

**For Metro Vancouver meetings on Friday, March 26, 2021**

*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:*

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**Metro Vancouver Regional District****E1.1 Draft Clean Air Plan****APPROVED**

This report presented the draft Clean Air Plan, Metro Vancouver's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality in our region over the next 10 years. The draft plan was developed based on feedback received in 2019 and 2020, as well as recent modelling work. The draft plan presents actions to reduce air contaminant emissions (including health-harming air contaminants and greenhouse gases) from transportation, buildings and industry, and will support engagement and development of the final Clean Air Plan. The draft plan also outlines a process to introduce equity considerations. The Clean Air Plan will support Climate 2050's vision of a carbon neutral region by identifying the initial actions needed to meet the region's 2030 greenhouse gas target.

The Board authorized staff to proceed with engagement on the draft Clean Air Plan.

**E1.2 Draft Climate 2050 Buildings Roadmap****APPROVED**

This report presented the draft Climate 2050 Buildings Roadmap, the first in a series of 10 Climate 2050 Roadmaps that will guide Metro Vancouver's policies and collective actions to transition to a carbon neutral, resilient region by 2050. The draft Buildings Roadmap lays out strategies and actions that will accelerate the transition to a zero emissions and resilient building stock by 2050. Preliminary modelling results estimate that completing these aggressive but achievable actions will have a significant impact on greenhouse gas emissions, but over time more work will need to be done to identify and undertake additional actions in order to reach our 2030 and 2050 climate targets. Future work will include establishing methods and key data sources to quantify the impact of the resiliency actions in the Buildings Roadmap. The draft will inform further engagement, with the intention to bring an updated Buildings Roadmap for endorsement by the MVRD Board in fall 2021.

The Board authorized staff to proceed with engagement on the draft Climate 2050 Buildings Roadmap, as presented.

**E2.1 Metro 2050 Draft Policy Language – Goals 1 and 2****RECEIVED**

Metro Vancouver, working with the Metro 2050 Intergovernmental Advisory Committee, has drafted content for Metro 2050's goals 1 and 2 as part of the update to the regional growth strategy. The content has been prepared using the MVRD Board endorsed policy recommendations for each of the 11 themed Metro 2040 policy reviews. The draft policies reflect requested input from member jurisdictions, TransLink, and other regional stakeholders.

The proposed changes to goals 1 and 2 focus on:

- new and enhanced policies that support focusing residential and employment growth in close proximity to public transit using a new regional tool called the “Major Transit Growth Corridors”
- expanding the types of Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas to give member jurisdictions greater flexibility to identify areas of growth potential versus more stable neighbourhoods
- new tools that help member jurisdictions continue to build complete communities
- enhancing the protection of the region’s industrial areas
- providing greater clarity around the role of employment and rural areas

The draft content for Metro 2050 goals 3, 4, and 5 and the implementation section is being drafted and will be presented to the Regional Planning Committee and Board for information at the April and May meetings. A complete draft of Metro 2050 will be presented to the Regional Planning Committee and MVRD Board in July for referral for comment between August and December 2021.

The Board received the report for information.

## **E2.2 Social Equity and Regional Growth Study**

**RECEIVED**

This report conveyed the results of the *Social Equity and Regional Growth Study: Considerations for Integrating Social Equity into Regional Planning and Metro 2050*. The purpose of this study was to explore and help Metro Vancouver staff develop a greater understanding of social equity considerations in the region as they relate to regional planning efforts, and to develop guidance on how best to evaluate the policies of the regional growth strategy from a social equity perspective.

The study includes:

- a set of 49 social equity indicator maps
- a proposed refined definition of social equity
- a set of recommended areas for priority action in land use and transportation planning
- recommended performance measures to use in Metro 2050

Additionally, a suggested social equity analysis tool was prepared as part of the project, and staff will evaluate the tool in terms of effectiveness and assess potential future use.

The Board received the report for information and directed staff to send this report to member jurisdictions for review and comment back to Metro Vancouver.

## **E2.3 Metro 2050 Phase 1 Engagement Report**

**RECEIVED**

Following direction from the MVRD Board in September 2019, Regional Planning staff began implementing the Metro 2050 Engagement Plan in support of Phase 1 of the update to Metro 2040, the regional growth strategy. The focus of Phase 1 was to review Metro 2040 by topic area, consider what is working well, and to identify opportunities for improvement. Engagement has focused on four audiences: the strategy's signatories, non-signatory regional interests, First Nations and the broader public.

Through public events that attracted 600 participants, email newsletters, social media promotions including videos, 8,000 visits to the web resources, and 30,000 responses to a survey on values pertaining to regional growth, the reach of the engagement to date is about 120,000 people. This is in addition to working directly with member jurisdictions and other signatories. The input received to date is being considered as staff work with signatories and other stakeholders on draft Metro 2050 content. A six-month comment period is planned for the latter half of 2021, where the focus of engagement will be with member Councils, other signatory Boards, First Nations and the public.

The Board received the report for information.

## **E3.1 Vancouver Police Department's Mental Health Program**

**APPROVED**

At its March 5, 2021 meeting, the Mayors Committee received a presentation from Vancouver Police Department Superintendent Fiona Wilson and Sgt. A.J. Benefield, and considered the presentation titled "Vancouver Police Department Mental Health Unit."

The Committee discussed challenges facing Metro Vancouver communities from individuals struggling with mental health issues and associated impacts on police services. Members recognized limitations for local jurisdictions and the need to advocate for provincial funding to improve community-based mental health programs across Metro Vancouver.

The Board resolved to write a letter to the Province and the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act requesting increased regional access to mental health services to partner and support police in all Metro Vancouver communities.

## **E4.1 Regional Parks Plan Update**

**APPROVED**

Metro Vancouver is undertaking an update of the Regional Parks Plan which describes the strategic vision for Regional Parks. The update will confirm Metro Vancouver's existing "protect and connect" mandate for regional parks and ensure the plan addresses the key issues of climate change, social equity, and human health and wellness. The updated plan will guide delivery of the Regional Parks Service in a growing region for the next 30 years and provide a 10-year implementation plan and updated performance metrics. Input from member jurisdictions, other government agencies, First Nations, stakeholders, subject matter experts and the public is important to the completion of the Regional Parks Plan update.

The Board authorized staff to proceed with Phase 1 of the Regional Park Plan update as presented.

**E5.1 Allocation of COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant****APPROVED**

As part of the Provincial and Federal government response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a funding stream was established to provide direct grants to local governments. This funding stream is called “COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants for Local Government” and provides \$425 million for local operations impacted by COVID-19.

Metro Vancouver received a total one-time grant of \$2,325,000 in November 2020 and proposes to apply \$1,737,322 to extraordinary costs incurred in 2020, with the remainder reserved for use in 2021.

The Board approved the allocation of COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant funding per the Schedule – Allocation of COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant as presented.

**G1.1 Metro Vancouver Regional District Dedication of Land as Regional Park Bylaw No. 1319, 2021****APPROVED**

The Local Government Act authorizes a regional district to dedicate land as regional park by way of a bylaw. The bylaw presented in this report dedicated land acquired in 2020 by MVRD for use as regional parks, particularly as part of Aldergrove Regional Park, Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area, Crippen Regional Park and Kanaka Creek Regional Park.

Work is in progress in 2021 to review regional park land that is not currently not dedicated for inclusion in a future bylaw.

The Board gave first, second and third readings to Metro Vancouver Regional District Dedication of Land as Regional Park Bylaw No. 1319, 2021; then passed and finally adopted the aforementioned bylaw.

**G2.1 Indemnification Authorization Bylaw Updates – MVRD Amending Bylaw 1318, GVWD Amending Bylaw 254, and GVS&DD Amending Bylaw 343****APPROVED**

Local government indemnification bylaws provide coverage for elected officials, officers, employees and volunteers for actions taken in the performance of duties or functions. The indemnification bylaws enacted in 2002 are based on older legislation that has since been revised.

The Board gave first, second and third readings to Metro Vancouver Regional District Indemnification Authorization Amending Bylaw No. 1318, 2021, then passed and finally adopted said bylaw. Furthermore, the Board resolved that the Board’s resolution of November 27, 2020 relating to indemnification for all regional district officials in relation to the Cleveland Dam spillway gate event of October 1, 2020 ceases to have any force and effect.

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

The Board received an information item from a Standing Committee.

**Finance and Intergovernment Committee – March 10, 2021**

Information Items:

**5.2 Alternate Models for Single Sewerage Area Allocation**

The 2019-2022 Board Strategic Plan includes an action to evaluate the implications of moving to a single sewerage area over the long term. A single sewerage area would ensure that costs for Liquid Waste Services are allocated across GVS&DD members following user-pay principles, improve predictability and reduce volatility of rates and enable the implementation of significant regionally beneficial environmental, climate change and resilience improvements.

While a single sewerage area provides long-term benefits, there needs to be consideration of previous cost allocations for treatment plant upgrades and combined sewer elimination. These past practices will make immediate transition to a single sewerage area difficult and a long-term staged approach is contemplated. Options for long-term staged transition to a single sewerage area will be developed with the assistance and advice of the Regional Engineers and Regional Finance Advisory Committees.

**Greater Vancouver Water District****E1.1 Corrosion Control Program: Copper Pipes Protection****RECEIVED**

The Greater Vancouver Water District drinking water supply is naturally low in pH, resulting in accelerated corrosion of building plumbing systems, including copper piping, brass fixtures and similar appurtenances. With the completion of the major water treatment infrastructure upgrades, further pH and alkalinity adjustments can be made for water entering the transmission system. This will help reduce leaks in pipes caused by copper corrosion and preserve the lifespan of pipes and hot water tanks.

The pH and alkalinity adjustments are planned for spring 2021, and the new target levels will be 8.3 to 8.5 for pH and 20.0 mg/L as calcium carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) for alkalinity. These changes will have no impact the water's taste or smell, and assures continued compliance with the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality. Metro Vancouver will provide notification of these changes to key end users that may be impacted.

The Board received the report for information.

**E1.2 Capital Funding Redirection for Water Services Projects****APPROVED**

Water Services has identified that seven projects were approved in previous capital budgets by the Board, but not captured in the 2021 Capital Budget. Water Services has also identified two projects approved in the 2021 Capital Budget experiencing delays that will result in spending shortfalls adequate to cover the identified cash flow deficiencies from the seven additions.

The Board approved the addition of seven Water Services projects to the 2021 Capital Budget, totalling \$5.3 million, to be funded from existing approved cash flow.

**G1.1 Indemnification Authorization Bylaw Updates – MVRD Amending Bylaw 1318, GVWD Amending Bylaw 254, and GVS&DD Amending Bylaw 343****APPROVED**

Local government indemnification bylaws provide coverage for elected officials, officers, employees and volunteers for actions taken in the performance of duties or functions. The indemnification bylaws enacted in 2002 are based on older legislation that has since been revised.

The Board gave first, second and third readings to Greater Vancouver Water District Indemnification Authorization Amending Bylaw No. 254, 2021, then passed and finally adopted said bylaw. Furthermore, the Board resolved that the Board's resolution of November 27, 2020 relating to indemnification for all regional district officials in relation to the Cleveland Dam spillway gate event of October 1, 2020 ceases to have any force and effect.

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

The Board received information items from Standing Committees.

**Water Committee – March 11, 2021**

Information Items:

**5.1 GVWD Electrical Energy Use, Generation and Management**

The GVWD Electrical Energy Use, Generation and Management report outlines electrical energy use by the water utility, energy generation and energy management projects. GVWD avoids electricity purchases of between \$400,000 to \$600,000 annually by generating electrical energy at four facilities. Energy management projects completed since 2015 provide an additional estimated annual savings of 2.7 gigawatt hours or \$180,000.

**5.3 Drinking Water Management Plan Update**

The Drinking Water Management Plan (DWMP) sets the direction for GVWD and will help guide strategic decision making in a defensible and transparent way. It has been almost 10 years since the DWMP was updated and a current update is needed to reflect the evolution of our regional drinking water system and how it will adapt to future challenges such as population growth, financial constraints and climate change impacts. Unlike the previous versions of the DWMP, Metro Vancouver is working to produce a set of measurable outcomes and benefits that will make the plan more effective and efficient.



Water Services and Liquid Waste Services will develop a “One Water” approach, uniting the management of all water in the form of drinking water, stormwater and wastewater in areas where synergies and overlap exist. The plan is scheduled for development over three years for endorsement by the Board.

## **Greater Vancouver Sewage and Drainage District**

### **E1.1 Grant Funding Application for Northwest Langley Digestion and Biogas Facilities Ground Improvements**

**APPROVED**

On December 1, 2020, the Provincial and Federal governments announced a new \$80.29-million COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program with an application deadline of January 27, 2021. The new stream — created in response to the effects of COVID-19 on communities across the province — specifically targets eligible projects (up to \$10 million in total costs) starting before September 30, 2021 and completing by December 31, 2021.

A grant application for the Northwest Langley Digestion and Biogas Facilities Ground Improvements project was submitted January 27, 2021. This project was the only project identified in Metro Vancouver as meeting the grant funding requirements. Response from the Province is expected in late spring 2021. Funding for the project is currently included in Metro Vancouver 2022 Capital Budget.

The Board supported the Northwest Langley Digestion and Biogas Facilities Ground Improvements and supported the application for grant funding of \$9,999,995 for the project through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, and if the application is successful, committed to financing the project’s eligible costs until associated federal and provincial government contributions are received, and funding any ineligible costs and potential costs overruns associated with the project.

### **E2.1 Liquid Waste Heat Recovery Policy Amendments to Expand Opportunities for Sewer Heat Recovery**

**APPROVED**

Metro Vancouver has the opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by enabling the provision of capital funding for new facilities that will provide renewable, fossil fuel-free heat extracted from sewage to residents and businesses in the region. Staff proposed an amendment to the Liquid Waste Heat Recovery Policy to expand the scope of allowed investments in such projects.

Four clean energy projects are under development. There is enough excess heat in the liquid waste collection system to heat 700 high-rises throughout the region, so future opportunities exist for providing energy to additional district energy systems. If this change is approved, cost-effective capital investments in collection system-based heat recovery projects with participation of municipalities will be brought to the Board for consideration.

A related proposal is under consideration by the Finance and Intergovernment Committee to amend the Cost Apportionment Bylaw — to apply Tier III Project cost apportionment (100 per cent regional allocation) — to regional wastewater resource recovery projects, because of the regional and global benefits these projects provide.

The Board approved the revised Liquid Waste Heat Recovery Policy as presented and directed staff to work with members to assess the range of options available for carbon accounting for liquid waste heat recovery projects, and if appropriate, develop a framework for allocation of carbon offset credits among members and report back to the Board by the end of 2021.

### **E3.1 Award of Contract Resulting from Request for Proposal No. 20-143: Inspection Services at Solid Waste Regional Facilities**

**APPROVED**

Metro Vancouver received and evaluated three proposals in response to Request for Proposal No. 20-143: Inspection Services at Solid Waste Regional Facilities. Stasuk Testing and Inspection Ltd. submitted the highest overall ranked proposal. With increased hourly inspection costs compared to the previous contract, the recommended award was based on slightly reduced annual inspection hours to fit within the available budget. The paperless inspection process now in place has increased inspection efficiency and staff are exploring options to reduce inspection requirements over time while ensuring waste reduction and recycling efforts are not compromised.

The Board approved award of a three-year contract in the amount of up to \$3,674,026 (exclusive of taxes) to Stasuk Testing and Inspection Ltd., resulting from Request for Proposal No. 20-143: Inspection Services at Solid Waste Regional Facilities, subject to final review by the Commissioner.

### **G1.1 Tier III Cost Apportionment Bylaw Amendments**

**APPROVED**

Metro Vancouver has the opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by enabling the provision of capital funding for new facilities that will provide renewable, fossil fuel-free heat extracted from sewage to residents and businesses in the region. There is enough excess heat in the liquid waste collection system to heat 700 high-rises throughout the region. These clean energy projects become viable when the value of carbon is reflected in the initial capital investment.

The Board approved the amendments to the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Cost Apportionment Bylaw No. 283, 2014 as presented, which will allocate all future sewer heat project costs as 100 per cent regional allocation; gave first, second and third readings to Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Cost Apportionment Amending Bylaw No. 342, 2021, then passed and finally adopted said bylaw.

### **G1.2 Indemnification Authorization Bylaw Updates – MVRD Amending Bylaw 1318, GVWD Amending Bylaw 254, and GVS&DD Amending Bylaw 343**

**APPROVED**

Local government indemnification bylaws provide coverage for elected officials, officers, employees and volunteers for actions taken in the performance of duties or functions. The indemnification bylaws enacted in 2002 are based on older legislation that has since been revised.

The Board gave first, second and third readings to Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Indemnification Authorization Amending Bylaw No. 343, 2021, then passed and finally adopted said bylaw.



## I 1 Committee Information Items and Delegation Summaries

**RECEIVED**

The Board received information items from Standing Committees.

### **Liquid Waste Committee – March 11, 2021**

Information Items:

#### **5.1 Alternate Models for Single Sewerage Area Allocation**

The 2019-2022 Board Strategic Plan includes an action to evaluate the implications of moving to a single sewerage area over the long term. A single sewerage area will ensure that costs for the Liquid Waste Services are allocated across GVS&DD members following user-pay principles, improve predictability and reduce volatility of rates and enable the implementation of significant regionally beneficial environmental, climate change and resilience improvements.

While a single sewerage area provides long-term benefits, there needs to be consideration of previous cost allocations for treatment plant upgrades and combined sewer elimination. These past practices will make immediate transition to a single sewerage area difficult and a long term staged approach is contemplated. Options for long-term staged transition to a single sewerage area will be developed with the assistance and advice of the Regional Engineers and Regional Finance Advisory Committees.

### **Zero Waste Committee – March 12, 2021**

Information Items:

#### **5.3 United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre Opening Plan**

The United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre will be one of the most comprehensive solid waste facilities in North America, with recycling opportunities significantly enhanced compared to the current facility. An opening plan has been developed to ensure a smooth transition from the current Coquitlam Recycling and Waste Centre to the new facility and communicate the importance of the new facility within Metro Vancouver's solid waste management system to the public, facility users and other stakeholders. This report outlines the opening plan for the new facility along with communications activities. The facility is expected to open in late spring 2021.

#### **5.4 2020 Waste Composition Study Results**

Metro Vancouver conducts regular waste composition studies to better understand the types of material disposed in the region and assess trends over time. The 2020 Waste Composition Study reflects atypical disposal habits likely influenced by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic such as the disposal of personal protective equipment. A decrease in commercial/institutional waste disposal accompanied by an increase in residential waste disposal resulted in a shift in overall waste composition, including a notable decrease in compostable organics. Some single-use items (such as retail bags and takeout containers) increased while others (such as utensils and cups) decreased. Subsequent annual waste composition studies will allow Metro Vancouver to evaluate any lasting disposal trends. The study results highlight the importance of new initiatives such as the alternative fuel and recyclables recovery project that targets wood from small loads as well as ongoing initiatives to reduce single-use items.

### 5.5 Create Memories Not Garbage 2020 Campaign Results

The holidays can be a heavy consumption season resulting in unnecessary waste and 2020 was no exception due to a dramatic increase in shipping waste from online purchases. To address shipping waste, the “Create Memories, Not Garbage” campaign promoted low-waste gift and wrapping tips while also offering tips to help residents dispose of their shipping packaging. A region-wide, three-phased media promotion delivered relevant messages at each buying and disposing stage. The campaign continues to achieve strong reach and engagement with the top-performing digital tactic reaching 15 per cent more people than 2019, a 1,000-per-cent increase in Pinterest clicks compared to 2019, and 25 per cent of website traffic coming from Google Search. The campaign’s website survey revealed that low-waste wrap continues to be the most likely way residents will reduce their waste. While a similar campaign approach is planned for 2021, the increase in online competition will result in more focused, high-performing digital tactics.

## Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation

### E1.1 Energy Management Update – Metro Vancouver Housing

**RECEIVED**

Energy use represents one of Metro Vancouver Housing’s largest operating costs and is the primary source of its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Energy is used to heat, light and ventilate its portfolio of residential buildings, to manage solid waste generated at those buildings, and to operate its small fleet of vehicles. In 2016, Metro Vancouver Housing implemented a capital investment methodology that incorporates life cycle costing analyses into the capital maintenance upgrade process to assist Housing in managing energy costs and GHG emissions. Since 2016, projects implemented have reduced natural gas use by 14 per cent, reduced energy costs by \$81,407, and reduced GHG emissions by 14 per cent. The life cycle net present value savings that will be achieved will exceed the cost of the capital investments by \$1 million.

The Board received the report for information.

### E1.2 Pembina Reframed – Housing Retrofit Evolution

**RECEIVED**

Metro Vancouver Housing is a core member of the Reframed Initiative, a joint initiative with the Pembina Institute, BC Housing, BC Non-Profit Housing Association and the City of Vancouver. Members will work together to demonstrate the technical and economic feasibility of whole-building, replicable, deep retrofits that include significant reduction of total energy use from the pre-retrofit baseline, decarbonisation, and upgrades relating to climate adaptation, seismic, and fire safety.

The Reframed Initiative will conduct an exploration lab to define deep retrofits followed by demonstration retrofits with technical experts. The exploration lab and the demonstration retrofits will involve innovative construction methods being used elsewhere in Ontario and in Europe. With the demonstrated results and ongoing monitoring of the building, the core members aim to accelerate development and adoption of emergent retrofit technologies.

Reframed intends to increase uptake of design and construction of deep retrofits by engaging a wide range of stakeholders such as municipalities, financiers, insurers, contractors, suppliers, and ultimately property owners.

The Board received the report for information.