

Minutes of the **GOVERNANCE & SERVICES COMMITTEE** meeting of the Regional District of Central Okanagan held at Regional District Offices, 1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, B.C. on Thursday, September 12, 2013

Directors

J. Baker (District of Lake Country)
C. Basran (City of Kelowna)
J. Edgson (Central Okanagan West Electoral Area)
K. Fielding (District of Peachland)
D. Findlater (District of West Kelowna)
G. Given (City of Kelowna)
R. Hobson (City of Kelowna)
W. Gray (City of Kelowna)
P. Hanson (Central Okanagan East Electoral Area)
D. Ophus (District of West Kelowna)
L. Stack (City of Kelowna)
G. Zimmermann (City of Kelowna)

Regrets:

M. Werstuik, (Westbank First Nation)

Staff:

B. Reardon, Chief Administrative Officer
R. Fralick, Manager of Planning
M. Rilkoﬀ, Director of Finance & Administrative Services
C. Radford, Director of Community Services
B. Smith, Communications
M. Drouin, Manager - Corporate Services (recording secretary)

1. Call to order

Chair Hobson called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

2. Addition of Late Items to the Agenda

There were no late items for the agenda

3. Adoption of the Agenda

#41/13

HANSON/EDGSON

THAT the agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Adopt Governance & Services Committee meeting minutes of July 18, 2013

#42/13

EDGSON/ZIMMERMANN

THAT the Governance & Services Committee meeting minutes of July 18, 2013 be adopted.

CARRIED

5. Community Services

Environmental Planning:

5.1 OBWB collaboration and Okanagan Wetland Strategy--presentation by Anna Warwick-Sears and Nelson Jatel (Okanagan Basin Water Board)

Anna Warwick-Sears introduced the topic of collaboration between the Water Board and RDCO. Solutions to water issues are bigger than one jurisdiction.

Director Baker arrived at 8:37 a.m.

Through the OBWB grant program, the RDCO and partners have been involved in a number of projects including: sensitive habitat inventory mapping; best management practices illustrations; hydrogeological assessments and modeling of aquifer systems in the central Okanagan; stream restoration and education activities on Joe Rich Creek; the “silvopasture” project in Vernon and Oyama Creek watersheds; Okanagan Lake foreshore inventory mapping; and wetland inventory, collaboration and prioritization.

Nelson Jatel provided an update on the Okanagan Wetland Strategy and the ground water study. RDCO Community Services Planning Section is working in collaboration with the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) on a number of initiatives related to water conservation and quality, including input on the Regional Growth Strategy.

Director Stack arrived at 8:47 a.m.

Regional planning function is imperative to the strategy as it has to be bigger than Central Okanagan boundaries. The majority of funding comes from senior governments. Wetlands are the ‘kidneys’ of the environment. The Strategy is looking at emerging issues and collecting the dots between data currently available and future data.

Discussion:

- Director Baker noted that Lake Country is supporting a resolution at UBCM to get more staffing in environment offices in the Okanagan. Jatel noted they don't see a trend for increased staffing being re-routed to the environment. The answer is going to rest in new solutions to consider and dealing with constricted budgets.
- If new sources of revenue are taxed, need to ensure the funds are being directed to the areas identified.
- Are there any results back from the Joe Rich water study? The data from Joe Rich is just beginning—limited data sets available, still playing catch-up. It is imperative to share data in a meaningful way to help local government in the decisions they are required to make when it comes to development.
- Is the OBWB looking at working with local governments on storage of water, particularly high level? Storage is something that is done by individual water utilities. Storage is multi-jurisdictional as well – province, local governments, First Nations.
- Lobbying provincial representatives re: water quantity/quality affects health care.

- It is one water basin. We all have to work together to protect water sources.
- One of the issues RDCO is looking at is the emergency program for climate change including: continuity of service, adaption including catastrophic events, flood risk assessments/mapping critical to the future.

#43/13

ZIMMERMANN/FIELDING

THAT the presentation by Anna Warwick-Sears and Nelson Jatel, Okanagan Basin Water Board on the Okanagan Wetland Strategy be received for information.

CARRIED

5.2 Habitat connectivity in the Okanagan Region--presentation by Dr. Lael Parrot (UBC-O) Species at risk

Another collaborative environmental planning project that has been partially funded through RDCO is the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. The information and mapping on habitat connectivity that has been developed in conjunction with the project, together with the land use information from the Regional Growth Strategy update, has led to a partnership with UBCO to further refine habitat connectivity across the RDCO area. The objective of this project is to assist in identifying a terrestrial network of patches and corridors whose conservation or restoration may contribute to maintaining habitat connectivity for a broad range of species in the Okanagan Basin. Restoring habitat connectivity once it has been lost is considerably more costly and much less effective than conserving existing native habitat. Dr. Lael Parrot provided a presentation on identifying priority areas for conserving habitat connectivity in the Okanagan Region.

The vision of the group: maintaining ecological functional landscape in the Okanagan; support and sustain native biodiversity; maintain habitat connectivity for native species throughout the valley and with Washington State.

Why is it important to maintain natural habitats? To maintain quality of life, local ecosystem is unique to Canada, 25% of species at risk are located here. How much habitat is enough? Minimal values includes 40% of historic watershed wetland coverage; 50% native vegetation cover or more at the watershed scale to support most species and healthy aquatic system, 75% of stream lengths should be vegetated.

Director Findlater arrived at 9:22 a.m.

Some previous work has been done by Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program and the South Okanagan Conservation Program. Objective of program was reviewed as well as the method of work UBC-O is doing. Working groups are being formed which includes Washington State. Species don't know about borders – collaboration is imperative.

Discussion:

- As you do the mapping and analysis will remediation be done as well? The first step is to identify what we have in the current landscape that can be conserved.

Remediation gets into a whole other field which would need funding. This project may identify priority areas.

- How do you anticipate local governments to be involved? That is why they are here today – currently contact is with local government staff.
- The challenge in conservation is identifying where subdivisions are – what is on public lands, what is on private lands.

Director Gray arrived at 9:35 a.m.

- Important to review/look at restrictive development to protect the natural landscape. Need to look at extreme scenarios – public dialogue will be important.
- What is the timeline to present some information to staff/board? Connectivity maps – 12 to 18 months. Honor thesis available by May 2014. Larger project – simulation models – 5 year project plus.
- Important to establish environmental contacts with each of the municipalities – staff can assist with this. Important to engage with all staff, at all levels.
- Bringing First Nations in is critical at the beginning of the process and bringing in their values as well.
- This work fits in with the Regional Growth Strategy.

#44/13

STACK/BAKER

THAT the presentation by Dr. L. Parrot (UBC-O) on habitat connectivity in the Okanagan region be received for information.

CARRIED

6. Finance & Administrative Services

6.1 Quarterly Program Measures Report – Year-to-date June 30, 2013

The quarterly measures report, year-to-date June 30, 2013, Executive Summary was presented for information. Staff highlighted areas of note including:

- At the end of June budgets are on track. Budget revision will come forward in regards to capital costs.
- Restructuring of staff has occurred – existing and new staff.
- Trepanier Fire - paid on call reimbursement has been received from Ministry of Forests. Surplus has been reflected in revenues. The past practice is to top up paid on call wages to \$30 for incident and budget remainder into reserves. Reimbursement is reflective of what other fire departments are paid for response. The question was raised whether it sets a precedent to reimburse paid-on-call at this rate? The question was raised whether the Board need to approve a policy change or is this administrative in nature? Staff noted this is within the existing budget. Need to be consistent across other communities, staff to confirm that it is consistent in the region.

#45/13

OPHUS/ZIMMERMANN

THAT staff provide a report to the Board on the policy for reimbursement of paid on call emergency response for fires such as the Trepanier Fire, confirming the practice for reimbursement is consistent in the region.

CARRIED

- June Springs and Lakeshore Road – RDCO no longer issuing burn permits.

It was unclear as to why burning permits would no longer be issued to property owners in June Springs and Lakeshore Road as they are within the RDCO boundaries. There is an agreement for the City of Kelowna Fire Department to respond to fires in these two areas.

#46/13

HANSON/EDGSON

THAT staff confirm whether burning permits are being issued to property owners in June Springs and Lakeshore Fire District areas.

CARRIED

- Parks – Cottonwoods bridge delayed to 2014, funds will be redirected to the Okanagan Centre Harbor upgrade.

There was a general discussion on why the level of detail in the quarterly measures report is being provided to a Board committee. This level of detail is important but should be provided to the COA for review of each department. The information directed to the Board should be high level only, related to strategic direction and overall goals of the RDCO, what progress has been made on key objectives, what emerging issues are, early heads up on key issue and whether it would impact next years' planning, and any budget variances. As well, it would be worthwhile to focus the board's update on the three service levels: electoral, sub-regional and regional services. The detailed report is of operational in nature and should be directed to the departments and the CAO. Staff will restructure the quarterly measures report (executive summary) for the Governance & Services Committee in future updates.

#47/13

BAKER/EDGSON

THAT the quarterly measures report, Executive Summary, year-to-date June 30, 2012 be received for information.

CARRIED

Director Items

Director Gray noted that there is a 'trunk sale' at Fintry Regional Park this Sunday for those interested. He further noted that correspondence has been received regarding the 'feral cat' issue the Okanagan Humane Society volunteers are dealing with in Lake Country and beyond. It was noted that the RDCO provides funding through the regional grant in aid process for a spay and neuter program to the Humane Society.

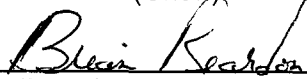
7. Adjourn to a Regular Board Meeting

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

CERTIFIED TO BE TRUE AND CORRECT



R. Hobson (Chair)



B. Reardon (Director of Corporate Services)