



# Regional Board Report

## Information

**To:** Regional Board

**From:** Corie Griffiths, Director of Corporate Services / Deputy CAO

**Date:** June 9, 2022

**Subject:** Regional Board Advocacy Workshop Series – Priority Setting

**Voting Entitlement:** *All Directors – Unweighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority - LGA 208*

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**Purpose:** To create an advocacy framework designed to build our organizational foundation.

### **Executive Summary:**

The effective pursuit of funding and support from senior levels of government and other potential partners helps to advance the RDCO Board's Strategic Plan priorities and address emerging issues in the region. Currently, the RDCO is advocating the use of Biosolids, Provincial 911 Call Answer Levy on Mobile Devices, Management & Protection of our Watersheds, and Waste to Energy initiatives.

Advocacy will also be an important part of the resiliency and recovery work in the region post wildfires, and in promoting a regional transportation corridor through the Okanagan Valley. Martin Bell of Urban Systems will lead the facilitation of a series of three workshops to develop a framework that will guide advocacy efforts now and into the future. The themes for each workshop are *Advocacy Education*, *Priority Setting* and *Bringing it All Together*.

The first workshop (Advocacy Education) was held on February 17, 2022. At this session Board members received a background on advocacy from those who have worked behind the scenes and in the trenches on advocacy initiatives. The workshop was designed and facilitated as conversational with a sharing of the ins and outs and the "dos and don'ts" as well as some lessons learned from successful approaches. This workshop also included the development of some guiding principles which will serve as touchstones for downstream decision-making and priority setting by the Board.

At the June 9, 2022 Priority Setting session, Martin Bell will facilitate an interactive discussion including how Regional Districts differ in mandate, focus, funding, and composition when compared to municipalities. While some elected officials are familiar with advocacy efforts on the municipal front, priority setting at a regional level differs. This workshop will help to build a shared priority and develop focal points for its advocacy.

**Recommendation(s):**

**THAT** the Regional Board receive the Regional Board Advocacy Workshop Series report from the Director of Corporate Services/Deputy CAO dated June 9, 2022 for information.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Corie Griffiths". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "C" and a distinct "G".

Corie Griffiths, Director of Corporate Services / Deputy CAO

Attachment(s):    Regional Board Advocacy Workshop Series, Advocacy Education