

For Metro Vancouver meetings on Friday, June 25, 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 Technical Paper – Preparing Metro Vancouver for the Digital Economy

RECEIVED

Following direction from the Board, Metro Vancouver’s Regional Economic Prosperity Service staff have prepared a technical paper on preparing Metro Vancouver for the digital economy. The paper posits that the rapidly digitizing economy requires the region to rethink its economic development approach in favour of one that is more adaptive, responsive and reflective of where the economy is headed, while also advancing the region’s co-equal equity goals to afford more economically distressed communities and residents with greater access to the myriad benefits that can and should accrue to all. An overarching objective is to provide all of the region’s residents with career pathways into occupations within high-growth industries that offer family-supporting wages, upward mobility, and low-risk of dislocation due to automation.

In a global marketplace where investors have many choices, the region must position itself in the best possible way to attract investment into the region that play to Metro Vancouver’s industrial strengths and specializations to ensure the investment stays in the region, where it can be further nurtured, and reinvested into research, talent acquisition, local supplier purchases, and new product and service development; and that maximizes the direct and downstream economic contributions in terms of output generation, job creation, increased wages, and positive fiscal impacts. Adopting this approach will drive the region’s economic recovery and further its resiliency in a way that advances equitable opportunity and shared prosperity for all of Metro Vancouver’s residents.

While not all of the economic development strategies in the paper are within the purview of the Regional Economic Prosperity Service, the paper contextualizes the work of the service and the systemic changes required to meet the challenges of the changing economy.

The Board received the report for information.

E1.2 REPS Industry Cluster Selection Criteria

RECEIVED

This report sets out the evaluation criteria for the industry clusters on which Metro Vancouver’s Regional Economic Prosperity Service REPS will focus: growing, export-oriented industries in which the Metro Vancouver region has established or emerging competitive advantages, that create desirable jobs, and which do not conflict with other Metro Vancouver priorities.

Based on these criteria, building on work prepared for REPS by Deloitte, and informed by exemplary work by established economic development organizations, REPS will initially focus on the following clusters:

- Trade and Transportation
- Life Sciences
- Digital Media and Entertainment
- Apparel
- Green Economy
- Agritech
- High-tech Manufacturing, Telecoms and Software

The Board received the report for information.

E1.3 Clean Transportation Sector Profile

RECEIVED

The clean transportation sector presents an immense opportunity for the Metro Vancouver region as the world seeks solutions to the climate emergency. Driven by the specialization in hydrogen and fuel cell technology, this sector includes low- and zero-emission vehicles and components, renewable and low carbon fuels and charging infrastructure, and transferable systems and technologies. Supported by a strong innovation ecosystem and benefiting from the larger green economy industry cluster, the clean transportation sector would benefit from regional efforts to strengthen local competitive advantages, to fill any gaps along the clean transportation industry value chain, and to attract additional investment. The next step of this initiative is to undertake a gap analysis of the sector to understand how to strengthen the industry to be more globally competitive.

The Board received the report for information.

E2.1 Howe Sound Fire Protection Services Feasibility Study

RECEIVED

The *Howe Sound Fire Protection Feasibility Study* examines fire service delivery options for the Electoral Area A Howe Sound mainland communities of Montizambert Wynd, Strachan Point and Ocean Point. The study recognizes that any fire service would be delivered through service agreements with the adjacent jurisdiction of the Village of Lions Bay, with backup support from the District of West Vancouver. The study found that previously identified needs for access and water system improvements to support firefighting in Montizambert Wynd and Strachan Point remain, while the community of Ocean Point has no immediate infrastructure deficiencies preventing consideration of fire protection services. The study recommends consideration of separate fire service areas for each community in phases, subject to support from residents and negotiation of service agreements with the Village of Lions Bay.

The Board received the report for information.

E2.2 Barnston Island Flood Construction Level Study – Engagement Update

RECEIVED

The *Barnston Island Flood Construction Level Study* was commissioned to determine the appropriate flood construction level for new construction on Barnston Island, and was completed in early 2021. The Board provided direction in February 2021 in support of engaging with residents, including the Katzie First Nation, and relevant government agencies regarding the consultant's report.

Staff met with representatives of the Agricultural Land Commission, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI), Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, and the Lands Manager for the Katzie First Nation.

Issues discussed included potential impacts of fill on farm land, future referrals of applications to MoTI, and existing drainage challenges on Katzie First Nation IR 3. A virtual community meeting for Barnston Island residents was hosted on May 20. Residents expressed understanding of the long-term goal of a higher flood construction level and the need to include exemptions for certain buildings. Staff will review and consider feedback, and will prepare applicable zoning and building bylaw amendments for consideration by the Electoral Area Committee and Board. The Board received the report for information.

E2.3 Community Works Fund – Barnston Island

APPROVED

The Community Works Fund is delivered to all local governments in British Columbia through a direct annual allocation to support local priorities, and the Board directed that it be distributed to Electoral Area A communities based on population. Barnston Island represents 1.1% of the total population of Electoral Area A, which equates to \$12,100 of the Electoral Area A Community Works Fund. The recently completed Barnston Island Flood Construction Level Study highlighted deficiencies with the pump house and flood box gates. Staff discussed potential improvements with the volunteer Barnston Island Diking Commission, who would coordinate the works and who identified electrical upgrades to the pump house and potential repairs to the flood box gate as priorities. These improvements are eligible costs under the Community Works Fund disaster mitigation category guidelines.

The Board approved funding from the Electoral Area A Community Works Fund up to \$12,100 for Barnston Island pump house and flood box gate improvements, as described in the report.

E3.1 Draft Metro 2050: Referral for Comment

APPROVED

A draft of *Metro 2050*, the update to the current regional growth strategy, has been presented to the Regional Planning Committee and MVRD Board for consideration and referral for comment. *Metro 2050* contains: updates to the regional vision; growth projections to the year 2050; updated descriptions of the main regional policy tools (such as the Urban Containment Boundary); updates to the five goals and implementation section with supporting strategies and policy actions; updates to the performance monitoring indicators; a new glossary of terms; and updated maps.

The new and amended policy actions have been reviewed by the *Metro 2050* Intergovernmental Advisory Committee and Regional Planning Committee, each providing feedback.

This feedback was considered and, in addition to feedback from other stakeholders, helped to improve the policies contained in this draft version of *Metro 2050*. The Board's referral will initiate a five-month comment period between July and the end of November. During this time, Metro Vancouver will provide opportunities for engagement and comment, including formal presentations to affected local government councils or boards and public information meetings.

The Board referred the draft of *Metro 2050* for comment to the following:

- signatories to the regional growth strategy including: mayors and councils of Metro Vancouver member jurisdictions; the TransLink Board; the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Board; the Fraser Valley Regional District Board; and
- other members of the *Metro 2050* Intergovernmental Advisory Committee including: in region First Nations; the Province of B.C.; the Agricultural Land Commission; Vancouver Coastal Health; Fraser Health; BC Housing; BC Hydro; University Endowment Lands; Bowen Island; City of Abbotsford; City of Chilliwack; District of Mission; Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management; Simon Fraser University; Kwantlen Polytechnic University; University of British Columbia; Vancouver Fraser Port Authority; Transport Canada; Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation; and Vancouver International Airport Authority.

E3.2 2021 Agriculture Awareness Grant Recommendations

APPROVED

Metro Vancouver has awarded grants for agriculture awareness since 2008, as recommended by the Agriculture Advisory Committee. The funding is particularly valuable now for community organizations doing public outreach on the value of producing or buying food close to home.

Metro Vancouver is providing a total of \$50,000 in Agriculture Awareness Grants to 11 non-profit organizations in 2021:

- BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation, for the "Take a Bite of B.C." project – \$6,000
- BC Chicken Growers' Association, for the "Poultry in Motion Educational Mini Barn" project – \$6,000
- Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust, for the "Agriculture and Conservation in the Fraser River Estuary Videos" – \$6,000
- FarmFolk CityFolk, for "B.C. Seed Gathering" – \$6,000
- Growing Chefs Society, for "Metro Vancouver Edible Education" – \$3,500
- Grow Local Society, for the "Power of Produce Club" – \$3,600
- Langley Environmental Partners Society, for the "Langley Eats Local" project – \$4,400
- Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Agricultural Association, for the "Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Country Fest" – \$1,500
- Open Science Network Society, for the "Digital Agriculture in Metro Vancouver" – \$3,000
- Pacific Immigrant Resources Society, for the "Needs Assessment & Educational Campaign on Food Literacy and Metro" – \$6,000
- The Sharing Farm, for the "Interpretive Signage at the Sharing Farm" – \$4,000

E3.3 Evaluation of Regional Ecosystem Connectivity Study**RECEIVED**

Habitat connectivity is a critical issue for conservation and is particularly important in urban areas where remaining greenspace is often fragmented. The recently completed *Evaluation of Regional Ecosystem Connectivity Study* evaluates the connectivity of greenspaces in the region by studying the habitat requirements of eight representative species: red-backed vole, red-back salamander, long-toed salamander, muskrat, great blue heron subspecies fannini, brown creeper, rufous hummingbird and pileated woodpecker. The study found that:

- there are more important habitat areas for connectivity for the four bird species compared to the other four mammals and amphibian species
- the largely protected areas of the North Shore mountains provide high levels of connectivity
- forest patches in between farmland are the highest ranked stepping stone patches
- there is a current lack of high-value habitat along the shorelines of many of the reaches of the Fraser River
- connectivity across agricultural areas is relatively uniform

The study is intended to be used as a high-level planning tool to help guide development and land acquisition by member jurisdictions throughout the region. The Board received the report for information.

E3.4 Metro Vancouver Tree Regulations Toolkit**RECEIVED**

This report highlights the *Metro Vancouver Tree Regulations Toolkit*, which provides guidance on regulatory tools for member jurisdictions to help preserve trees and increase tree canopy cover. Metro Vancouver commissioned Diamond Head Consulting Ltd. to develop the toolkit in response to projected tree canopy cover decline within the Urban Containment Boundary over the next 20 to 30 years, and a lack of regionally-specific guidance related to tree regulations available to member jurisdictions. The toolkit identifies the available approaches to regulate trees in British Columbia, highlights considerations for selecting appropriate tools based on the local community context, and assesses the tools that regulate both land use (e.g. zoning bylaws and subdivision and servicing bylaws) and trees (e.g. environmental development permit areas, covenants and tree bylaws). As a next step, Metro Vancouver will promote and share the toolkit to inform planning efforts at the local level.

The Board received the report for information.

E4.1 Cancellation of Provincial Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP)**APPROVED**

The Board authorized the Board Chair to write a letter to the Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and Minister of Finance, regarding the cancellation of the *Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program*, providing details on key elements to be retained in a replacement program and suggested improvements, based on the analysis in the report dated May 27, 2021.

E4.2 Next Phase of Engagement on an Open-Air Burning Emission Regulation

**RECEIVED
APPROVED**

Reducing emissions of smoke from open-air burning of vegetative debris can protect public health, air quality and our climate. Metro Vancouver completed the initial phase of engagement on a potential open-air burning emission regulation in August 2020. Feedback was generally supportive of the development of an emission regulation as a simpler process for authorizing emissions from open-air burning compared to the current site-specific approval process. Staff considered feedback and adjusted proposals presented during the initial engagement, such as simplifying record keeping and notification to neighbours and authorities, clarifying registration requirements and associated fees, and options to increase protection of the public near open-air burning activities. Details about the adjusted proposals and additional information requested during initial engagement are provided in a discussion paper, which will be used to support the next phase of engagement.

The Board received for information the summary of initial engagement on the potential emission regulation and authorized staff to proceed with additional engagement based on the draft discussion paper and updated engagement plan as presented.

E4.3 Air Quality and Climate Action Initiatives in Caring for the Air 2021

RECEIVED

Caring for the Air is Metro Vancouver's annual plain-language publication on regional climate action and air quality projects. The 2021 edition marks 10 years of *Caring for the Air* and features both a look back and a look forward. Over the past decade, Metro Vancouver improved and protected regional air quality and climate with proactive management plans, progressive regulations, comprehensive monitoring and outreach and engagement. Over the next several years, upcoming plans and programs will respond to emerging challenges such as wildfires and climate change. In 2021, staff refreshed the online format of *Caring for the Air* to be more interactive and accessible, and created a 10th anniversary promotional video. The COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated a number of modifications to promotion and distribution of *Caring for the Air*. The Board received the report for information.

E5.1 Greater Vancouver Regional Fund – 2020 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 as of December 31, 2020 in accordance with the *Federal Gas Tax Fund Expenditures Policy*. TransLink has successfully delivered the majority of the projects on or ahead of schedule with positive cost variances. Five projects are experiencing delays exceeding three months as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Approximately \$1.74 billion in funds is anticipated to contribute to the capital investments identified in TransLink's Phase Two Investment Plan for the period 2018 to 2027.

The Board received the report for information.

G1.1 MVRD Procedure Amending Bylaw No. 1322, 2021

APPROVED

In April 2021, delegations requested to speak at committee and board meetings in relation to specific contract awards. Concerns were expressed about the propriety of hearing delegations during a procurement process. To ensure the fairness of the procurement process, *Procedure Bylaw* amendments were presented wherein delegations would not be permitted if their applications relate to an ongoing contract award matter.

The Board gave first, second and third readings to *Metro Vancouver Regional District Procedure Amending Bylaw Number 1322, 2021*, then passed and finally adopted said bylaw.

I 1 Committee Information Items and Delegation Summaries

RECEIVED

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

Climate Action Committee – June 11, 2021

Information Items:

5.3 Alternatives to Agricultural Open-Air Burning in Metro Vancouver

Open-air burning of vegetative debris is a significant source of fine particulate matter and other air contaminants, including greenhouse gases, which are harmful to health and the environment. A study to investigate the benefits and barriers to using alternatives to open-air burning for managing agricultural vegetative debris in the Metro Vancouver region has been completed as part of a Sustainability Innovation Fund project. The work complements public engagement on a potential open-air burning emission regulation. Benefits of alternative waste management methods include reduced emissions of both particulate matter and greenhouse gases compared to open-air burning. Barriers for farmers in the region to using these alternative methods include cost, complexity, practical feasibility, biosecurity considerations and equipment availability.

5.6 Sectoral GHG Reduction Targets Update and Comparison

Metro Vancouver, the B.C. government and the federal government have developed emissions reductions targets for 2030 and 2050, and sector-specific targets for 2030. This report provides an update on recent changes to climate targets established by senior orders of government, and compares them to Metro Vancouver targets. While there is relatively good alignment in overall targets, there is some variation between sector targets — notably for buildings and transportation at the provincial level.

Some, but not all, of the difference is caused by different sector categories and emissions sources. In order to meet its emissions targets, Metro Vancouver has proposed a number of actions in the *Clean Air Plan* and *Climate 2050 Roadmaps* that require leadership from or strong collaboration with the B.C. government. An analysis of sectoral targets will be helpful for Metro Vancouver to work closely with the B.C. government on key actions in order to meet our respective targets.

Regional Parks Committee – June 16, 2021

Delegation Summaries:

3.1 Pierce McNeal, Canadian Pacific Trials Association

Information Items:

5.1 Kanaka Creek Regional Park Interpretive Art Mural Project

Kanaka Creek Regional Park Interpretive Art Mural Project is a multi-agency collaboration at the Fish Fence site in Kanaka Creek Regional Park that aims to address the ongoing issue of graffiti under the 240th Street bridge, connect the local community to the space and educate park visitors about the salmon life cycle and food web, and the importance of habitat conservation.

A public art specialist has been selected through an invitational call for proposals who will engage youth, seniors and community members in creating murals. All safety protocols related to COVID-19 will be followed. Anticipated completion date is spring 2022.

Finance and Intergovernment Committee – June 16, 2021

Delegation Summaries:

5.1 Nathan Davidowicz

Greater Vancouver Water District

E1.1 Drinking Water Customer Information Guide

RECEIVED

Metro Vancouver and its member jurisdictions, in collaboration with the regional health authorities, are responsible for the provision of clean, safe drinking water to the region. To aid frontline staff in answering questions from the public, Metro Vancouver has developed an updated *Drinking Water Customer Information Guide*. The guide provides information on various topics such as the overall water system, treatment processes, water quality and associated regulations and guidelines, common issues and solutions, and frequently asked questions. Given the type and category of inquiry, the guide clarifies where the inquiry should be directed if further information is required and includes contact lists for each member jurisdiction and health authority.

The Board received the report for information.

E1.2 Update on Adult Coho Release Program in Coquitlam Lake

RECEIVED

Following Board support in July 2020, GVWD partnered with Kwikwetlem First Nation, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, BC Hydro and the Port Coquitlam and District Hunting and Fishing Club to capture and transport 62 adult coho salmon from the Coquitlam River below the dam to Cedar Creek, a main tributary to Coquitlam Lake. In May 2021, BC Hydro fisheries consultants completed monitoring work in the Cedar Creek area and confirmed the success of the adult release when they found emergent coho fry in the creek. These fry are the first coho naturally spawned in the upper watershed since the original Coquitlam River Dam was

built over 115 years ago. This marks a significant milestone in salmon recovery for the Coquitlam River system and a significant cultural event for the Kwikwetlem First Nation. Metro Vancouver is proud to support this initiative.

The Board received the report for information.

I 1 Committee Information Items and Delegation Summaries

RECEIVED

The Board received an information item summary from a standing committee.

Water Committee – June 10, 2021

Information Items:

5.1 2020 GVWD Dam Safety Program Annual Update

GVWD owns and operates five drinking water supply dams that are regulated by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development Dam Safety Branch. The GVWD Dam Safety Program is compliant with the requirements outlined in the provincial *Dam Safety Regulation* (BC Reg. 40/2016) as required for all dam owners in British Columbia. There were no significant concerns identified from the 2020 routine surveillance, monitoring or formal dam inspections.

Scheduled formal dam audits were carried out by provincial Dam Safety Officers at Cleveland Dam and Seymour Falls Dam in late October 2020. Pursuant to Section 14(2)(a) of the *Dam Safety Regulation*, GVWD issued an October 1, 2020 Incident Report on October 30, 2020 and an Additional Information Report on January 29, 2021 to the Dam Safety Branch. No further actions or requests for information have been received from the Dam Safety Branch.

Greater Vancouver Sewage and Drainage District

E1.1 Board Appointments and Rescindments of Bylaw Enforcement Officers

APPROVED

Recent changes in staff have resulted in a need to update appointments as GVS&DD Board-designated municipal sewage control officers under the *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Sewer Use Bylaw*, the *Environmental Management Act* and the *Offence Act*.

The Board:

- pursuant to *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Sewer Use Bylaw No. 299, 2007* and Section 29 of the *Environmental Management Act*:
 - rescinded the appointment of former City of Vancouver employee Linda Kwan as a municipal sewage control officer; and
 - appointed Metro Vancouver employee Rei Van as a municipal sewage control officer.

- pursuant to Section 28 of the *Offence Act* for the purpose of serving summons for alleged violations under *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Sewer Use Bylaw No. 299, 2007*:
 - rescinded the appointment of former City of Vancouver employee Linda Kwan; and
 - appointed Metro Vancouver employee Rei Van.

E1.2 Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan: Biennial Reporting for 2019-2020 **APPROVED**

The Board directed staff to:

- submit the *Biennial Report: 2019-2020* as revised in Volume 1 of the *Biennial Report*, under Combined Sewer Separation, by removing paragraph two, to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy in accordance with the requirements of the *Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan*; and
- arrange for the Liquid Waste Committee to receive public comments on the *Biennial Report:2019-2020* at the September 9, 2021 Liquid Waste Committee meeting.

E1.3 Award of Contract Resulting from Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 20-350: Construction Services for the Crescent Beach Force Main Stage 3 – Phase 1 **APPROVED**

The project is to replace Crescent Beach Force Main located in South Surrey. Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 20-350 for the construction services was issued to six short-listed contractors on December 24, 2020 and closed on February 12, 2021. Three proposals were received and evaluated for technical and financial criteria. The work involves installation of approximately 1.5 km of high density polyethylene pipe, two trenchless crossings and underground cast-in-place concrete chamber.

The Board approved the award of a contract for an amount of up to \$16,564,714.06 (exclusive of taxes) to JJM Construction Ltd. resulting from RFP No. 20-350: Construction Services for the Crescent Beach Force Main Stage 3 – Phase 1, subject to final review by the Commissioner.

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

The Board received information items from standing committees.

Liquid Waste Committee – June 10, 2021

Information Items:

5.2 2020 GVS&DD Environmental Management and Quality Control Annual Report

Production of the *GVS&DD Environmental Management and Quality Control Annual Report* is a regulatory requirement under the *Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan*. This report is submitted once per year and summarizes the compliance, process control and regional environmental quality information gathered through various monitoring and risk assessment programs.

In 2020, Metro Vancouver wastewater treatment plants operated in compliance with the applicable regulatory requirements. Regional liquid waste discharges were effectively managed in a manner that is protective of human health and aquatic life.

Climate Action Committee – June 11, 2021

Information Items:

5.4 2021 Update on Liquid Waste Sustainability Innovation Fund Projects

This provides an update on 10 projects that were approved for funding in 2017 through to 2020 under the Sustainability Innovation Fund. Three projects having the most material updates are covered in the following sections. Seven of the projects that are progressing, some with work pace slowed due to COVID-19-related challenges. The *Multiphase Composite Coating for Concrete Sewers* project has achieved its first significant milestone of in-situ deployment for evaluation.

Two projects, *Microwave-enhanced Advanced Oxidation Process Sludge Destruction Pilot* and *Capture of Wastewater Contaminants of Concern and Beneficial Use of Residuals*, will not proceed to their next phase of work due to the technology not achieving performance and/or economic expectations.