property taxes from hydro transmission lines and distribution lines;

Therefore be it resolved that the Union of B.C. Municipalities be asked to intervene on this issue and negotiate a similar arrangement for the regional districts of the province.

**Policing issues**

**Approved**

The board requested the federal and provincial governments change the cost-sharing formula for communities with a population greater than 15,000 people for both municipal and RCMP police services to reflect a 70/30 cost share, with 30% shared between federal and provincial governments.

The board will forward a copy of the recommendation to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Big Cities Mayors' Caucus.

## Greater Vancouver Water District Regular Meeting October 3, 2008

### **Metro Vancouver tap water campaign municipal declaration**

**Approved**

The board endorsed the following Tap Water Declaration, which will go to member municipalities for their endorsement and adoption.

Whereas:

Metro Vancouver's municipal water systems are among the finest in the world.

High quality, safe drinking water is already available at most public locations.

Metro Vancouver's tap water is strictly regulated by B.C.'s Drinking Water Protection Act and is tested over 25,000 times per year and bottled water is regulated by the Food and Drug Act.

Metro Vancouver will open a new state-of-the-art water filtration plant early in 2009 to further improve the high quality of the region's tap water.

Bottled water often costs more than an equivalent volume of gasoline, equivalent to 2,000 times more than tap water.

Up to 40 per cent of bottled water on the market comes from municipal water systems.

Bottled water often travels many miles from the source, resulting in the burning of large amounts of fossil fuels, releasing CO<sub>2</sub> and other pollution into the atmosphere.

Millions of single-use plastic water bottles end up in Metro Vancouver's municipal waste.

Municipalities are responsible for delivering safe and affordable water to our citizens.

Decreasing and eventually eliminating bottled water from government use demonstrates the emphasis municipalities place on the quality of their tap water and decreases the impact of bottled water on municipal waste.

Metro Vancouver and member municipalities recognize the importance of bottled water in times of emergency and times when municipal water is unavailable.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that (Municipality) will:

a) seek to phase out municipal use of bottled water and the availability of bottled water in municipal facilities, and will promote the importance of municipal water; and,

b) will, wherever possible and appropriate, encourage the installation of accessible drinking fountains in new and refurbished buildings as well as new and refurbished park and other public spaces.

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

**Approved**

Some highlights of the staff report on the construction status of drinking water-related projects in the Seymour and Capilano watersheds:

The budgeted cost was \$600 million;

The overall project, which was 76 per cent complete at the end of June, has a projected final cost of about \$595 million;

Construction work on the twin tunnels, now half built, will be completed by early 2011 if tunnelling resumes by the year's end.

**Greater Vancouver Regional District  
Regular Meeting, September 19, 2008**

**Progress report on completion of the draft Regional Growth Strategy**

**Received**

A revised 20-year growth strategy or plan for Metro Vancouver will be given to the Land Use and Transportation Committee at its October meeting. Changes to the draft plan deal with the Green Zone, the protection of industrial lands, policies on centre and transit corridor development, targets for affordable housing and policies to address climate change.

**B.C. transportation plan sought**

**Approved**

Metro's board will request that B.C. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure provide the Provincial Transportation Plan, accompanied by a financial plan, for the area from Squamish to Hope in order to assist the board in completing a new Regional Growth Strategy for Metro Vancouver.

**Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Regional Growth Strategy**

**Approved**

Metro Vancouver's board received the Squamish-Lillooet plan. It also asked the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District to monitor local job growth in relation to population growth, and, that if jobs-housing balance objectives are not being met, to re-evaluate population settlement pattern policies.

**Regulation of the Metro Vancouver Taxicab industry**

**Approved**

The Regional Administrative Advisory Committee will consider advisability of recommending to the Province the transfer of regulatory authority over the taxi industry to TransLink.

**Support for Tsawwassen First Nation's application for funding from UBCM's 2008 Building Governance Capacity Program**

**Approved**

The board agreed to support the Tsawwassen First Nation on its application for about \$25,000 in funding from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities. The grant would pay for a "building governance capacity" program and orientation sessions with Metro Vancouver prior to the First Nation's entry into the regional district, when the treaty takes effect in spring, 2009.

**BC Air Action Plan**

**Approved**

The board will advise the provincial government of its support for the BC Air Action Plan and recommend that the province:

- 1) immediately develop initiatives to address 1994-2006 model year commercial on-road heavy-duty diesel vehicles
- 2) expedite the development of initiatives to address non-road diesel engines and equipment emissions
- 3) c) expedite the development of initiatives to address locomotive idling emissions

**Actions to reduce emissions from marine vessels and port operations**

**Approved**

Cruise ships and other ocean-going vessels run diesel-fueled engines to generate electrical power when they are docked, contributing to local air pollutants such as fine particulates, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide.

The board will:

- 1) Ask the federal government to give priority funding to the installation of plug-in power or short power systems in Port Metro Vancouver.
- 2) Write to the BC Utilities Commission in support of BC Hydro's application for the development of an interruptible electricity rate for cruise ships that can connect to grid-based electricity at Canada Place and any other port facilities
- 3) Strongly urge the federal government to change Canada Shipping Act and allow for an application for the designation of the West Coast area as an Emission Control Area.
- 4) The board will advise Port Metro Vancouver of its support for the Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy and direct staff to continue to work collaboratively with the Port to develop programs to meet the goals and objectives of the Strategy.

**Comparison of BC and California heavy-duty vehicle inspection and maintenance programs**

**Approved**

The board will advise the B.C. Government of its support for the AirCare On-Road Program and request that the province:

- 1) tighten the emission/opacity standards for heavy-duty diesel vehicles in recognition of the reduction in smoke emissions which have occurred due to improved engine technology
- 2) require large fleet owners to perform smoke inspection or opacity tests on their own fleet vehicles to ensure compliance with standards
- 3) ensure that adequate staff resources are allocated for effective enforcement of the AirCare On-Road Program.