

**For Metro Vancouver meetings on Friday, June 28, 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](mailto:media@metrovancover.org).*

**Metro Vancouver Regional District**

**Election of the Board Chair**

The Board elected Director Mike Hurley, Mayor of Burnaby, as Chair of the Metro Vancouver Board for 2024.

**E1.1 Air Quality Advisory Program and Preparedness for 2024**

**RECEIVED**

For over 50 years, the Metro Vancouver Regional District has had delegated authority under the *Environmental Management Act* to regulate the discharge of air contaminants in the region and protect air quality. It has been operating an air quality advisory program for more than 30 years.

Metro Vancouver issues air quality advisories and bulletins for the Lower Fraser Valley to protect public health and safety when regional air quality degrades. Staff work closely with health authorities and other partners to deliver and continuously improve the program to ensure it meets residents’ needs. This year, staff modified the format and language of the air quality advisory to improve both clarity and accessibility.

The 2023 wildfire season was the most destructive in BC’s recorded history due to warmer and drier conditions. For 2024, forecasts suggest an active spring wildfire season is likely, and spring and summer could be warmer and drier than normal. Metro Vancouver is experiencing the impacts of a changing climate now, with wildfire smoke degrading regional air quality in seven of the last nine summers. This demonstrates the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and the importance of a robust air quality advisory program to protect residents’ health.

The Board received the report for the information.

**E2.1 Research Trial of Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement**

**RECEIVED**

Rising levels of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere are pushing more CO<sub>2</sub> into the ocean, causing ocean acidification. Ocean alkalinity enhancement uses natural minerals to remove the CO<sub>2</sub> in seawater. A research trial using the Lions Gate Wastewater Treatment Plant outfall will evaluate the potential of ocean alkalinity enhancement to remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the water in Burrard Inlet. This will help to combat both climate change and ocean acidification. The trial will be undertaken at no cost to Metro Vancouver; staff will support planning for the research and operation of the trial and will report back through committees to the Board.

The Board received the report for the information.

**E2.1 Metro 2050 Regional Context Statement – City of Delta****APPROVED**

The City of Delta has updated its Official Community Plan (OCP) in response to recent provincial legislation and a ministerial order related to increasing the housing supply in British Columbia. The Delta Regional Context Statement, which is part of the OCP, was also updated to reflect recent changes and to show how the OCP is generally consistent with *Metro 2050*. The MVRD Board considers acceptance of Regional Context Statements to ensure that local aspirations, as laid out in Official Community Plans, align with the regional federation's goals and strategies as expressed in *Metro 2050*.

Staff review determined that the Delta's Regional Context Statement is generally consistent with the goals, strategies, and maps in *Metro 2050*.

The Board accepted the City of Delta's Regional Context Statement as submitted.

**E3.1 Greater Vancouver Regional Fund – 2023 Annual Report****RECEIVED**

TransLink has submitted its annual report containing budget and schedule information on active projects funded with federal gas tax funds through the Greater Vancouver Regional Fund (GVRF) as of December 31, 2023. Although TransLink has historically delivered the majority of its projects on or ahead of schedule, 18 of 21 active projects are currently experiencing delays exceeding three months due to supply chain shortages, uncertainties in ridership recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic, and complexities in project design and requirements. \$214.5 million remains available in the fund for future project funding. This will be the last annual report under the current GVRF program, as the federal Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) expired on March 31, 2024. The CCBF is expected to be renewed later this year along with a revised regional program.

The Board received the report for the information.

**E3.2 2023 Statement of Financial Information****RECEIVED**

The Statement of Financial Information Report (SOFI) is produced annually under the *Financial Information Act*. It includes the 2023 audited financial statements; information on remuneration and expenses for staff and elected officials; and information on payments to suppliers for goods and services. The 2023 annual financial statements received a clean audit opinion by the auditors, BDO Canada LLP Chartered Professional Accountants, and were approved by the Board on April 26, 2024.

In 2023, Metro Vancouver concluded bargaining with both the Teamsters and GVRDEU unions, resulting in a three per cent wage increase for 2022, a 4.5 per cent wage increase for 2023, and a one-time lump sum payment of \$2,350 or 4.5 per cent of base wages. Following union bargaining, exempt staff were provided the same general wage increases. Due to a labour dispute in 2023, some exempt staff were required to work additional hours to provide core services resulting in an increase in remuneration. As a result of retroactive pay upon conclusion of collective bargaining, total employee remuneration was \$231.7 million. The average total remuneration for employees who received more than \$75,000 in 2023 was \$125,346. This was a \$10,754 increase over the previous year. Metro Vancouver Board compensation

was raised 7.1 per cent to align with CPI increases, per Board policy. Travel and training resumed to pre-pandemic levels, and remained within the approved budget.

The Board received the report for the information.

**E3.3 Metro Vancouver’s 2024 Financial Performance Report No. 1**

**RECEIVED**

The Metro Vancouver 2024 Financial Performance Report No. 1 is the first of three financial performance and forecast reports for 2024, and it includes forecasts to the end of 2024, procurement activity, treasury, continuous improvement reporting, and progress on delivering the Board’s strategic priorities. It is forecasted that for 2024, operating surplus to budget will be \$9.2 million (0.8 per cent of the \$1.2 billion budget). This is resulting from anticipated surpluses in Water (\$3.5 million), Liquid Waste (\$1 million), Metro Vancouver Housing (\$1.4 million), and Regional District services (\$5.7 million), primarily due to higher water sales revenues, delays in filling staff vacancies, less spending on consulting and contracting services from project delays, and lower debt service costs due to less borrowing. These surpluses are offset by a projected deficit in Solid Waste Services (\$2.4 million) due to increased contingency disposal costs.

At this point in the year, it is forecasted that for 2024, capital expenditures will be approximately 75 per cent of the \$1.4 billion cash flow. Although spending to date is approximately 10 per cent, or \$130 million of the total planned spending of \$1.4 billion, a significant ramp up in construction and related spending is expected for major projects moving into construction phases, such as the Annacis Water Supply Tunnel, North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant Program, Second Narrows Water Supply Tunnel, Widgeon Marsh Park Development, and housing development projects including Heather Place B, Kingston Gardens, and Salal Landing.

As a result of lower capital spending than targeted, long-term borrowing for 2024 is anticipated to be \$350 million versus \$482 million as planned. Investment returns are averaging 4.51 per cent and are expected to remain favorable in the current high-interest environment as maturing investments are reinvested in higher yielding products. Cash flow projections are on target and remain positive.

For the first quarter of 2024, procurement activity included four awards approved by the Board with a value of \$72.1 million, which is 81 per cent of the total value of awarded contracts in the first quarter. There are currently 140 continuous improvement initiatives underway that will continue to advance the Board’s strategic priorities.

The Board received the report for the information.

**G1.1 Regional Growth Strategy Amendment Bylaw No. 1380, 2024 – Metro 2050 Type 3 Proposed Amendment to Reflect Accepted Regional Context Statements and Correct Minor Error**

**APPROVED**

In February 2024, the Board initiated a Type 3 Amendment to *Metro 2050* and gave first, second, and third readings to an amendment bylaw that corrects minor inconsistencies in terminology, formatting, numerical references, and mapping. It also includes mapping revisions that stem from Board accepted regional context statements, regional land use amendments made under the municipal flexibility clause,

updates to *Metro 2050* reference maps based on new data (e.g. new sensitive ecosystem inventory map), and corrections to map text and designation boundaries.

As required by the *Local Government Act* and *Metro 2050*, Metro Vancouver notified affected local governments and agencies of the proposed amendment. Responses expressing no objection were received from two affected local governments and one First Nation.

The Board received for information the comments from the affected local governments and agencies as presented then adopted *Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Amendment Bylaw No. 1380, 2024*.

**G1.1 Regional Growth Strategy Amendment Bylaw No. 1378, 2024 – Metro 2050 Type 3 Proposed Amendment to Reflect the Electoral Area A Official Community Plan** **APPROVED**

In February 2024, the Board initiated a Type 2 and a Type 3 Amendment to *Metro 2050*, and two amending bylaws to better align the regional growth strategy’s land use designations with the Board-adopted 2018 *Electoral Area A Official Community Plan Bylaw* that applies to the majority of the rural and remote portions of the Electoral Area (excluding UBC, UEL, Bowyer Island, Passage Island, and First Nation reserve lands).

Staff have identified *Metro 2050* regional land use designation changes to 92 parcels based on a detailed review of the OCP designations relative to regional land use designations and mapping improvements in the rural and remote reaches of Electoral Area A.

As required by the *Local Government Act* and *Metro 2050*, Metro Vancouver notified affected local governments and agencies of the proposed amendment. Responses were received from three affected local governments, one local First Nations, and one agency, all of which expressed either no objection or no comment.

The Board received for information the comments from the affected local governments and agencies as presented, then adopted both *Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Amendment Bylaw No. 1378, 2024* and *Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Amendment Bylaw No. 1379, 2024*.

**H1 Notice of Motion**

Directors Andrew Leonard and Patrick Johnstone submitted the following Notice of Motion:

Whereas Metro Vancouver Board and committee member travel expenses have increased significantly this term and policy improvements can address issues of allocation, oversight, and reporting of such travel;

Whereas all Metro Vancouver Board and committee members have an interest in the information and outcomes of member-attended conferences, events, study tours, and meetings;

Whereas transparent and equitable policies should be created for use of all Metro Vancouver resources applied to Metro Vancouver Board member representation at such functions;

Whereas the above is in service of good governance, transparency, and strong relationships between the Board, the member communities, and the public they serve in the disposition of limited resources;

BE IT RESOLVED: That international travel to attend conferences, events, study tours, and meetings on behalf of Metro Vancouver by Board or committee members be subject to Board approval which includes a summary of the request to the Board in an open meeting including:

- name of the attendee(s) and relevant Board or committee role(s)
- a statement of expected value to be derived because of attending the function from the attendee and staff
- projected travel expenses
- projected remuneration expenses
- projected amount of other expenses expected to be incurred

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That any participation by Metro Vancouver Board or committee representatives at conferences, events, study tours and meetings that would incur overnight accommodation outside of British Columbia shall require a written report of the function by the attendee(s) in May or October in each year. This report shall be a provided at an open meeting of the Board, and include:

- a summary of the event and key activities
- the value to Metro Vancouver derived because of the attendee's participation in the event
- a summary of actual expenses incurred

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That staff be directed to bring back to the Board for consideration revised travel policies for Board and Committee members that are consistent with the above resolutions, set annual travel expense limits, and recognize the benefit of Board participation in exchange and learning while demonstrating fiscal responsibility that builds public trust; by the November 2024 regular meeting of the Board.

The motion was referred to Metro Vancouver staff to report back on existing travel policies and approval procedures for Board and Committee members.

**I 1 Committee Information Items and Delegation Summaries**

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

**Indigenous Relations Committee – June 5, 2024**

Information Items:

**E1 Quarterly Update Report on Reconciliation Activities**

This update report provides a summary of reconciliation events and activities undertaken or planned by the Metro Vancouver Indigenous Relations Department for the second and third quarters of 2024.

**Regional Culture Committee – June 12, 2024**

Information Items:

**E2 Metro Vancouver 2024 Regional Cultural Grants: Adjudication Process**

Metro Vancouver’s annual regional cultural project grants, funded by the Cultural Grants Reserve, support region-serving arts and culture projects. This report is to provide the committee with an overview of the adjudication process. Staff has undertaken an initial review of all applications and removed any that did not meet the application criteria. Those meeting the criteria will be provided to the committee for review. Staff will then present shortlisted applications for adjudication by the committee at its July 12, 2024 meeting. At that meeting, the committee will discuss a recommendation for grant awards to a cap of \$10,000 per project and a total distribution of \$300,000. The committee's recommended allocations will be presented to the July 26, 2024 MVRD Board meeting for final approval.

**Climate Action Committee – June 13, 2024**

Information Items:

**E2 Residential Indoor Wood Burning Public Education Campaign**

Wood smoke from residential indoor wood burning is the most significant source of emissions of fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) in the region, contributing more than a quarter of the total annual regional PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions. The *Residential Indoor Wood Burning Emission Regulation Bylaw* is designed to reduce emissions of and exposure to PM<sub>2.5</sub> and the known health impacts by promoting the use of cleaner wood-burning practices and technologies, including the use of cleaner burning appliances and fuels. The final phase of requirements, for appliances in urban areas to be registered before use, comes into effect in September 2025.

**Regional Planning Committee – June 14, 2024**

Delegation Summaries:

**C1 Doreann Mayhew, General Manager of Development, City of Delta**

Subject: City of Delta Regional Context Statement

**Metro Vancouver Housing**

**E1.1 Launch of the Metro Vancouver Housing Bursaries and Awards Program**

**APPROVED**

Metro Vancouver Housing continues to grow its community development initiatives. To support a key pillar of poverty alleviation programming, Metro Vancouver Housing will be making bursaries and awards available to tenants in need. This initiative will aid ongoing conversations and programming targeted at education and breaking the cycle of poverty within families.

If approved, the application process will close in August each year, and candidates will be evaluated by an inter-departmental staff committee. Staff will report out to the committee and Board each fall regarding successful candidates. Metro Vancouver Housing is a non-profit housing provider; revenues earned through rents are assigned to capital maintenance, staffing and tenant programming costs. With Board approval, a total of \$10,000 from operating revenue will be allocated for bursaries and awards. This amount can be accommodated within the Board-approved 2024 Metro Vancouver Housing operating budget.

The Board approved the launch of the Metro Vancouver Housing Bursaries and Awards Program in the amount of \$10,000 total annually.

**Greater Vancouver Water District**

*No public agenda items.*

**Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District**

**E1.1 Solid Waste Management Plan Vision and Guiding Principles**

**APPROVED**

Metro Vancouver is developing an updated solid waste management plan, building on the strengths of the current plan, and identifying opportunities for accelerating waste reduction and recycling, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and promoting a circular economy. In 2023, Metro Vancouver conducted engagement on key values and priorities to include in the draft vision and guiding principles for an updated solid waste management plan.

Engagement was implemented with advice from a panel of experts to support Metro Vancouver’s commitment to robust and inclusive engagement processes. The vision and guiding principles will inform criteria used to evaluate potential strategies and actions in subsequent phases of the plan update process, and encompass key themes such as collaboration, accountability, transparency, accessibility, innovation, affordability, waste prevention, and climate action.

The Board approved the vision and guiding principles for an updated regional solid waste management plan as presented.

**G1.1 GVS&DD Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379, 2024**

**APPROVED**

Updates to the tipping fee bylaw aim to:

- Streamline definitions
- Strengthen records management requirements related to generator levy provisions
- Improve enforceability of the bylaw

The updates make no changes to the applicability of the generator levy. Metro Vancouver’s robust policy and regulatory framework is a key contributor to its North American-leading waste reduction and recycling success, and its cost-effective, competitive solid waste system. Metro Vancouver’s public solid



waste system provides many benefits, including free recycling for many materials at Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centres with funding from garbage tipping fees.

The generator levy, implemented in 2018, ensures all generators of garbage in the region contribute to the cost of the regional solid waste system. The generator levy also encourages the use of regional solid waste facilities where recycling is promoted through disposal bans.

The Board gave first, second, and third readings to *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379, 2024* then adopted it.

**I 1 Committee Information Items and Delegation Summaries**

The Board received information items and delegation summaries from a standing committee

**Zero Waste Committee – June 13, 2024**

Information Items:

**E2 Update on the Love Food Hate Waste Canada Campaign for 2023-2024**

As part of its commitment to waste prevention, Metro Vancouver launched a regional Love Food Hate Waste (LFHW) campaign in 2015 to prevent household food waste. Building on the success of the regional campaign, Metro Vancouver launched a national campaign, called Love Food Hate Waste Canada (LFHW Canada) through the National Zero Waste Council in 2018.

As Canada’s leading resource to prevent household food waste, LFHW Canada offers simple, actionable tips to help Canadians make their food go further and waste less. National and local activations work together to enable citizens to hear consistent messaging through a variety of outreach, communication, and media efforts, driving behaviour change over the long term. Through this cross-platform delivery, LFHW Canada garnered nearly 18 million impressions in 2023 and early 2024.

Metro Vancouver is one of eight partners in this national bilingual campaign. As a partner, Metro Vancouver receives creative materials for regional activations and benefits from national media buys, access to influencers, and press outreach. The regional campaign performed strongly in 2023 and early 2024 with over four million impressions, a reach of over 930,000, and over 6,000 social media engagements.