For Metro Vancouver meetings on Friday, November 27, 2015

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. For more information, please contact Greg Valou, 604-451-6016, Greg.Valou@metrovancouver.org or Jean Kavanagh, 604-451-6697 Jean.Kavanagh@metrovancouver.org.

Greater Vancouver Regional District - Parks

George Ross Legacy Stewardship Program Framework APPROVED

In July 2013, the late George Ross left a $2.8 million bequest to Metro Vancouver Regional Parks. The funds are held by the GVRD in a Legacy Fund reserve account.

In order to best dispense of these funds, the Board approved the Legacy Stewardship Program framework. This authorizes staff to enter into a George Ross Legacy Stewardship Program Administration Agreement between the Greater Vancouver Regional District and the Pacific Parklands Foundation for a three-year term from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018. Interest from the Legacy Reserve Fund earned between July 2013 and December 31, 2015 will be dispensed at the end of the year. And from January 1, 2016, annual interest from the fund will be dispensed for the term of this agreement.

Campbell Valley Regional Park - South Carvolth School Building Future APPROVED

The Board approved deconstruction of the disused school house in Campbell Valley Regional Park. This will allow the land to become available for regional park use.

Mining Lease Application for Sumas Mountain: Fraser Valley Regional District Electoral Area G - Sumas Mountain Inter-regional Park APPROVED

The mining lease application for an area within and adjacent to Sumas Mountain Inter-regional Park referred to Metro Vancouver by the provincial Ministry of Energy and Mines in August 2015 raises serious concerns for the environmental and cultural values of the inter-regional park. There are also concerns regarding the public’s use and enjoyment of the park lands and the trail corridor that supports the Experience the Fraser project.

The Board will write to the Ministry of Energy and Mines, with copies to the City of Abbotsford and the Fraser Valley Regional District, expressing opposition to the proposed mining lease application submitted by 266531 BC Ltd.
Greater Vancouver Regional District

Electoral Area A Grants – Regional District Basic Grants

The Board approved $20,000 of 2015 Regional District Basic Grants monies to aid Electoral Area A communities outside of fire protection areas to purchase firefighting and health & safety equipment.

Gerald McGavin UBC Rugby Centre – Liquor Licence Application

The University of British Columbia has applied to the BC Liquor Control and Licensing Branch for a liquor primary licence for the Gerald McGavin UBC Rugby Centre. Metro Vancouver acts as the local government for liquor licence applications in Electoral Area A, including applications within UBC.

The Board recommended to the BC Liquor Control and Licensing Branch that the license be issued.

Metro Facts in Focus Policy Backgrounder: Green Infrastructure

The Board received for information the Green Infrastructure Facts in Focus policy backgrounder, which provides an overview of the concept of green infrastructure, and describes the many benefits that a green infrastructure network delivers to the Metro Vancouver region.

The Green Infrastructure Facts in Focus document will be disseminated to member municipalities, ecological educational institutions, and other organizations promoting ecological health. It will also be available on the Metro Vancouver website.

Green Infrastructure Technical Report: Connecting the Dots

The Board received for information a technical report prepared in support of ongoing efforts by Metro Vancouver member municipalities to maintain and enhance a regional green infrastructure network.

Connecting the Dots: A Regional Green Infrastructure Network Resource Guide describes different forms of green infrastructure and how they benefit the region when they form a network. The document will be disseminated to member municipalities as an information resource.

Greater Vancouver Regional District Air Quality Management Bylaw No. 1082, 2008 – Officer Appointment

Metro Vancouver appoints Bylaw Officers who are able to enter onto lands, conduct investigations, and collect evidence to enforce Metro Vancouver’s air quality bylaws.
The Board appointed Donna Hargreaves as an Officer pursuant to the Environmental Management Act and Greater Vancouver Regional District Air Quality Management Bylaw No. 1082, 2008.

Air Quality Bulletins During Cool Weather Months

The Board received for information Metro Vancouver's new Air Quality Bulletins that will help keep people informed about short-term air quality issues in their neighbourhoods. Air Quality Bulletins will be used during the winter months when there is considerable wood smoke in specific areas of the region.

2015 Christmas Campaign – Create Memories, Not Garbage

This is the eighth year of Metro Vancouver’s Christmas season waste-reduction campaign, and the fifth year of the “Create Memories, Not Garbage” advertising campaign. In 2011, the theme shifted away from how much garbage we create to the message that Christmas memories are created by spending time with loved ones, giving experiences or purchasing quality gifts that last.

The Board received for information a report on the campaign elements that include advertising on public transit, with an emphasis on buses throughout the region, in movie theatres, television commercials, and targeted online ads. Other elements include sponsored ads on social media, e-cards, and posters at municipal facilities.

Metro Vancouver Support for National Zero Waste Council Federal Tax Incentive to Reduce Edible Food Waste

The Board:

a) Expressed its support for the National Zero Waste Council's (NZWC) food waste reduction federal tax incentive proposal, and will request that the Government of Canada implement tax incentives for food producers, suppliers, and retailers to donate unsold edible food, thereby reducing the environmental impact of food waste.

b) Will forward this resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities asking them to consider the resolution at the FCM’s upcoming Annual General Meeting.

c) Will forward this resolution to the appropriate federal Minister(s).

d) Instructed that Metro Vancouver work with the NZWC to conduct research and policy work on the issues surrounding the end recipients of food donations.
Restoring the Mandatory Long Form Census in 2016

The Board will write to the federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development to express appreciation for restoration of the mandatory long-form census in 2016.

Township of Langley Request for Sewerage Area Extension

The Township of Langley, at its September 28, 2015 Council meeting, requested that the GVS&DD Board extend the Fraser Sewerage Area to include three properties.

The GVRD Board resolved that the extension of GVS&DD sewerage services to these properties is consistent with the provisions of the regional growth strategy Metro Vancouver 2040, and will forward the requested Fraser Sewerage Area expansion application to the GVS&DD Board for consideration.

Draft Regional Food System Action Plan

The draft Regional Food System Action Plan presents local government actions planned for the next five years to advance implementation of the 2011 Regional Food System Strategy as well as new initiatives that can strengthen collaboration within the regional federation.

The Board received the report for information and will send it to member municipalities for review and comment.

Agricultural Impact Assessment Guidelines – How to Achieve Better Utilization

The purpose of the Agricultural Impact Assessment Guidelines is to identify potential positive and negative impacts of non-farm development activities on agricultural land. The Board directed staff to forward the report to municipal Agricultural Advisory Committees noting that Metro Vancouver representatives could make presentations about the guidelines.

Metro Vancouver External Agency Activities Status Report October 2015

The Board received for information the following reports from Metro Vancouver representatives to external organizations:

  a) Municipal Finance Authority
  b) Delta Heritage Airpark Management Committee
  c) Experience the Fraser
  d) Pacific Parklands Foundation
  e) Fraser Valley Regional Library Board

Metro Vancouver’s fifth annual Zero Waste Conference was held on October 29 at the Vancouver Convention Centre, and shared inspirational, informative, and relevant case studies about concepts of the circular economy for businesses, local governments, and individuals dealing with ‘upstream’ waste management issues.

The conference continues to grow and evolve, and attracts local, national, and global leaders on the important issue of waste prevention. A satellite event was introduced this year in Toronto and drew 185 participants, 532 people attended the conference in Vancouver, and 606 people attended the conference online through live streaming.

National Zero Waste Council Update

The Board received for information an activity update report from the National Zero Waste Council. With active working groups and a growing membership representing a wide-range of sectors, the National Zero Waste Council continues to spearhead Canadian efforts to advance efforts for the prevention of waste, which is now a global priority.

General Liability and Property Loss Claims Policy

The Board approved a General Liability and Property Loss Claims Policy that allows Metro Vancouver to maintain a reserve to mitigate the risk associated with the settlement of claims for general property damage or loss and third-party liability. The reserve will safeguard the Metro Vancouver entities for any financial burden borne relative to the insurance policy deductibles for associated general property and liability coverage.

Memorandum of Understanding between Metro Vancouver and the University of British Columbia

Metro Vancouver and the University of British Columbia have signed a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen ongoing collaboration to address regional economic, social, and environmental sustainability challenges. This will provide new opportunities for UBC faculty and students to work on projects that will directly benefit the region.

The Board endorsed the Strategic Collaboration Memorandum of Understanding between Metro Vancouver and the University of British Columbia.
Proposal to Adopt “Tim Jones Peak” on Mount Seymour

The Board agreed to write a letter to the BC Geographical Names Office, provincial Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, indicating Metro Vancouver's support for the naming proposal to adopt “Tim Jones Peak” as the official place name for the second of three summits on Mount Seymour in British Columbia.

GVRD Security Issuing Bylaw No. 1224, 2015 Regarding GVWD Borrowing Bylaw No. 248, 2015

The Board approved a bylaw to allow the issuance of debenture in the amount of $700 million for the Greater Vancouver Water District, and to provide long-term capital borrowing authority for the anticipated requirements for the next five years. The Board will forward the bylaw to the Inspector of Municipalities for Certificate of Approval.

GVRD Geospatial Reference System Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 1226, 2015

The Board approved a bylaw for the Regional Geospatial Reference System (GPS) outlining the allocation of net service costs and fees charged for private sector usage.

Greater Vancouver Sewage and Drainage District

Lions Gate Secondary Wastewater Treatment Plant – Quarterly Report

The Board received for information a quarterly update on the Lions Gate Secondary Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Liquid Waste Public Outreach Program – Residential Grease Pilot Behaviour Change Project Update

The Board received a report for information about the problems caused for Metro Vancouver and its member municipalities by blockages when grease goes into the sewers. Metro Vancouver is conducting a pilot project with the City of Surrey to test approaches to convince residents to put grease in their green bin instead of down the drain or toilet. Findings from this pilot will be used to develop a regional grease campaign for 2016. Metro Vancouver is also working with the BC Restaurant and Food Association to develop approaches for the restaurant sector for 2016.
Transfer Station Operation and Maintenance Services Procurement

The Board approved the evaluation criteria and weighting for the following transfer station operations:
Requests for Proposals:
- Surrey and North Shore Transfer Stations: Experience and Reputation (30%); Technical (30%); Financial and Commercial (40%).
- Langley and Maple Ridge Transfer Stations: Qualifications (30%); Technical (30%); Financial and Commercial (40%).


The Board approved the submission of the 2015 Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan (ISWRMP) Biennial Report to the provincial Ministry of Environment. The report includes both high-level summaries and detailed information on key ISWRMP actions and performance measures.

Update on Waste-to-Energy Facility Operational Certificate Progress

The Board received for information an update on the progress of developing an Operational Certificate for the Metro Vancouver Waste-to-Energy Facility.

Solid Waste Management Planning Guideline Update

The provincial Ministry of Environment is updating the Solid Waste Management Planning Guideline, and has released an intentions paper for comment. Metro Vancouver staff have reviewed and provided comments, which the Board received for information.

GVS&DD Fermentation Operations Bylaw No. 294 and Sewer Use Amending Bylaw No. 295

The discharge of spent grains and waste yeast from fermentation operations such as breweries can stress the operation of the collection and treatment systems, especially at the primary wastewater treatment plants. A new bylaw contains requirements for both solids and pH management. Extensive consultation was conducted with fermentation operators and other industry representatives to develop the bylaw that will regulate the discharge of solids from this sector.

The Board approved the new bylaw that establishes standards to better manage discharge from these operations.
GVS&DD Development Cost Charge Amending Bylaw No. 292, 2015 APPROVED

Development Cost Charges pay for growth-related GVS&DD capital projects. The Board passed a bylaw amending GVS&DD Development Cost Charges, and will forward a copy to the provincial Local Government Infrastructure and Finance Branch.

The amendments clarify that Bylaw 254 does not apply to secondary suites and laneway houses. This provides certainty to building permit applicants, and ensures that the bylaw is applied consistently across the region.

Greater Vancouver Water District

Water Conservation Campaign 2015 – Water Wagon Program & Water Restrictions Communications APPROVED

Communication and public outreach on water conservation are important components of Metro Vancouver’s Board Strategic Plan. The Board received for information a report on the 2015 Water Conservation Campaign.

Water Shortage Response Plan Review Process APPROVED

The Water Shortage Response Plan (WSRP) is intended to manage demand for drinking water during the dry summer months when water consumption almost doubles due to outdoor use, or during periods of drought or in times of emergency.

Following a particularly dry 2015 summer season, Metro Vancouver is commencing a review of the WSRP. This review will identify amendments to the WSRP to ensure it meets the needs of a growing region, addresses weather pattern changes, and addresses implementation concerns raised by municipalities, businesses, and the public during the summer of 2015.

The Board approved the Water Shortage Response Plan Review Process as outlined in the report, and authorized amending the activation period for Stage 1 of the Water Shortage Response Plan from June 1 to September 30 to May 15 to October 15.
Award of Contract Resulting from Tender No. 15-093: Coquitlam Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project - Hypochlorite Conversion, Gate House and Multi-Use Storage Building

The Board authorized the award of a contract in the amount of $5,226,000 (exclusive of taxes) to Maple Reinders Inc. for the Coquitlam Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project.

The contract includes several improvements to the Coquitlam Water Treatment Plant, including conversion of the existing gaseous chlorine storage and feed systems to a new sodium hypochlorite storage and chemical feed system, the construction of a new watershed security gate house, and a new multi-use storage building to provide storage for both Watershed Operations and Water Treatment Operations and Maintenance.


The Board authorized the award of a contract in the amount of $5,386,942 (exclusive of taxes) to Hatch Mott MacDonald for Phase A, Preliminary Design of the Annacis Water Supply Tunnel.

The Annacis Water Supply Tunnel will replace two existing marine crossings of the Fraser River. The new tunnel crossing will provide increased capacity to meet future demand, long-term scour protection, and improved resiliency to withstand a major earthquake.

Greater Vancouver Water District Borrowing Bylaw Number 248, 2015

The Board approved a bylaw to provide long-term capital borrowing authority for the anticipated requirements of the next five years for the GVWD, and to authorize the issuance of debenture debt for this purpose through the Greater Vancouver Regional District and the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia in the aggregate amount of $700 million dollars.