

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, January 14, 2016

Directors

J. Baker (District of Lake Country)
C. Basran (City of Kelowna)
W. Carson (Central Okanagan West Electoral Area)
C. Hodge, alternate for M. DeHart (City of Kelowna)
D. Findlater (City of West Kelowna)
C. Fortin (District of Peachland)
G. Given (City of Kelowna)
T. Gray (City of Kelowna)
P. Hanson (Central Okanagan East Electoral Area)
R. de Jong, alternate for D. Ophus (City of West Kelowna)
B. Sieben (City of Kelowna)
L. Stack (City of Kelowna)

Absent:

C. Derickson (Westbank First Nation)

Staff:

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Given called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

2. ADDITION OF LATE ITEMS

No additional items for the agenda

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

#GS01/16

BAKER/GRAY

THAT the agenda be adopted.

CARRIED Unanimously

4. Adoption of the Minutes of November 12, 2015

#GS02/16

STACK/FORTIN

THAT the Governance & Services Committee meeting minutes of November 12, 2015 be adopted.

CARRIED Unanimously

5. Delegation

- 5.1 Dr. Lael Parrott, Director of the Okanagan Institute of Biodiversity, Resilience and Ecosystem Services (BRAES) at UBC-Okanagan re: Update on the works undertaken by UBC-Okanagan, Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program (OCCP) and RDCO on ecological connectivity.

Dr. Parrott addressed the Committee providing an update on ecological connectivity including:

- The project has been ongoing for a few years in collaboration with the UBC-Okanagan, Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program and the Regional District
- Goal: Be responsible stewards of natural ecosystems to protect, enhance and restore biodiversity in the region.

Director Basran arrived at 8:40 a.m.

- The problem: Loss of habitat
 - Okanagan has the highest species at risk in all of BC
- The solution: plan now to maintain ecological connectivity in the Central Okanagan.
- Restoration of habitats is exceedingly costly and more difficult to do than conservation--pro-actively planning for connectivity should be a priority.
- To date: wildlife corridor mapping, transboundary connectivity mapping, overlays with existing land use land cover and tenure, stakeholder workshop in November 2015.

Director Sieben arrived at 8:45 a.m.

- Next steps were reviewed: incorporating ecosystem services provisioning into the mapping, formation of an action team to follow-up on workshop outcomes.

Discussion:

- Within the area east of airport to the Okanagan Mountain corridor, is there urban landscape that has infringed on the corridor, and if so how do animals respond? This information is unknown as animals would need to be tracked with GPS collars to determine this.
- The Objective is that species can walk through the corridor and maintain the habitat.

Councillor Derickson arrived at 9:00 a.m.

- The project is aiming for engagement of everyone in the landscape that is affected and to be supportive.
- Recreation activities can be helpful in terms of conservation – it is not necessarily detrimental.
- Highways are major barriers to connectivity particularly when fencing is put in place to protect animals from entering the highways to protect the public. Wildlife overpasses work well but there aren't enough and are expensive to put in place.
- Moving from the research side to develop action plans.

#GS03/16

BAKER/FINDLATER

THAT the Governance and Services Committee receive for information the update on on the works undertaken by UBC-Okanagan, Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program (OCCP) and RDCO on ecological connectivity.

CARRIED Unanimously

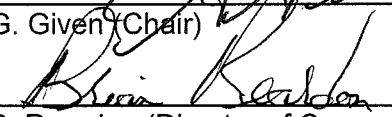
6. ADJOURN TO A REGIONAL BOARD MEETING

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

CERTIFIED TO BE TRUE AND CORRECT



G. Given (Chair)



B. Reardon (Director of Corporate Services)