



Regional District of
Central Okanagan

Corporate Services

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Notice of Motion

"THAT the Chair write a letter on behalf of the Regional Board to Minister Josie Osborne, Land, Water and Resource Stewardship, and Minister George Heyman, Environment and Climate change Strategy, requesting assistance with the immediate removal of the abandoned houseboat currently grounded on the shore of Okanagan Lake in Bear Creek Provincial Park."

Background:

At the April 14, 2022, Regular meeting, Director Hodge provided the Board with a Notice of Motion suggesting that Chair Wooldridge write to the province regarding the removal of the abandoned houseboat on Okanagan Lake, near Bear Creek Provincial Park.

In addition to the efforts of staff to date, and the jurisdictional information provided below, the motion for the Regional Board to engage with the appropriate provincial ministries is proposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Director Hodge

Additional Information:

The RDCO has contacted the provincial government numerous times regarding the removal of a houseboat which was moored, and recently grounded at the southeast corner of Bear Creek Regional Park. The foreshore area where the houseboat is currently beached is within Bear Creek Provincial Park which falls under the jurisdiction of BC Parks.

In a recent update from BC Parks staff, the RDCO was advised that BC Parks has issued a Director's Order to the owner which specifies that the houseboat is to be removed within a specified timeframe or additional penalties or consequences may apply (e.g., fines, houseboat seized by the province). As RDCO staff understand it, a Director's Order is a legal instrument that provides discretion for enforcement, penalties, remedies, and consequences.

RDCO staff understand Transport Canada issued a moorage permit for this location approximately 15 years ago. Transport Canada monitors compliance and enforces the Navigable Waters Act which assists in keeping Canada's navigable waters open for transport and recreation.

The Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act states: "vessel owners must take measures to prevent, mitigate or eliminate hazards presented by their vessel and are responsible for all costs associated with their vessel, including salvage."