

**Regional District of
Central Okanagan**

RDCO INTERIM COMMITTEE REVIEW

APRIL 17, 2025

AGENDA

- ▶ Review scope and purpose
- ▶ Legal and governance context
- ▶ History and mandate of each committee
- ▶ Present context and effectiveness review
- ▶ Policy and governance challenges identified
- ▶ Options for future governance and structure
- ▶ Recommendations and next steps

BACKGROUND AND SCOPE OF REVIEW

► PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF REVIEW

- Assessing the functioning of one standing committee and three advisory committees
- Present options and a recommended path forward to improve the structure and effectiveness of these committees.

FOUR COMMITTEES

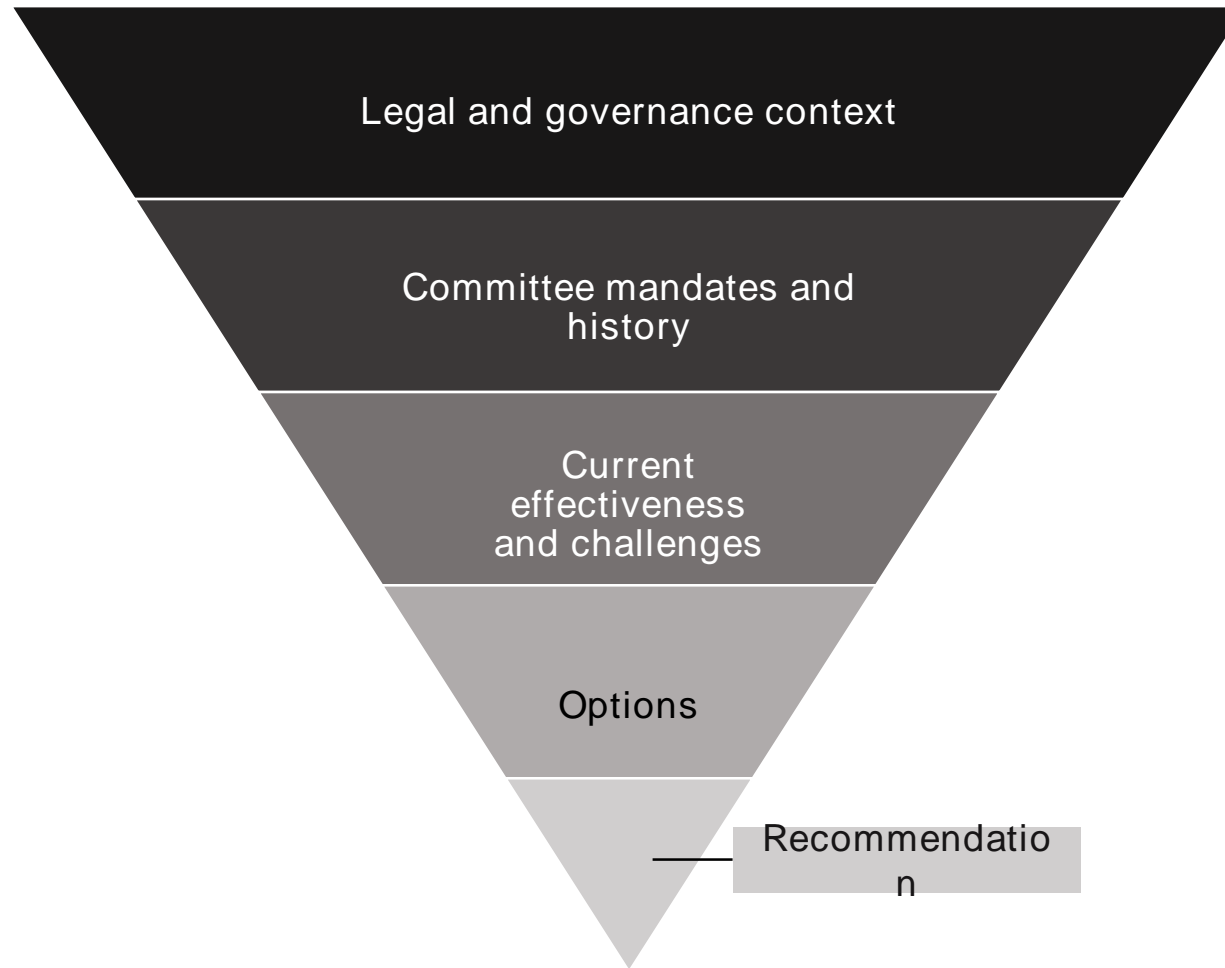
ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES
COMMITTEE (EASC)

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (AAC)

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ECAC)

PLANNING ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (PAC)

APPROACH



- ▶ REVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK
 - ▶ Legislative authority governing regional district committees
 - ▶ Difference between standing and advisory committees
- ▶ PURPOSE, MANDATE AND EVOLUTION OF COMMITTEES
- ▶ CURRENT EFFECTIVENESS
 - ▶ Interviews with committee members
 - ▶ Alignment with RDCO Strategic Priorities
 - ▶ Resource allocation and budgetary concerns
 - ▶ Comparative analysis with similar regional districts
- ▶ OPTIONS FOR FUTURE GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE
- ▶ RECOMMENDED PATH FORWARD
 - ▶ Implementation roadmap

KEY FINDINGS AND INSIGHTS

Key challenges identified in the review of each committee's Terms of Reference, interviews with committee members, alignment with RDCO Strategic Priorities, and comparison with other regional districts included:

Overlapping or redundant mandates

Engagement and effectiveness in decision-making

Capacity and resourcing constraints

Inconsistent agendas

“Getting to yes”

Legal and legislative compliance considerations

Efficiency and effectiveness of Board meetings

Orientation and launch

Mandate “altitude”

OPTIONS FOR FUTURE GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

OPTION 1: MAINTAIN CURRENT STRUCTURE WITH IMPROVEMENTS

Retain all four committees but implement governance and mandate improvements.

OPTION 2: CONSOLIDATION AND REALIGNMENT OF COMMITTEES

Merge or realign certain committees for improved efficiency and mandate clarity.

OPTION 3: DISBANDMENT OR REALLOCATION OF COMMITTEES

Disband one or more committees and reallocate responsibilities to staff or Regional Board.

OPTION 1

MAINTAIN CURRENT STRUCTURE WITH IMPROVEMENTS

Keep all four existing committees intact, but improve the effectiveness of the four committees by:

- ▶ Revising the respective Terms of Reference to provide greater clarity
- ▶ Improved reporting on outcomes
- ▶ Established evaluation metrics and monitoring

BENEFITS

- ▶ Continuity
- ▶ Retain the institutional knowledge
- ▶ Efficiency in well-established administration processes and relationships
- ▶ Greater flexibility and autonomy for committees
- ▶ Effective channel for community engagement

CHALLENGES

- ▶ Ongoing resource allocation
- ▶ Administrative effort to improve Terms of Reference and processes
- ▶ Increased time to process development applications
- ▶ Member concern they are not adding value
- ▶ Difficulty in recruiting committee members with mandate altitude clarity challenges

OPTION 2

CONSOLIDATION & REALIGNMENT OF COMMITTEES

Merge or realign committees.
Potential combinations could include:

- ▶ Combine the ECAC and AAC
- ▶ Combine the PAC and the EASC
- ▶ Integrate the ECAC, AAC and PAC into the ESAC

BENEFITS

- ▶ Reduced duplication of administrative support and potential for cost re-alignment
- ▶ Stronger policy alignment
- ▶ Larger member base and candidate pool
- ▶ Interdisciplinary advisory
- ▶ More efficient processes
- ▶ Ability to provide insight on long-term initiatives

CHALLENGES

- ▶ Transition could lead to gap in service
- ▶ Potential resistance from members and community
- ▶ Potential reduced effectiveness on specific topics
- ▶ May require additional staff support

OPTION 3

DISBANDMENT OR REALLOCATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Disband one or more of the committees and reassign tasks to RDCO staff or the Regional Board. Potential options include:

- ▶ Disband the AAC
- ▶ Disband the ECAC

BENEFITS

- ▶ Cost savings
- ▶ Improved efficiency in decision-making
- ▶ Reduced development application timelines

CHALLENGES

- ▶ Reduced public engagement on specific topics
- ▶ Reduced technical and local knowledge in decision-making
- ▶ Reduced assurance that Board decisions align with community interests

RECOMMENDED PATH FORWARD

OPTION 2 CONSOLIDATION & REALIGNMENT OF COMMITTEES

Consolidation of all four committees into a refreshed Electoral Area Services Committee, a standing committee with an expanded mandate.

- ▶ Greatest potential for increased efficiencies and cost savings.
- ▶ More interdisciplinary member base that can provide recommendations from a more holistic perspective.
- ▶ Larger committee could meet more frequently, reducing time required to review files and make recommendations.
- ▶ Enable Committee to be more involved in long-term planning and initiatives.
- ▶ Enable for more streamlined decision-making processes for the full Board.

IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP

- ▶ RDCO Board discussion and confirmation of the preferred approach
- ▶ Communication to advisory committee members and public
- ▶ Recission of previous resolutions and disband the existing advisory committees
- ▶ Review and revise the Electoral Area Services Committee Terms of Reference
- ▶ Facilitated session with EASC to review Terms of Reference and to clarify mandate
- ▶ Establish processes for staff administrative support
- ▶ Adopt new resolution creating the Electoral Area Services standing committee outlining its membership, terms of reference and mandate
- ▶ Recruit new members (as necessary per the Terms of Reference)
- ▶ Delegation and use of consent agenda

DISCUSSION

Recommendation

All Directors – Unweighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority (LGA s.208)

THAT the Regional Board approves the consolidation of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, Planning Advisory Committee and Environment & Climate Advisory Committee into the Electoral Area Services Standing Committee as presented on April 17, 2025;

AND THAT the Regional Board directs staff to report back with the amended Terms of Reference for the Electoral Area Services Committee for Board review and approval.