

Minutes of the **GOVERNANCE & SERVICES COMMITTEE** meeting of the Regional District of Central Okanagan held at Regional District Offices, 1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, BC on Thursday, March 11, 2021

Directors:

- J. Baker (District of Lake Country)
- M. Bartyik (Central Okanagan East Electoral Area)
- M. Singh, alternate for C. Basran (City of Kelowna)
- W. Carson (Central Okanagan West Electoral Area)
- M. DeHart (City of Kelowna)
- C. Fortin (District of Peachland) (*attended electronically*)
- G. Given (City of Kelowna)
- C. Hodge (City of Kelowna) (*attended electronically*)
- S. Johnston (City of West Kelowna) (*attended electronically*)
- G. Milsom (City of West Kelowna)
- B. Sieben (City of Kelowna)
- L. Stack (City of Kelowna) (*attended electronically*)
- L. Wooldridge (City of Kelowna)
- J. Coble (Westbank First Nation)

Staff:

- B. Reardon, Chief Administrative Officer
- T. Cashin, Director of Community Services
- J. Foster, Director of Communication & Information Services
- C. Griffiths, Director of Economic Development (*attended electronically*)
- D. Komaïke, Director of Engineering Services
- M. Kopp, Director of Parks Services (*attended electronically*)
- M. Rilkoﬀ, Director of Financial Services (*attended electronically*)
- M. Drouin, Manager-Corporate Services (recording secretary)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Given called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and acknowledged the meeting is being held on the traditional territory of the syilx/Okanagan peoples.

It was acknowledged that today has been declared the National Day of Observance by the Prime Minister commemorate the people who lost their lives to COVID-19 since the pandemic was declared. It was also acknowledged the death of Rolli Cacchioni, a long-time educator, community volunteer and School District No. 23 trustee.

In accordance with the most recent Provincial Health Officer Order regarding gatherings and events, the public is currently not permitted to attend Board meetings in-person.

As an open meeting, a live audio-video feed is being broadcast and recorded on rdco.com.

2. ADDITION OF LATE ITEMS

There are no late items for the agenda

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

#GS16/21

BARTYIK/BAKER

THAT the agenda be adopted.

CARRIED unanimously

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 4.1. Governance & Services Committee Meeting - February 11, 2021 & February 25, 2021

#GS17/21

HODGE/BAKER

THAT the Governance & Services Committee meeting minutes of February 11, 2021 and February 25, 2021 be adopted.

CARRIED unanimously

5. CORPORATE SERVICES

- 5.1. Air Quality Service - Update on Agricultural Chipping Program

Staff report dated March 5, 2021 outlined the Board's request for an update on the region's air quality service program – agricultural chipping program.

The program has an annual budget of \$80,000 and is used to provide chipping for large acreages and a mow/chip rental rebate component for smaller acreages. The program is oversubscribed each year and last year there were problems as the chipper broke down causing delays. The 2020 4th quarter report highlighted the statistics for the year. The chipping program has been in place since 2004.

Discussion ensued regarding the recommendation to increase funding for the program.

- Until 2016, 100% of the program was funded through taxation.
- In 2016, a user pay component was introduced, the program remains subsidized however the farmer now contributes 20% of their rental costs.
- The increase in funding will provide an increase in the hours of operation.
- It's not known how much agricultural debris is burnt versus chipped.
- The air quality program service review was completed 3 years ago.
- Need to continue to focus on education.
- The RDCO does not own a wood chipper or air curtain burner.
- Will the biomass inventory study include agriculture waste? The study has not started but is expected to include the waste.
- North and South Okanagan Regional Districts are no longer involved in a valley-wide air quality program. In the past both regional districts have stated they are not interested in continuing with the Okanagan Airshed Coalition.

#GS18/21

SIEBEN/BARTYIK

THAT the Governance & Services Committee recommend the Regional Board approve adding \$40,000 to the Air Quality - Agricultural Wood Chipping Program in 2021.

CARRIED unanimously

#GS19/21

SIEBEN/HODGE

THAT staff be directed to bring forward a report in 2021 outlining the regional air quality current service.

CARRIED unanimously

5.2. First Nations Engagement Budget Consideration

Staff report dated March 4, 2021 outlined the Board's request following the February 25, 2020 meeting to review First Nation engagement with the Okanagan's First Nations.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed allocation of funds for a feasibility study. Reconciliation is not a one-time project but ongoing and needs to be transparent. By establishing a new service workplans would be forwarded as well as budget for Board consideration. A number of key issues need to be identified: define and clarify the service, what the governance structure would be, timeframe, etc. Discussion would occur with the Okanagan Nation Alliance and Westbank First Nation through this process.

In terms of timeline, it may take 6-8 months to develop a service if that is recommended through the feasibility study and approved by the Board. If the service is established staff would be hired in 2022.

Director Stack arrived at 9:30 a.m.

The CAO outlined the process of defining and engagement in setting up a new service including approval of an establishment bylaw by the Province. There is no vote at the board table as Westbank First Nation does not have treaty agreement with the Province. WFN is its own a self-government.

A feasibility study is not done by committee but is completed by a consultant and reported to the Board. Through this process what the service may appropriately be called would be considered. The end prescriptive would come out of the study. It will be important to be collaborative throughout this process.

#GS20/21

SINGH/WOOLDRIDGE

THAT the Governance & Services Committee recommend the Regional Board approve allocating \$50,000 from the RDCO feasibility reserve fund to undertake a feasibility study in consideration of establishing a Regional First Nations Engagement Service;

AND FURTHER THAT this expense be included in this years' 2021-2025 Financial Plan.

CARRIED unanimously

6. ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

CERTIFIED TO BE TRUE AND CORRECT

G. Given (Chair)

B. Reardon (Chief Administrative Officer)