

**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, April 8, 2010**

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Directors:

J. Baker (District of Lake Country)  
J. Edgson (Central Okanagan West Electoral Area)  
K. Fielding (District of Peachland)  
D. Findlater (District of West Kelowna)  
K. Hayes (Central Okanagan East Electoral Area)  
R. Hobson (City of Kelowna)  
C. Hodge (City of Kelowna)  
G. James (City of Kelowna).  
D. Ophus (District of West Kelowna)  
A. Reid (City of Kelowna)  
M. Rule (City of Kelowna) *arrived at 8:40 a.m.*  
S. Shepherd (City of Kelowna)

Regrets:

L. Derrickson (Westbank First Nation)

Staff:

H. Reay, Chief Administrative Officer  
M. Kopp, Director of Parks Services  
D. Plamondon, Director of Development Services  
M. Rilkoff, Director of Administration and Financial Services  
M. Drouin, Corporate Services Coordinator (recording secretary)

1. Call to order

Chair Hobson called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. Adopt Governance & Services Committee meeting minutes of March 11, 2010

#GS26/10

BAKER/OPHUS

THAT the Governance & Services Committee meeting minutes of March 11, 2010 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Parks Services

- 3.1 Delegation: Bruce Blackwell – Blackwell & Associates – RDCO Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Staff report dated March 31, 2010 outlined the background for a community wildfire protection plan. In August 2009 Blackwell & Associates were contracted to complete a region-wide community wildfire protection plan for the Regional District. The Plan has been completed and provides 38 key recommendations under the broader headings of education and communication, structure protection, emergency response, training and equipment, fuel management and

implementation. Staff highlighted the Plan was initiated by the Province post 2003 firestorm and the Filmon report; provincial funding was administered by UBCM; operational treatments (25/75% funding split); region-wide initiative to include all of the electoral areas; identify high priority fuel management treatments in the electoral areas; and local plans for each municipality and First Nation were highlighted. UBCM funding is not available if you do not have an up-to-date Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

*Director Rule arrived at 8:40 a.m.*

Bruce Blackwell addressed the Committee providing a review of the scope of work including:

- Goals of the Plan: reduce the potential for and impact of major interface wildfire incidents.
- Enhance regional fire departments abilities to plan for wildfires.
- Problem is so large--need to be strategic and focus on the areas that pose the highest risk to the community as a whole.
- Looked at consequence: ie:urban interface, air quality and ecosystem integrity.
- Looked at probability ratings: probability of ignition, potential fire, etc.
- Map developed based on moderate to extreme consequence.
- Who is responsible—everyone is. There needs to be a wide-spread, coordinated effort.
- The only ability on private lands is to educate – to prevent ignitions, promote wildfire preparedness. There is currently no funding available for private land owners. Organizations such as OBWB, Ministry of Transport, BC Transmission Corporation, BC Hydro, etc. need to be involved in the coordinated efforts.

*Discussion:*

- Staff reviewed potential funding options – UBCM funding and partner allotment.
- Provincial government funding has either been reduced or capped. A great deal of the problem is within Crown lands. Liability is being passed on to local governments. UBCM has been working with this as well. Case law has not proved liability to date.
- Local government cannot over-ride the provincial building code ie: roofing materials. Need all levels of government, insurance companies, development involved in changing building materials.
- To a large extent the problem is on private and Crown lands. There is no funding available for private lands.
- No community in BC has dealt with this issue.
- If a large degree of the problem is on Crown land, why would a local government have to pay to address fire issues?
- Many of the recommendations are complicated, intermixed with other communities, moving forward quickly is very difficult, large budget impacts.
- There are no current resources to move this project forward.
- How long will the investigation phase last? The Regional District would need to work with municipal partners to develop an agreeable fiscal budget to work on the recommendations raised. The Province has jurisdiction on Crown lands.
- Funding commitment would be a minimal of \$500,000 annually.

- RDCO has jurisdictions in electoral areas only and through the Regional Rescue program. Not sure where this would sit in our organization as there is no specific department nor staff resources here at the RDCO.
- There is a need to find out from the municipal partners if they wish to work together or separately. Need to determine if it will be done regionally or otherwise.
- There needs to be a champion to move recommendations forward in a coordinated way.
- There needs to be a more standardized approach ie: Kaslo experience has upset some other communities. Three regional districts in the Kootenays are working together on an approach.
- There needs to be a political connection, a political process to get resources as needed.

**#GS2710**

FINDLATER/SHEPHERD

THAT the Governance and Services Committee recommend that the Regional Board receive the final draft "Regional District of Central Okanagan Community Wildfire Protection Plan" (CWPP) report dated March 2010 prepared by B.A. Blackwell & Associates Ltd;

AND THAT the draft RDCO Community Wildfire Protection Plan be shared with member municipalities, Westbank First Nation and fire departments for their review and consideration;

AND FURTHER THAT the Plan be referred to the Regional District's Regional Sustainable Steering Committee for discussion and that an electoral area director and the WFN be invited to participate in the committee discussions.

CARRIED

*ACTION:* Staff to confirm whether there is a deadline to apply for UBCM funding and whether municipalities have applied for any funding.

*ACTION:* Staff were requested to circulate Bruce Blackwell's presentation to Directors.

3.2 Delegation: Bruce Blackwell – Blackwell & Associates – RDCO Regional Parks Operational Wildfire Protection Plan

Staff report dated March 31, 2010 outlined the background for the Parks Operational Wildfire Protection plan. The Regional Board approved the creation of the Plan for parks to help direct fuel management activities in regional parks. Blackwell & Associates was contracted to complete the Plan and provide direction for fuel management and help set priority areas within regional parks. It was noted that UBCM funding is capped at \$500,000.

Bruce Blackwell addressed the Committee providing a review of the scope of work

including: objectives; priority and complexity; high priority parks with high complexity; ecological application of fuel treatments; treatment cost estimates; funding options (Natural Resources Canada-\$379,425 was received in 2009 along with UBCM-CWPP program of \$25,000 for parks). It was noted that treatments require 25-75% local government/UBCM funding ratio to a maximum of \$500,000 funding. It is estimated the plan would cost \$8.1mil over 20 years (\$405,000 per year).

It was noted that this Plan should be considered in concert with the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, in particular funding options.

**#GS28/10**

FINDLATER/EDGSON

THAT the Governance and Services Committee recommend that the Regional Board receive the draft report titled "RDCO Parks Operational Wildfire Protection Plan: An Operational Plan for Wildfire Hazard Abatement within the RDCO Parks System";

AND FURTHER THAT the Governance and Services Committee recommend that the Regional Board authorize staff to initiate the implementation of the recommendations outlined in the above plan in conjunction with the Regional Parks service program annual budget and RDCO Five-Year Financial Plan;

AND FURTHER THAT the Governance and Services Committee recommend that the Regional Board continue to support applications to UBCM, NRCAN, Service BC and other funding programs that become available to support implementation of the forest fuel treatments described in the report.

CARRIED

3.3 RDCO Regional Parks Tussock Moth Forest Treatment Project

Staff report dated March 31, 2010 outlined the background information provided to the Regional Board in 2009 regarding the impact of the Tussock Moth to regional parks. In August 2009, staff were directed to determine if there was a role for local government working with the Ministry of Forests on local infestations.

Ministry of Forests and Range is initiating a program on Crown lands. They have mapped the Crown land values that need to be treated. As part of the program, a complimentary program has been added for private property owners if they wish to have their lands sprayed. Ministry of Forests and Range staff work directly with property owners, not RDCO staff. Further to discussions with the Ministry of Forests and Range, four parks have been identified for defoliation: Steven's Coyote Regional Park, Mill Creek Regional Park, Coldham and Trepanier Greenway Regional Parks. The Regional District program is for parkland spraying only with application in late May to early June.

Staff noted that specific information on the Moth and its impact to trees, human and animals and the spray program used has been provided and is linked to the RDCO website.

#GS29/10

BAKER/EDGSON

THAT the Governance and Services Committee recommend that the Regional Board authorize staff to work in conjunction with the Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR), Forest Health Program to treat four (4) regional parks for infestation of Douglas Fir Tussock moth by helicopter aerial application of biological controls comprised of either TM Biocontrol-1 (Virus) or Foray 48B (B.t.k.) as determined by the MFR Regional Entomologist;

AND FURTHER THAT the Governance and Services Committee recommend that the Regional Board authorize staff to implement appropriate park operational plans (i.e. patron notification, park closure on day of treatment, etc.) as well as general public notification processes including, but not limited to, newspaper advertising, RDCO website and public service announcements to inform adjacent landowners and park users of the intent to apply biological control treatments to Coldham, Trepanier Creek Greenway, Mill Creek and Steven Coyote Ridge regional park properties.

CARRIED

4. Transportation

4.1 BC Transit's Strategic Plan

4.2 Transit Services Update – Steve Harvard, BC Transit

BC Transit staff were unable to attend today's meeting.

Steve Harvard provided a letter dated April 7<sup>th</sup> outlining information on BC Transit's Central Okanagan Master Plan and open houses which have been held in the region and BC Transit's Strategic Plan development. He provided a review of the RapidBus (BRT) status including: traffic signal priority measures will be tested this month with the plan to go live in May, the transit platforms will be completed by May, shelter design is being finalized with installation by September, planning is still in progress for route realignments with a target date of September and the public information sessions will be conducted once particulars have been reviewed. Specific details will be relayed to individual Councils by June.

#GS30/10

EDGSON/RULE

THAT the April 7, 2010 letter by Steve Harvard, BC Transit providing a transit service update be received.

CARRIED

5. Air Quality

5.1 Okanagan Similkameen Airshed Coalition

Nicole Marzinzik, the region's air quality staff person contracted through the City of Kelowna, noted the Okanagan-Similkameen chipping brochure needs to be updated and that there is an opportunity to apply for external funding. It was noted that the Regional District and City of Kelowna have anti-idling policies and that those should be circulated to the Coalition for their information.

#GS31/10

EDGSON/SHEPHERD

THAT the Governance & Services Committee receive the Okanagan Similkameen Airshed Coalition minutes of November 17, 2009 and February 24, 2010;

AND THAT staff provide information to the Coalition on the Central Okanagan's anti-idling policies;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to report to a future Governance and Services Committee on the proposed Central Okanagan's regional air quality anti-idling campaign;

AND FURTHER THAT the Governance and Services Committee recommends the Regional Board support the Okanagan-Similkameen Airshed Coalition's application for external funding to update brochures on chipping and air quality.

CARRIED

*ACTION:* Staff to forward to the Okanagan-Similkameen Airshed Coalition a copy of the April 7, 2010 letter from Steve Harvard, BC Transit regarding BC Transit's Strategic Plan update.

A copy of the winning entry for the Clean Air poster contest with School District No. 23. was circulated for the Committee's interest.

6. Development Services

6.1 Bylaw Dispute Adjudication Program (follow-up report)

Staff report dated March 30, 2010 outlined the background information on the bylaw adjudication program. Since late 2009 staff have further participated in meetings by the Okanagan Valley Adjudication Group and took the opportunity to explain why participation of the Regional District is not appropriate in that the program is intended for minor issues such as parking violations. The Regional District does not have a traffic bylaw and tickets are primarily issues under the dog control function. Due to the complexities in dog control service, these tickets are not suitable for the adjudication program.

Staff highlighted the dog control policies with regards to ticketing. The public has the option to dispute a ticket, and if they do, the court system is the only option. Staff are reviewing the compliance issues and actions.

#GS32/10 OPHUS/EDGSON

THAT the Regional District of Central Okanagan not participate in the Okanagan Valley Bylaw Dispute Adjudication Program;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to investigate the Okanagan Valley Program for actual costs and results in the year after its implementation.

CARRIED

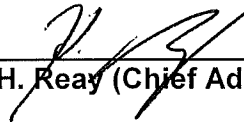
7. Adjourn to a Special Board Meeting

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

CERTIFIED TO BE TRUE AND CORRECT



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R. Hobson (Chair)



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H. Reay (Chief Administrative Officer)