

For Metro Vancouver meetings on Friday, April 26, 2024

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: media@metrovancover.org.

Metro Vancouver Regional District

E1.1 Regional Greenways 2050 Plan Implementation Update

RECEIVED

The Board received for information a report that summarizes Metro Vancouver’s efforts to advance implementation of the *Regional Greenways 2050* plan. Advancing completion of the regional greenway network requires collaborative action by municipal jurisdictions, TransLink, First Nations, Metro Vancouver, other levels of government, and other regional partners. Since Board adoption of the *Regional Greenways 2050* plan in 2020, Metro Vancouver has advanced 21 projects under seven implementation roles — often in partnership with municipal jurisdictions. Significant projects include hosting the 2023 Regional Greenway Network Implementation Forum and updating the Regional Greenway Network operational status map.

E1.2 Manager’s Report – Regional Parks

RECEIVED

The Board received for information the Manager’s Report for Regional Parks. It included information on the silent trails pilot, community involvement review, and various smaller updates from service areas around the region.

E2.1 Appointment of Enforcement Officers and Assistant District Director

APPROVED

Recent changes in staffing have resulted in a need to update staff appointments as Metro Vancouver Board-designated officers under the *Air Quality Management Bylaw*, the *Environmental Management Act*, and the *Offence Act*.

The Board, pursuant to the *Air Quality Management Bylaw* and the *Environmental Management Act*:

- appointed Metro Vancouver employee Sonny Johal as assistant district director
- rescinded the appointment of Scott Brown as an officer
- appointed Metro Vancouver employees Sonia Ganjehei and Nicole MacDonald as officers

The Board, pursuant to section 28 of the *Offence Act* for the purpose of serving summons for alleged violations under the *Air Quality Management bylaw*:

- rescinded the appointment of Scott Brown
- appointed Metro Vancouver employees Sonia Ganjehei and Nicole MacDonald

E3.1 Where Matters II – Final Report

RECEIVED

Metro Vancouver has been participating in and financially contributing to the *Where Matters* study with other partners — including TransLink, Vancouver Coastal Health, the Real Estate Foundation of BC, and UBC’s Health and Community Design Lab — to better understand the relationship between health outcomes and built environment. Phase 2 of *Where Matters* also included the City of North Vancouver as a partner.

The findings confirm that living in more walkable rather than car-dependent neighbourhoods is associated with positive health and environmental outcomes.

The Board received the report for information and forwarded it to member jurisdictions for information with an offer to present the report findings to councils. Furthermore, the Board directed staff to forward the report to staff at the Ministry of Health including local health authorities, Ministry of Housing, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for information.

E3.2 Tree Canopy Cover and Impervious Surface – 2020 Update

RECEIVED

This report presents the latest figures for tree canopy and impervious surface cover. In 2020, impervious surfaces covered 54 per cent of lands within *Metro 2050*’s Urban Containment Boundary, a four per cent increase over 2014. Meanwhile, tree canopy covered 31 per cent of lands within the Urban Containment Boundary, a one per cent decrease. Loss was primarily associated with greenfield development and densifying urban areas. Increased growth and intensification pressures, as well as implementation of the new provincial housing legislation allowing greater intensification of urban lots, will likely lead to further tree canopy cover losses and impervious surface increases.

However, with the implementation of progressive tree retention and urban forest expansion strategies, it is possible to offset these losses. With the adoption of *Metro 2050*, a regional target was introduced to increase the total regional tree canopy cover within the Urban Containment Boundary to 40 per cent by the year 2050. *Metro 2050* also includes an action for Metro Vancouver to collect tree canopy cover and impervious surface data and share it with member jurisdictions. Regional tree canopy cover, impervious surface, and potential planting area datasets have been updated based on the most recent regional data from 2020 and compared with measurements taken in 2014.

The Board received the report for information and resolved to share the findings and data sets with member jurisdictions with an offer of a staff presentation to Council if desired.

E3.3 Metro Vancouver Tree Regulations Toolkit Update

RECEIVED

This report highlights the updated Metro Vancouver Tree Regulations Toolkit. The findings indicate that as the region develops, it is critical to require adequate space to retain or grow trees post-development, and that regulatory tools such as land-use bylaws, development permit areas, and development, subdivision, and servicing bylaws, can support the foundation for long-term protection and growth of trees.

Originally developed by Diamond Head Consulting in 2021, the toolkit provides guidance on regulatory tools that can be used to protect trees and increase tree canopy cover at the local level.

In response to the ongoing challenges associated with preserving trees in this rapidly growing urban region, and working towards the regional urban tree canopy cover target in *Metro 2050*, Metro Vancouver again retained Diamond Head Consulting in 2023 to update the toolkit with more robust information in the land use-focused sections of the document. That work has now been completed.

The Board received the report for information and forwarded it to member jurisdictions for information with an offer to present to councils upon request.

E3.4 2023 Survey of Licensed Child Care Spaces and Policies in Metro Vancouver

RECEIVED

This report finds that there has been a 35 per cent increase in child care spaces in the region, from 18.6 spaces per 100 children under 12 in 2019 to 25.1 in 2023. The positive results are likely directly related to the significant increase in funding provided from the provincial and federal governments under the ChildCareBC strategy, the notable increase of stand-alone child care strategies in local governments across the region, and other regulatory tools such as zoning and financial incentives.

The 2023 update of the survey reflects the current inventory of the total number of child care spaces in the region. In addition, the municipal mail-out survey that is undertaken in support of the update was expanded to capture a more robust view and a better understanding of the challenges of current child care planning in the region.

The Board received the report for information and resolved to forward it to member jurisdictions for information with an offer for council presentations upon request.

E4.1 Audited 2023 Financial Statements and Annual Financial Results

APPROVED

This report presents the draft Audited 2023 Financial Statements and the 2023 Annual Financial Results.

The 2023 operating surplus was \$12.8 million (1.2 per cent of budget), lower than the four-year average of \$36 million, largely from a challenging economic environment and higher inflation. The surplus is largely attributable to higher water sales related to the warmer spring and summer months and lower consulting and contracted services expenditures in GVWD; slightly higher rental income and lower expenditures in property operations and minor maintenance work in MVHC; and staff vacancies and less spending on consulting and contracted services in the MVRD.

The 2023 Capital expenditures surplus was \$502.4 million, 40.3% of the planned budget of \$1.2 billion. Design and construction delays occurred in projects related to wastewater treatment plants, water mains, and solid waste facilities, as well as and permitting and development delays in housing and parks projects.

Metro Vancouver maintains a healthy liquidity position, with cash 2.5 times higher than its current obligations. This is critical to ensure ongoing capacity to continue to finance infrastructure investments and provide ongoing services.

The Board approve the Audited 2023 Consolidated Financial Statements as presented.

E5.1 UBCM 2024 Community Excellence Awards Nominations

APPROVED

The Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Community Excellence Awards recognize members that have implemented projects or programs that demonstrate excellence in meeting the purposes of local government.

The Board supported entries for the UBCM 2024 Community Excellence Award. The nominations include:

- Excellence in Service Delivery: Ferguson Road Upgrades
- Excellence in Asset Management: Earthquake Early Warning System and Strategic Response System
- Excellence in Sustainability: Señákw Development Sewer Heat Recovery District Energy System

E6.1 Proclamation of Clean Transportation Month 2024

APPROVED

The Board proclaimed June 2024 as “Clean Transportation Month” in the Metro Vancouver region.

In 2022 and 2023, Invest Vancouver sought a proclamation of Clean Transportation Month from the Board and the Province of BC to highlight emerging clean tech solutions in the region and to proactively create opportunities for investment and industry growth. More companies and organizations are seeing the value of recognizing June as clean transportation month with events such as Hydrogen International Expo and Conference, Bike to Work Week, and Car Free Days all held in the month of June. Given the number of events and prospective attendees, there is an opportunity to once again promote the clean transportation industry to the general public by designating June 2024 as a month to celebrate and highlight clean transportation.

G1.1 Policy Update: Procurement and Real Property Contracting Authority Policies

APPROVED

The *Procurement and Real Property Contracting Authority Policy* outlines the authorization and competition requirements for the procurement of goods, services, and construction, as well as the authorization and general requirements for the acquisition, disposition, use, or management of real property. The policy was created in 2014 with a minor update in 2017. It is appropriate and best practice for organizations to regularly review policies and delegated authorities to improve accountability and internal controls, risk mitigation, operational efficiency, and overall fairness and transparency related to procurement and real estate activity.

Staff recently conducted a policy review and recommended replacing the policy with two new Board policies and two new corporate policies which take into consideration: benchmarks from other public sector organizations; efficiency impacts; internal financial controls and risk management; business needs and changes in the business; financial and regulatory environment; market conditions; and alignment with the Board strategic priorities.

The Board:

- Adopted the *Procurement and Asset Disposal Authority Policy* and *Real Estate Authority Policy* as presented, effective June 1, 2024
- Rescinded the *Asset Disposal Policy* and the *Procurement and Real Property Contracting Authority Policy* effective May 31, 2024
- Revised the *Fleet Planning and Acquisition Policy* as presented, effective June 1, 2024
- Gave first, second, and third readings to *Metro Vancouver Regional District Officers and Delegation Amendment Bylaw No. 1375, 2024*, then adopted said bylaw

I 1 Committee Information Items and Delegation Summaries

The Board received information items and delegation summaries from standing committees as follows.

Regional Parks Committee – April 3, 2024

Information Items:

E2 Pacific Spirit Regional Park - Wreck Beach Update

Renowned for its natural beauty and its unique social character, Wreck Beach is a popular destination within Pacific Spirit Regional Park. As a result of its remote location and increasing popularity, Metro Vancouver and its partner agencies have been responding to a relatively high number of emergencies and safety incidents in recent years. With input from emergency response providers, strategies have been developed to improve public safety at Wreck Beach. This multipronged action plan uses an integrated approach that takes into consideration site design, education, enforcement, and partnerships.

Climate Action Committee – April 4, 2024

Delegation Summaries:

C1 Joanne McBrinn, Fraser River Community Alliance

Subject: Air quality and human health impacts re: Iona Barge Berth.

C2 Mariko Michasiw, B2E Program Manager, Zero Emissions Innovation Centre (ZEIC)

Subject: Manager’s Report - Retrofit Canada Conference

Information Items:

E2 Regional Multi-Hazard Mapping Project

In March, the Regional Planning Committee and MVRD Board received a report on the Regional Multi-Hazard Mapping Project for information.

Given the content of the report, it is now being presented to the Climate Action Committee for information. The report highlights the results of the Regional Multi-Hazard Mapping project, which includes the completion of regional single-hazard maps, data quality rating maps, and multi-hazard maps for four hazards: coastal flooding, riverine flooding, earthquake, and wildfire. Understanding the region’s at-risk and hazard-exposed areas is critical to making informed land use decisions. The results of the project will allow Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions to consider and integrate regional-scale hazard information for several hazard types into planning analysis, projects, and models for the first time. The mapping will be shared internally and externally with key partners, and will be made available upon request. Metro Vancouver will update the hazard maps in the future as new data becomes available.

E3 Best Practices in Communicating Climate

Staff are studying emerging research and best practices around climate communications. This research supports engagement and can help to build broad support with the public in this rapidly evolving area. Staff have generated a presentation to highlight some of the learnings for the interest of the committee. The presentation includes examples of some current practices being used at Metro Vancouver.

Regional Planning Committee – April 5, 2024

Information Items:

E6 Regional Affordable Housing Strategy Update (Housing 2050: A Roadmap to Implement Metro 2050’s Housing Goal) – Scope of Work

This report presents the scope of work for the update to the *Regional Affordable Housing Strategy*, including policy context, project tasks, and timelines. The update will identify impactful policy interventions to support the housing policies and actions of *Metro 2050*, focusing on the following key areas of impact:

- Non-market/below-market rental housing delivery and preservation
- Achieving the 15 per cent regional affordable rental housing target
- Regional coordination and advocacy (e.g., housing policy alignment and simplification of regulations, centralized/supportive roles for the region, partnerships, etc.)

Since 2016, when the most recent *Regional Affordable Housing Strategy* was adopted, Metro Vancouver and its member jurisdictions have made significant progress toward the high-level housing objectives of the strategy. There have also been substantial changes to the affordable housing policy landscape across the region, the province, and the country. Despite this, an affordable housing gap remains, and quantifiable and coordinated action will be required to meet regional housing needs, and achieve the high-level housing policies outlined in *Metro 2050*, the regional growth strategy.

The Metro Vancouver *Board Strategic Plan (2022-2026)* directs staff to advance *Metro 2050* housing policies through the creation of an action-oriented roadmap that will support the implementation of *Metro 2050* housing policies, and help achieve the regional target of 15 per cent affordable rental housing for newly completed housing units in Urban Centres and along transit corridors.

E7 Regional Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Analysis Options Assessment – Scope of Work

This report provides the scope of work for a project to consider and analyze options for a future regional-scale *Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA)*. Given the new risk assessment requirements for local authorities outlined in the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*, alignment with *Metro 2050* and *Climate 2050* policy direction, and the significant resources that would be required to develop a regional HRVA, an options analysis will be undertaken to identify how a coordinated regional approach could most effectively provide value, support both local and regional resilience efforts, and fill implementation gaps. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2024 and the findings will be provided to the Regional Planning Advisory, Regional Emergency Planners, Regional Planning, Climate Action, and Flood Resiliency committees, and MVRD Board.

E8 Economic Value of Industrial Lands Study Update – Scope of Work

Metro Vancouver is now updating the 2019 Economic Value of Industrial Lands Study to incorporate the latest data available, including employment counts from the 2021 Census and land uses from the 2020 Regional Industrial Lands Inventory.

The MVRD Board approved the *Regional Industrial Lands Strategy (RILS)* in 2020. It sets out 34 actions and recommendations that continue to be implemented. To support the development of RILS, Metro Vancouver commissioned the Industrial Lands: Economic Impact and Future Importance Study completed in 2019 documenting the economic value and employment contribution of industrial lands in the region. The study provided a better understanding for Metro Vancouver and its member jurisdictions of the importance of industrial lands to the regional economy, and informed the completion of the RILS, its ongoing implementation, and the development of *Metro 2050*.

Finance Committee – April 10, 2024

Information Items:

E1 2023 Metro Vancouver Regional District Final Audit Findings Report for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Under provincial legislation, an external audit must be undertaken annually for all Metro Vancouver Districts and the Housing Corporation. The attached report, prepared by Metro Vancouver's external auditors, BDO Canada LLP Chartered Professional Accountants, summarizes the results of the annual audit for fiscal year 2023, which was completed using Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Two new accounting standards were implemented in 2023: the Asset Retirement Obligation and the Financial Instrument standards. These standards had minimal effect on the 2023 financial results. The 2023 financial statements received a clean audit opinion by the external auditors and will be finalized upon approval by the Board on April 26, 2024.

Indigenous Relations Committee – April 12, 2024

Information Items:

E3 Technical Working Groups with Local First Nations

Metro Vancouver Indigenous Relations staff have initiated staff-level technical working groups with several local First Nations. The intent is to improve overall communication about our engagement processes including discussions on specific Metro Vancouver projects, plans, and initiatives. The purpose of the technical working groups is to strengthen our operational relationships with local First Nations.

E4 Quarterly Update Report on Reconciliation Activities

This update report provides a summary of reconciliation events and activities undertaken by the Metro Vancouver Indigenous Relations Department over the last quarter as well as information on upcoming reconciliation events and activities planned for the next quarter.

Metro Vancouver Housing

E1.1 Award of ITT No. 23-435 for Construction Services for Minato West – Building Envelope Rehabilitation APPROVED

Minato West is a multi-family affordable housing site in Metro Vancouver Housing’s portfolio located in Richmond, with 110 rental homes built in 1977. MVH’s Asset Management Program identified Minato West as a site for building envelope renewal. The building envelope renewal project will be completed with tenants remaining in place, and is focused on exterior renovations to renew, revitalize, and extend the serviceable life (50 years) of the existing townhouses and apartment buildings. This renewal project provides an excellent opportunity to significantly improve energy performance and sustainability, which directly impacts tenant comfort and affordability. Upon completion, there will be an estimated reduction in energy use and GHG emissions by 30 per cent.

The Board approve award of entering into a contract for Minato West building envelope rehabilitation in the amount of up to \$6,762,920 (exclusive of taxes) to Signia Construction Ltd, subject to final review by the CAO.

E1.2 Metro Vancouver Housing 10-Year Plan Update – Scope of Work RECEIVED

The Board received for information an overview of the scope of work for an update to the *Metro Vancouver Housing 10-Year Plan*.

In November 2019, the MVHC Board approved the *Metro Vancouver Housing 10-Year Plan*, which sets a vision for how Metro Vancouver Housing (MVH) will provide, preserve, and expand its housing portfolio.

To date, MVH has made significant progress toward its actions and targets, and is on track to exceed its original target of adding 1,350 new and redeveloped units over 10 years, and anticipates being able to deliver 2,000-plus units. MVH is also on target to meet its 2030 energy and greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets, and has made significant expansions to the Tenant Programs and Services function. With some targets accomplished and many others underway, it is an opportune time to refresh MVH’s guiding document to: include ambitious new actions and targets; identify strategic directions for the next 10 years; and ensure that the plan remains up to date.

E2.1 Audited 2023 Financial Statements and Annual Financial Results

APPROVED

This report presents the draft Audited 2023 Financial Statements and the 2023 Annual Financial Results.

The 2023 operating surplus was \$12.8 million (1.2 per cent of budget), lower than the four-year average of \$36 million largely from a challenging economic environment and higher inflation. The surplus is largely attributable to higher water sales related to the warmer spring and summer months and lower consulting and contracted services expenditures in GVWD; slightly higher rental income and lower expenditures in property operations and minor maintenance work in MVHC; and staff vacancies and less spending on consulting and contracted services in the MVRD.

The 2023 Capital expenditures surplus was \$502.4 million, 40.3% of the planned budget of \$1.2 billion. Design and construction delays occurred in projects related to waste-water treatment plants, water mains, and solid waste facilities, as well as and permitting and development delays in housing and parks projects.

Metro Vancouver maintains a healthy liquidity position, with cash 2.5 times higher than its current obligations. This is critical to ensure ongoing capacity to continue to finance infrastructure investments and provide ongoing services.

The Board approved the Audited 2023 Consolidated Financial Statements as presented.

G1.1 Policy Update: Procurement and Real Property Contracting Authority Policies

APPROVED

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Staff recently conducted a policy review and recommended replacing the policy with two new Board policies and two new corporate policies which take into consideration: benchmarks from other public sector organizations; efficiency impacts; internal financial controls and risk management; business needs and changes in the business; financial and regulatory environment; market conditions; and alignment with the Board strategic priorities.

The Board:

- Adopted the *Procurement and Asset Disposal Authority Policy* and *Real Estate Authority Policy* as presented, effective June 1, 2024.
- Rescinded the *Asset Disposal Policy* and the *Procurement and Real Property Contracting Authority Policy* effective May 31, 2024.
- Revised the Fleet Planning and Acquisition Policy as presented, effective June 1, 2024
- Gave first, second, and third readings to *Metro Vancouver Regional District Officers and Delegation Amendment Bylaw No. 1375, 2024*, then adopted said bylaw.
- Resolved that the Consent Resolution made with effect on September 1, 2014 regarding *Procurement and Real Property Contracting Authority* ceases to have any force and effect on May 31, 2024 and authorizes the Chief Administrative Officer to:
 - establish policies and procedures for such matters as may be necessary or desirable for the efficient management, administration and operation of the Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation, including the corporate policies
 - negotiate and make, enter into, execute and deliver any contracts, agreements, and other documents and instruments to which the *Procurement and Asset Disposal Authority Policy*, or the *Real Estate Authority Policy*, does not apply
 - authorize other appointed officers and employees of the Metro Vancouver Regional District to negotiate and make, enter into, execute and deliver any contracts, agreements, and other documents and instruments to which the *Procurement and Asset Disposal Authority Policy*, or the *Real Estate Authority Policy*, does not apply

I 1 Committee Information Items and Delegation Summaries

The Board received an information item from a standing committee.

Housing Committee – April 5, 2024

Information Items:

E3 Metro Vancouver Housing Unit and Common Area Renovation Standards – Accessibility Update

Metro Vancouver Housing’s Unit Renovation Standards were created in 2018 to provide consistency and standardization of materials, installation quality, and frequency of renovations across the portfolio. In 2023, MVH updated the standards to include greater direction and detail to enhance accessibility and adaptability in existing buildings. To ensure the standards reflect the latest best practices and opportunities to enhance accessibility and adaptability of existing units and common areas, MVH has aligned with leading industry guidelines and standards. In addition, MVH commissioned Sentis Research to conduct a survey with current residents to better understand which accessibility improvements would best support existing and future tenant households.

Greater Vancouver Water District

E1.1 GVWD 2023 Water Quality Annual Report

RECEIVED

All of the water quality parameters monitored by Metro Vancouver for the regional drinking water supply met or exceeded the provincial water quality regulations and the federal *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality*. The 2023 Water Quality Annual Report is required under the provincial Drinking Water Protection Regulation, and Metro Vancouver’s *Drinking Water Management Plan*. The annual report summarizes the analysis of approximately 166,000 tests conducted on samples collected from the GVWD source reservoirs, water treatment plants, and transmission system, as well as microbiological water quality of member jurisdictions’ systems supplied by the GVWD.

The annual report outlines how Metro Vancouver’s water quality monitoring program continues to fulfill its role in confirming that the multiple protection barriers are maintaining high quality drinking water for the region. In 2023, the water quality of the treated drinking water was excellent.

The Board received the report for information.

E1.2 Award of RFP No. 23-415 for Construction of Kennedy Newton Main - Phase 3 North Section

APPROVED

A request for proposal was issued on December 15, 2023 to five prequalified contractors for construction of Phase 3 North Section of the Kennedy Newton Main. The procurement was executed in accordance with the terms and condition of *Metro Vancouver’s Procurement Policy*.

The Board approved award of a contract in the amount of up to \$26,215,200 (exclusive of taxes) to Matcon Civil Constructors Inc., subject to final review by the Commissioner.

E2.1 Audited 2023 Financial Statements and Annual Financial Results

APPROVED

This report presents the draft *Audited 2023 Financial Statements* and the *2023 Annual Financial Results*.

The 2023 operating surplus was \$12.8 million (1.2 per cent of budget), lower than the four-year average of \$36 million largely from a challenging economic environment and higher inflation. The surplus is largely attributable to higher water sales related to the warmer spring and summer months and lower consulting and contracted services expenditures in GVWD; slightly higher rental income and lower expenditures in property operations and minor maintenance work in MVHC; and staff vacancies and less spending on consulting and contracted services in the MVRD.

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Metro Vancouver maintains a healthy liquidity position, with cash 2.5 times higher than its current obligations. This is critical to ensure ongoing capacity to continue to finance infrastructure investments and provide ongoing services.

The Board approved the *Audited 2023 Consolidated Financial Statements* as presented.

G1.1 Policy Update: Procurement and Real Property Contracting Authority Policies APPROVED

The *Procurement and Real Property Contracting Authority Policy* outlines the authorization and competition requirements for the procurement of goods, services, and construction, as well as the authorization and general requirements for the acquisition, disposition, use, or management of real property. The policy was created in 2014 with a minor update in 2017. It is appropriate and best practice for organizations to regularly review policies and delegated authorities to improve accountability and internal controls, risk mitigation, operational efficiency, and overall fairness and transparency related to procurement and real estate activity.

Staff recently conducted a policy review and recommended replacing the policy with two new Board policies and two new corporate policies which take into consideration: benchmarks from other public sector organizations; efficiency impacts; internal financial controls and risk management; business needs and changes in the business; financial and regulatory environment; market conditions; and alignment with the Board strategic priorities.

The Board:

- Adopted the *Procurement and Asset Disposal Authority Policy* and *Real Estate Authority Policy* as presented, effective June 1, 2024
- Rescinded the *Asset Disposal Policy* and the *Procurement and Real Property Contracting Authority Policy* effective May 31, 2024
- Rescinded the *Procurement and Real Property Contracting Authority Policy*, effective May 31, 2024
- Gave first, second and third readings to *Greater Vancouver Water District Officers and Delegation Amendment Bylaw No. 263, 2024*, then adopted the bylaw

I 1 Committee Information Items and Delegation Summaries

The Board received information items from a standing committee.

Water Committee – April 3, 2024

Information Items:

E1 Climate Impacts on the Water Supply Areas

This report underscores the increasing influence of climate change on local weather, with 2023 emerging as the second warmest year on record since 1936. The combination of warm and dry conditions in the spring and summer caused extreme seasonal drought for the third consecutive year. Dry conditions led to an extreme wildfire season nationally, provincially, and locally.

Looking ahead, this report emphasizes the importance of climate resilience in managing regional water resources. With climate change exerting increasing pressure, proactive measures are essential to ensure the sustainability of water supply systems. Water Services continues to invest in climate monitoring programs and technological innovations to inform water supply decision-making and mitigate environmental impacts from the changing climate.

2024 is shaping up to be a slightly drier year with snowpack levels at 65 per cent of the normal average for March 15. Metro Vancouver is watching weather conditions closely and will continue to adjust reservoir operations and watering restrictions as conditions warrant.

E2 2023 Contribution Agreement Annual Reports – Seymour Salmonid Society and Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable

The Seymour Salmonid Society (SSS) operates the Seymour River Hatchery on GVWD land and conducts stewardship activities in the Seymour River Watershed. The GVWD had a three-year (2021 – 2023) Contribution Agreement with the SSS for \$125,000 per year, and a new agreement is now in place for 2024 – 2026. The SSS released 540,000 juvenile salmonids from their hatchery in 2023 and continued to improve fish habitat conditions in the Seymour River Watershed.

The GVWD has a current four-year (2023 – 2026) contribution agreement with the Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable (CRWR) for \$34,000 annually (plus three per cent per year). The CRWR continues to focus on community outreach and stewardship activities to enhance environmental protection measures in the Coquitlam River Watershed.

The SSS and CRWR have met the requirements of the respective 2023 GVWD contribution agreements.

E3 Drinking Water Conservation Plan: 2023 Summer Support Program Update

The Drinking Water Conservation Plan (DWCP) Summer Support Program, first implemented in 2022, was offered again in 2023 to assist member jurisdictions with the promotion and monitoring of regional lawn watering restrictions, and it will be implemented again in 2024 to interested member jurisdictions.

In 2023, the 11 participating member jurisdictions found the program complemented their existing education and enforcement programs. Program findings, including automatic versus manual watering observations and relationships between non-compliance and time of day, can be useful in developing or refining members' education and enforcement programs. Metro Vancouver will continue working proactively to promote water conservation through public education while supporting the local enforcement efforts of members. Robust enforcement is key to managing the increased demand on the

drinking water system in summer, which is driven by outdoor use. Members are encouraged to continue using the learnings from the program to build and expand their water conservation education and enforcement programs, as opposed to relying solely on this program.

E4 Drinking Water Conservation Plan: 2024 Communications and Public Outreach

Metro Vancouver delivers drinking water communications and public outreach initiatives to support the understanding of and compliance with water conservation policies and programs in the Drinking Water Conservation Plan. On April 8, Metro Vancouver began communicating Stage 1 watering restrictions that come into effect May 1. Promotional materials will be distributed to member jurisdictions for public education and enforcement purposes.

The campaign will educate residents that our drinking water is a limited resource. With an increasing population and climate change driving increased risk of drought in the summer months, emphasis will be placed on reducing water demand to ensure our drinking water is available all summer for where it's needed most: drinking, cooking, and cleaning. A media buy will include digital, social media, broadcast, and outdoor promotions. The Water Wagon will be engaged for approximately 40 event days, plus 15 days at the PNE.

E5 GVWD Electrical Energy Use, Generation, and Management

This report outlines electrical usage by the water utility, as well as energy generation and energy management projects. In 2023, the GVWD has avoided electricity purchases of \$750,000 annually by generating electrical energy at four facilities. Energy management projects completed since 2015 provide an additional estimated annual savings of \$208,000.

E6 Water Use by Sector in Metro Vancouver: 2000 – 2021 Regional Results

This report outlines the trends in water use in the region. The 2021 report analyzes water rates charged by member jurisdictions, overall water use, water use by sector, and per-capita water use. The report is based on metered water data provided by 19 member jurisdictions.

Residential water use accounted for 65 per cent of total drinking water consumption in the region in 2021. The average residential water use is slightly higher than in 2019, up by 2.3 per cent, possibly due to the 2020 and 2021 pandemic lockdowns, remote or hybrid work arrangements, and peak summer events such as the 2021 heat dome.

Water use per capita has generally declined since 2000, although overall water consumption for the region has increased. This is likely due to population growth and will be monitored closely in the coming years as the population is projected to grow at a faster rate than previously projected. Metro Vancouver has one of the highest per-capita drinking water consumption rates in Canada, so there is more work to do. Water use by sector trends in the region provides valuable information for utility planning and developing water conservation and efficiency programs.

Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District

E1.1 2022 Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan Biennial Report

APPROVED

This report presents the progress on the implementation of *the Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan*, as required by the province. This year's report combines the 2021 – 2022 implementation status of initiatives with the 2022 annual summary of recycling and solid waste statistics.

Metro Vancouver is a North American leader in waste reduction and recycling, with a regional recycling rate of 65 per cent and a per-capita disposal rate of 440 kilograms per year: a 23 per cent reduction since the current solid waste management plan was approved in 2011. The source of the majority of waste generated in 2022 continued to shift from the residential sector to the commercial/institutional sector, but decreased overall. The overall recycling rate matches the 2021 rate. Metro Vancouver's is updating the regional solid waste management plan with the goal of identifying and implementing new strategies and actions to continue reducing waste and increasing recycling.

The Board invited feedback on the draft 2022 biennial report from First Nations and interested parties and submitted the report and feedback to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

E1.2 Waste-to-Energy Facility District Energy System Project Update

RECEIVED

Detailed design work is progressing for Phase 1 of the waste-to-energy facility district energy system. Phase 1 includes an energy centre and a hot water piping network to the River District community. The route for the hot water piping system to River District has been selected. The energy centre will be developed within the street allowance immediately adjacent to the Waste-to-Energy Facility. The energy centre will include an education centre and public amenities in addition to the equipment required to convert steam to hot water and pump the hot water to energy users.

Planning for the Phase 2 connection to the Burnaby District Energy Utility at Metrotown and Edmonds is underway. Engagement with the City of Burnaby, the City of Vancouver, First Nations, and the public will continue as the design process proceeds. The district energy service will be provided through GVS&DD, and as such, an application for a British Columbia Utilities Commission exemption is being submitted.

The Board received the report for information.

E1.3 Appointment of Enforcement Officers and Deputy Solid Waste Manager

APPROVED

Recent changes in staffing have resulted in a need to update staff appointments Board-designated officers under the *Municipal Solid Waste and Recyclable Material Regulatory Bylaw*, the *Environmental Management Act*, and the *Offence Act*.

The Board, pursuant *GVS&DD Municipal Solid Waste and Recyclable Material Regulatory Bylaw No. 181, 1996* and the *Environmental Management Act*:

- rescinded the appointment of Michelle Jones as the deputy solid waste manager
- appointed Metro Vancouver employee Nicole MacDonald as the deputy solid waste manager
- rescinded the appointment of Scott Brown as an officer
- appointed Metro Vancouver employees Sonia Ganjehei and Nicole MacDonald as officers

The Board, pursuant to Section 28 of the *Offence Act* for the purpose of serving summons for alleged violations under Bylaw No. 181:

- rescinded the appointment of Scott Brown
- appointed Metro Vancouver employees Sonia Ganjehei and Nicole MacDonald

E2.1 Appointment of Enforcement Officers

APPROVED

Recent changes in staffing at Metro Vancouver and the City of Vancouver have resulted in a need to update staff appointments Board-designated officers under the *Sewer Use Bylaw*, the *Environmental Management Act*, and the *Offence Act*.

The Board, pursuant to the *GVS&DD Sewer Use Bylaw No. 299, 2007* and the *Environmental Management Act*:

- rescinded the appointments of former Metro Vancouver employee Scott Brown, and City of Vancouver employee Jason Koepke as officers
- appointed Metro Vancouver employees Sonia Ganjehei and Nicole MacDonald, and City of Vancouver employee Bruna Botti Cruz as officers

Pursuant to section 28 of the *Offence Act* for the purpose of serving summons for alleged violations under Bylaw No. 299:

- rescinded the appointment of former Metro Vancouver employee Scott Brown
- appointed Metro Vancouver employees Sonia Ganjehei and Nicole MacDonald

E3.1 Audited 2023 Financial Statements and Annual Financial Results

APPROVED

This report presents the draft Audited 2023 Financial Statements and the 2023 Annual Financial Results.

The 2023 operating surplus was \$12.8 million (1.2 per cent of budget), lower than the four-year average of \$36 million largely from a challenging economic environment and higher inflation. The surplus is largely attributable to higher water sales related to the warmer spring and summer months and lower consulting and contracted services expenditures in GVWD; slightly higher rental income and lower expenditures in property operations and minor maintenance work in MVHC; and staff vacancies and less spending on consulting and contracted services in the MVRD.

The 2023 capital expenditures surplus was \$744.1 million, 59.7 per cent of the planned budget of \$1.2 billion. Design and construction delays occurred in projects related to waste-water treatment plants, water mains, and solid waste facilities, as well as and permitting and development delays in housing and parks projects.

Metro Vancouver maintains a healthy liquidity position, with cash 2.5 times higher than its current obligations. This is critical to ensure ongoing capacity to continue to finance infrastructure investments and provide ongoing services.

The Board approved the Audited 2023 Consolidated Financial Statements as presented.

G1.1 Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Sewerage and Drainage Areas Boundaries Amendment Bylaw No. 376, 2024 – Fraser Sewerage Area – Langley (4276 248 Street) APPROVED

At its March 22, 2024 meeting, the MVRD Board resolved that an amendment to the Fraser Sewerage Area requested by the Township of Langley is generally consistent with the provisions of *Metro 2050*. A Liquid Waste Services technical review indicated no material financial impact and negligible impact on the regional sewer system.

The Board gave first, second, and third readings to a sewerage and drainage areas boundary amending bylaw then passed and finally adopted it.

G2.1 Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Development Cost Charge Reserve Fund Expenditure Bylaw No. 377, 2024 APPROVED

The Board must approve a bylaw to enable use of Development Cost Charges (DCCs). *DCC Expenditure Bylaw No. 377, 2024* provides authority for 2023 annual funding applied for growth capital debt servicing amounts and growth capital project expenditures. In total, \$66.5 million of DCCs were applied for growth capital debt servicing in 2023, which is in line the budgeted amount of \$63.6 million over the four defined sewerage areas and there was a further application to fund growth capital expenditures of \$28.7 million equal to approved budget. Total DCCs collected in 2023 was \$82.0 million, up from \$68.9 million in 2022. Total DCCs held in the deferred revenue reserve balances as at December 31, 2023 were \$272.8 million. The DCC rates are reviewed regularly as part of the budget process to ensure that Metro Vancouver stays current and maximizes this revenue stream to reduce rate impacts of the Liquid Waste growth capital program.

The Board gave first, second, and third reading to the bylaw as presented, then adopted the bylaw.

G2.2 Policy Update: Procurement and Real Property Contracting Authority Policies APPROVED

The *Procurement and Real Property Contracting Authority Policy* outlines the authorization and competition requirements for the procurement of goods, services, and construction, as well as the authorization and general requirements for the acquisition, disposition, use, or management of real property.

The policy was created in 2014 with a minor update in 2017. It is appropriate and best practice for organizations to regularly review policies and delegated authorities to improve accountability and internal controls, risk mitigation, operational efficiency, and overall fairness and transparency related to procurement and real estate activity.

Staff recently conducted a policy review and recommended replacing the policy with two new Board policies and two new corporate policies which take into consideration: benchmarks from other public sector organizations; efficiency impacts; internal financial controls and risk management; business needs and changes in the business; financial and regulatory environment; market conditions; and alignment with the Board strategic priorities.

The Board:

- Adopted the *Procurement and Asset Disposal Authority Policy* and *Real Estate Authority Policy* as presented, effective June 1, 2024
- Rescinded the *Asset Disposal Policy* and the *Procurement and Real Property Contracting Authority Policy* effective May 31, 2024
- Revised the *Fleet Planning and Acquisition Policy* as presented, effective June 1, 2024
- Gave first, second, and third readings to *Metro Vancouver Regional District Officers and Delegation Amendment Bylaw No. 1375, 2024*, then adopted said bylaw
- Rescinded the *Procurement and Real Property Contracting Authority Policy* effective May 31, 2024
- Gave first, second, and third readings to *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Officers and Delegation Amendment Bylaw No. 373, 2024*; then adopted it

I 1 Committee Information Items and Delegation Summaries

The Board received information items and delegation summaries from standing committees as follows.

Zero Waste Committee – April 4, 2024

Delegations:

C1 Glen Furtado, Senior Director, Construction Innovation with the Cement Association of Canada

Subject: Concrete Zero: Canada’s cement and concrete industry action plan to net-zero

Information Items:

E3 Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives – Future Delivery

The Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives are a program developed by Metro Vancouver over 2011/2012 to support success in the waste prevention goals of the *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan*. Waste prevention continues to be a priority for Metro Vancouver, and the Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives continue to deliver on the scale of collaboration and cross-sector dialogue required to prevent waste before it becomes an end product for local governments to manage.

In late 2023, staff reviewed and analyzed program delivery, including seeking input from external delivery partners and allies in waste prevention from across Canada. As a result, staff will continue to deliver the Zero Waste Initiatives with a recalibration of that delivery. The outcome is a program that aligns with other organizations in the waste prevention space, and delivers on work plans that fit the niche role of the National Zero Waste Council in the national dialogue around preventing waste.

E4 Create Memories, Not Garbage 2023 Campaign Results

To encourage more mindful gift giving and reduce the amount of unnecessary waste entering our landfill, the “Create Memories, Not Garbage” campaign helps to inspire residents to reduce their waste by giving achievable low-waste gift and wrap ideas. In 2023, Metro Vancouver’s region-wide, three-phase media promotion delivered relevant messages for the buying and disposal stages of the holiday season.

The campaign achieved 27.6 million impressions in 12 weeks. Online banner ads remain a top performing tactic and drove 65 per cent of total traffic to the campaign website. Google AdWords had the most clicked content and covered low-waste gifts. Radio DJs were used to help bring life to the experience ideas in the Merry Memory Maker and both radio and television helped the campaign to achieve additional reach and frequency across the region.

Liquid Waste Committee – April 10, 2024

Delegation Summaries:

C1 Moira Stillwell, MD, on behalf of Fraser River Community Alliance

Subject: Concerns regarding the staging of construction materials during the construction of the new Iona Wastewater Treatment Plant