



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN
GOVERNANCE AND SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA**

Thursday, March 10, 2016

8:30 a.m.

Woodhaven Board Room

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ADDITION OF LATE ITEMS

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Recommended Motion:

THAT the agenda be adopted

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 February 11, 2016 & February 25, 2016 Meeting Minutes

1 - 15

Recommended Motion:

THAT the Governance & Services Committee meeting minutes of February 11, 2016 and February 25, 2016 be adopted.

5. COMMUNITY SERVICES

5.1 Update Okanagan Wetland Strategy

16 - 17

Recommended Motion:

THAT the update on the Okanagan Wetland Strategy be received for information.

6. FINANCIAL SERVICES

6.1 Review of RDCO 2016-2020 Financial Plan

Recommended Motion:

THAT the Governance & Services Committee receive for information the updated and additional 2016-2020 Financial Plan documentation;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to bring forward any recommended amendments discussed today to the Regional Board's final budget meeting scheduled for March 31, 2016.

6.2 Public Feedback on 5-Year Financial Plan

7. ADJOURN

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, February 11, 2016

Directors
J. Baker (District of Lake Country)
C. Basran (City of Kelowna)
W. Carson (Central Okanagan West Electoral Area)
M. DeHart (City of Kelowna)
D. Findlater (City of West Kelowna)
T. Condon, alternate for C. Fortin (District of Peachland)
G. Given (City of Kelowna)
T. Gray (City of Kelowna)
P. Hanson (Central Okanagan East Electoral Area)
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
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 8:30 a.m.

2. **ADDITION OF LATE ITEMS**

No additional items for the agenda

3. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

#GS04/16

OPHUS/STACK

THAT the agenda be adopted.

CARRIED Unanimously

4. **Adoption of the Minutes of January 14, 2016**

#GS05/16

BASRAN/STACK

THAT the Governance & Services Committee meeting minutes of January 14, 2016 be adopted.

CARRIED Unanimously

5. Delegation

- 5.1 Okanagan Film Commission – Paul LaGrange, OFC Board member; Jon Summerland, Commissioner; and Anne Denman, Managing Director (Kelowna) Bardel Entertainment Inc.

Jon Summerland introduced Paul LaGrange and Anne Denman to the Committee. An overview of the Commission's funding and activities was presented.

- Regional government funding is \$199,000 (RDCO provides \$120,000 annually plus \$10,000 in-kind for office space)
- Return on investment = \$15,582,000
- 2015 wasn't as busy (no big stars) as 2014 but there are many scripts to be reviewed
- Okanagan Film Fundamentals weekend being introduced this spring (discover your role in film). Intimate symposium

Director Baker arrived at 8:37 a.m.

- Anne Denman addressed the role of animation in the Okanagan. There is a labour shortage in the Okanagan for film and animation. Training occurs in the studio setting just to fill 'seats'. Need crew that has the film fundamentals in order to be hired for work. Mid to low level crew is where shortages occur.
- Paul LaGrange addressed the funding. OFC operates on a \$200,000 budget. The Board has focused on eliminating previous deficits. OFC is now in the black, and plan to run small surpluses. Working on additional sources of revenue in order to take on new endeavors.

Director Sieben arrived at 8:42 a.m.

- Working to bring in more education elements with the College and University for animation and technology. The valley is on the cusp of new technology and is very tech savvy place.
- Level of funding request for 2016 to RDCO remains the same. The Regional District of North Okanagan has increased their funding slightly.
- Has the Board considered a higher level of financial reporting other than 'Notice to Reader' notes? The accountants have quoted on the costs of reporting at a higher level.
- Does the low American dollar impact filming? It depends, film is a fickle business, it's difficult to look beyond three months in this industry. The industry is growing because of the popularity of the region. Animation continues to grow. The Okanagan is a solid place to do business.
- Set etiquette course, with a film fundamental portion, is being held in West Kelowna this spring. 'Act Safe' certifies the course. Individuals need this course to work in the industry. It is outstanding that we are able to offer this course here.

#GS06/16

GRAY/CONDON

THAT the Governance and Services Committee receive for information the update on the Okanagan Film Commission.

CARRIED Unanimously

5.2 Central Okanagan Land Trust (COLT) – Wayne Wilson, Executive Director – Update on activities and accomplishments

Wayne Wilson was introduced to the committee and provided an update on the Central Okanagan Land Trust accomplishments in 2015.

- COLT's Mission Statement – To protect land for wildlife and parks so biodiversity and natural features are preserved for future generations.
- Funding included \$350,000 in grants leveraged to roughly \$700,000 project funding. Many funding opportunities received are available only to COLT as the funds cannot be applied for by local governments.
- Community profile and communication (social media, website) and 2015 programs (RDCO Parks 40th anniversary, Kokanee Festival) were highlighted
- Goals for 2016 include: Johns Family Management Plan – roll out of capital projects; continued work on the Mission Creek Restoration Initiative; RDCO parks liaison; capacity building (strategic plan approval, update communication plan, stakeholder liaison, succession planning, records management review and fundraising plan).

#GS07/16

OPHUS/CONDON

THAT the Governance and Services Committee receive for information the update on the Central Okanagan Land Trust.

CARRIED Unanimously

6. Community Services

6.1 Hydrometric flow data: Supporting Adaptive Management of Shared Okanagan Waters – Nelson Jatel, Okanagan Basin Water Board

Nelson Jatel provided an update on the collaborative works being undertaken by the Okanagan Basin Water Board, Okanagan Nation Alliance and the RDCO on hydrometric flow data.

Hydrometric flow stations are used to collect water flow and volume data on streams and reservoirs. There are many stations throughout the Okanagan. Data is intended to address matters such as water supply, climate change, flood hazard management, future infrastructure planning and fisheries management. A station was re-established on Shorts Creek in 2014.

Environmental flow needs and the impact to fisheries and habitat, landscape, viewscapes was outlined. Environmental flow need is critical particularly in times of drought and that is why it is imperative to manage water requirements during these times. There are three phases to the study. Phase 1 – the science in the Okanagan has been completed. Phase 2 will address how much water is needed to maintain our environment and Phase 3 will address social questions and trade-offs.

Discussion ensued:

- How will storage of water be handled in the region? Many communities are already undertaking this challenge including dam capacity, developing more expensive upper reservoir capacity.
- Highlighted the relationship with Okanagan Nation Alliance, fisheries in particular – this is a great opportunity for co-management. Protocol agreement with the ONA for this project is in place.
- There is a high snow pack this year—currently at 165% Okanagan-wide, 125% in Mission Creek. Snow pack data is delivered through the Province and fluctuates every year.
- Is there a risk to additional storage in terms of water flow into the United States? 90% of the water flow comes from the Similkameen. There is no commitment from the Okanagan to provide water to the States. There is a ‘gentleman’s handshake’ that we will ensure minimum fish flows. It is an international watershed and therefore important to be at the table. All water supply is linked.

#GS08/16

BAKER/FINDLATER

THAT the Governance and Services Committee receive for information the update on the hydrometric flow data—supporting adaptive management of shared Okanagan Waters presented by Nelson Jatel, Okanagan Basin Water Board.

CARRIED Unanimously

6. ADJOURN TO A REGIONAL BOARD MEETING

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

CERTIFIED TO BE TRUE AND CORRECT

G. Given (Chair)

B. Reardon (Director of Corporate Services)

Directors

- J. Baker (District of Lake Country)
- C. Basran (City of Kelowna)
- W. Carson (Central Okanagan West Electoral Area)
- 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)
- 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
- M. Rilkoﬀ, Director of Financial Services
- P. Rotheisler, Manager Environmental Services
- B. Smith, Communications
- M. Drouin, Manager Corporate Services (recording secretary)

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Given called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m.

2. **ADDITION OF LATE ITEMS**

No additional items for the agenda

3. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

#GS09/16

STACK/SIEBEN

THAT the agenda be adopted.

CARRIED Unanimously

3. **FINANCIAL SERVICES**

3.1 2016 Regional Grant in Aid Application Review

Directors provided their 2016 regional grant in aid allocations to be included in the 2016-2020 Financial Plan. The chart of allocations is attached to the minutes as Appendix A.

Discussion ensued regarding the future of the program. It has been determined that a review of the program will be completed in 2016 to phase out the grant program. Applicants in the future will be required to approach each municipality directly to request funding. Municipal governments have their own models for funding grants, including different deadlines. The program review will include societies that are currently funded through the Regional Parks budget eg: Friends of Fintry and Community Recreation Initiatives Society to determine whether funding should continue over the long-term. Others to be considered include the Community Gardens and the Humane Society and whether there is interest or the ability to fund as line items under current services being delivered by the Regional District.

It was noted that it is not a matter that the programs are not of value. Grant applications have become more generalized instead of specific project funding over a short period of time.

ACTION: Applicants who receive funding in 2016 will be notified the grant program is being phased out. Staff will bring forward a report to the Board following a program review on the ‘other’ societies who receive grant funding.

It was noted that Director Stack declared a conflict of interest in regards to the Seniors Outreach grant application and therefore did not participate in the decision for funding this organization.

#GS10/16

FORTIN/BAKER

THAT staff be directed to bring forward the recommended allocations to the Governance & Services Committee budget meeting scheduled for March 10, 2016.

CARRIED Unanimously

3.2 2016 - 2020 Financial Plan Review

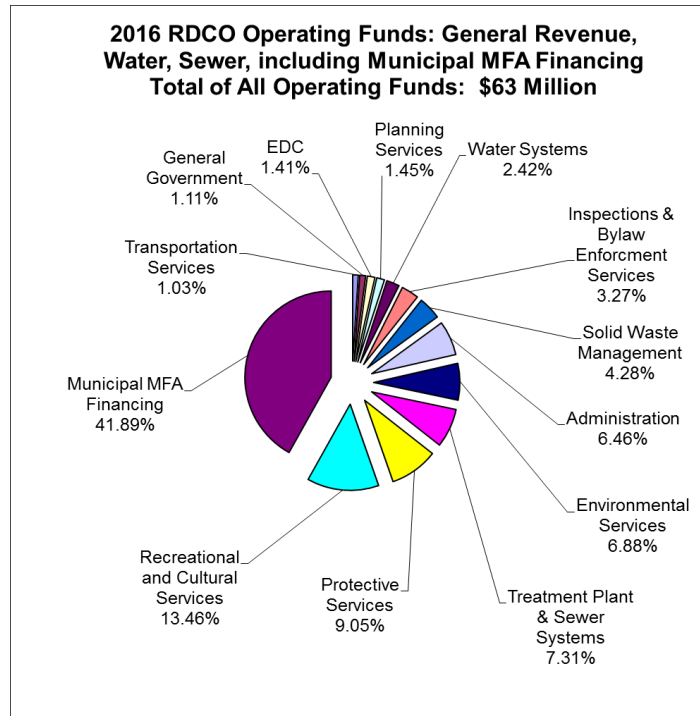
i) Director of Finance provided a review of the 2016 – 2020 Financial Plan

	2015 Total Tax per House. Avg House Value \$499,000	2016 House Value	Feb 25 Draft	
			2016 Total Tax per House	2016 Change per Avg House over 2015
Kelowna	\$175.23	\$537,000	\$176.21	\$ 0.98 0.56%
Peachland	208.24	517,000	\$197.01	\$ (11.23) -5.39%
Lake Country	201.09	524,000	\$196.00	\$ (5.10) -2.54%
West Kelowna	192.41	528,000	\$190.83	\$ (1.58) -0.82%
C. O. West	521.24	512,000	\$620.47	\$ 99.23 19.04%
C. O. East	460.03	536,000	\$498.20	\$ 38.17 8.30%

Staff reviewed the BCAA Average Assessed Value Market changes. In 2015, the BCAA house average was \$499,000; in 2016, it is \$533,000 (rounded).

The budget is a working document. Any changes proposed will be brought forward to the March 10th meeting. Further public input and adoption of the final budget occurs on March 31st.

The following chart was highlighted:



Capital budgets for 2016 are: General \$6,344,089; Water capital \$4,199,966; and Sewer capital \$939,110. The evolution of asset management was highlighted.

A chart on FTE (full-time equivalent) comparison was presented. The preliminary budget includes an increase of 2.275 FTE (in regional parks and solid waste management).

Administration overhead rates were outlined: Full Service: 14.7%; Partial Service: 9.8%; and Minimal Service 4.9%. Admin overhead is recovered for these services: Administration, Human Resources, Information Systems and Finance. Staff provided comparative admin overhead rates for member municipalities.

Sources of revenue include: tax requisitions, other revenues (ie: utilities, licenses, rentals, etc.), grants, municipal debt repayments. The Regional District does not collect taxes directly—electoral area residents pay their taxes to the Province, and municipalities collect taxes for Regional District services provided to their residents.

All services are calculated separately. Regional districts do not have one tax rate...there are different services for different areas and taxes are calculated for each individual service. Surpluses remain in the service

2016 Tax Requisitions were noted:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>
Kelowna	\$11,295,650	\$11,153,169	\$142,481
West Kelowna	\$2,785,484	\$2,779,467	\$6,016
Peachland	\$518,922	\$525,717	- \$6,796
Lake Country	\$1,194,483	\$1,163,475	\$31,009
Central Okanagan West	\$1,102,897	\$ 903,223	\$199,674
Central Okanagan East	\$768,707	\$709,855	\$58,852
Westbank First Nation	\$600,271	\$556,148	\$44,123

This equates to a range of \$176 (Kelowna) to \$197 (Peachland) for RDCO services which includes: 911, regional rescue, regional parks, dog control, economic development, Okanagan Basin Water Board, Sterile Insect Release Program, regional planning and other services.

Director Fortin noted that Peachland would like to get back into the service of mosquito control. Staff noted that a contract is just being negotiated. In order to be added to this years' budget Peachland would need to notify staff as soon as possible if they wish to be added to the service.

Staff report dated February 18, 2016 outlined if the tax impact has stayed relatively the same for a service it has not been mentioned in the report. Services where there were impacts were highlighted.

Community Services

- Mosquito control – Electoral area directors have stated they want to get out of the service
- 301-210 Water Systems
 - o Trepanier water in 2016 will clear deficits from prior years.
 - o Costs are increasing to operate water systems in all local governments
 - o It is difficult to predict when systems will break down. Older systems break down more often. Water rates have been increased to cover the actual operating costs of each system.

ACTION: Staff to provide to the electoral area directors a list of expenses for their water systems showing the increase in operating costs. Staff noted that line by line information was provided to the area residents at open houses in 2015. In addition information on why there were proposed increases in the water rates was provided. Staff is completing evaluations of projected future costs for electoral area water systems particularly fulfilling future water quality issues. Reserves are being put in place to ensure impacts are minimized in the future. The report will be circulated to the directors.

- o Fees for water historically have been too low. It is prudent to budget to cover these current and future costs.

- 401 – 472 WWTP & Collector Systems
 - o Asset renewal rate increase from 30% to 35% to be used for current debt servicing and capital reserve transfers. Operating reserve transfers to be set aside
 - o New FTE staff is to oversee the Killiney Beach water project (term 50%) and covers a leave from the engineering staff (50%).
 - o DCC costs being reduced. Looking at DCC fees in 2016 going forward.
- 092 – Westside Waste Disposal & Recycling Centre
 - o Introduction of yard waste fees in 2016
 - Staff has tracked illegal dump sites for over a decade. Community groups do clean-up and report sites. Good volunteer base in the community.
 - Are fines high enough if caught - \$150 currently. Enforcement is not traditionally done. Rely on conservation enforcement through the Province as penalties are more significant.
 - Working on update of Solid Waste Management Plan in 2016.
- 094 – Waste Reduction & Recycling Program
 - o Reduction in costs
- 095 – Solid Waste Collection (Electoral Area)
 - o Reduction in costs

Regional Planning

- 019 – Electoral Area Fire Prevention
 - o No tax requisition increase
 - o Electoral Area Directors request service withdrawal review
- 044 Building Inspection
 - o COE-COW do not want increase in tax requisition for this year
 - o Budgeted conservatively for permit revenues
- 121 – Ellison Heritage
 - o Increase in funding is due to a request in Ellison for a skating rink (depends if gas tax funds are eligible for a project such as this)

The committee recessed at 10:40 a.m., and reconvened at 10:50 a.m.

Director Stack left the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

- 142 Regional Parks
 - o Requisition increase of \$200,000
 - o Increase of full-time equivalent staff of 1.8

- M. Kopp outlined in staff report dated February 16, 2016 a proposal for regional parks.
- o In Nov 2014 report identified that the regional parks system required increased financial support for operations and capital development projects.
 - o A list of 2015 project enhancements totaling \$950,000 was highlighted.
 - o Park land capital investments totaled \$4,363,456.
 - o The proposed regional parks budget operating expenses represent a 2.1% increase from 2015, an increase of \$73,711.

- 2016 expenditure proposed:
 - o Operations 30%
 - o Park land acquisition 35%
 - o Capital Equipment 2%
 - o Land acquisition and debt services 21%
 - o Transfer to capital reserves 12%

Further optional operational programs totaling \$235,050, plus admin overhead of \$34,552 totaling \$269,602 was outlined.

- o \$87,315 trails infrastructure plan
- o \$23,284 Glen Canyon Regional Park geotechnical hazard assessment
- o \$40,145 park social media outreach program – ipark navigator app (initial costs only)

Director Baker left the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

- o \$22,940 volunteer in parks program development and volunteer recognition events
- o \$87,315 Mission Creek Park Management Plan
- o \$8,602 Mission Creek Greenway Bike Share Project
- o Totals: \$270,000 or a tax increase of approximately \$3.50 per home

Discussion:

-The Trail & Infrastructure Master Plan project for \$76,000 is of particular importance to enable staff to have detailed information available to be able to apply for grant funding opportunities as they arise to assist with future projects.

-Debt payments end in 2019. When debt payments end the Board may decide to shift and transfer more monies into development. Currently only transferring \$1.3mil for capital facilities reserves.

-\$3.4mil in land acquisition to be completed in 2016.

-Cannot do both—acquire and develop projects—in one year.

-Surpluses are not budgeted 2017 forward – current \$400,000 surplus – the result is a potential tax increase in the future.

-There is only \$200,000 in operating reserve that could help smooth future tax increases.

-Is there a clear understanding to move to development versus acquisition?

-Programs are good but are too ambitious in one year. Slow it down, complete projects that are protecting our assets. Need to phase additional programs over a longer period of time.

-Are there options to consider? Reduce amount to reserve and redirect it back to operating in the budget. For example, use \$76,000 plus OH to complete the Master Plan.

-If possible modify security costs but don't exceed current level.

#GS11/16

OPHUS/BASRAN

THAT the Governance & Services Committee recommends a change to the regional parks budget: a reduction in transfer to capital facilities reserves to fund the \$76,000 project for the completion of Regional Parks Trails & Infrastructure Development Master Plan in the operating budget.

CARRIED Unanimously

Corporate Services

- 008 Central Okanagan West Electoral Area
 - o Includes service review costs

Sterile Insect Release – staff have not received their requisition to date. It will be added to the budget when received.

046 - Dog Control

- o \$60K added to operating reserves
- o \$200,000 in capital reserves
- o Moving toward 55% taxpayer subsidy with a goal to become more user pay
- o \$5,000 has been added to the contribution to SPCA. Their request was for an additional \$13,000.

105 - Noise Control

- o Electoral Area Directors considering withdraw from the service.
- o Bylaw enforcement responds to complaints received during work hours.
- o Kelowna Dirt Bike Club consent order in place. Would need to seek a legal opinion to determine if Order remains in place should the service be discontinued in Central Okanagan West Electoral Area.
- o If no noise bylaw – no complaints would be responded to.
- o EA Director believes RCMP can respond to complaints.
- o Review of service would require further funds and would look at all aspects of the service.
- o Public consultation should occur if this service is to be disbanded.

ACTION: Electoral Area Directors to discuss if they want to add funds for a service review and notify the CAO within the next couple of days.

120 - Economic Development Commission

- o Requisition staying the same
- o Decrease to operating costs, Operation reserve of \$20,000
- o Capital carry forward \$20,000 – software project carried forward

Regional Board

001 – Board

- o Set up operating reserve of \$30K
- o Transfer \$10K to regional feasibility study reserve
- o Capital \$29K

Starling Control Funding

- o Currently a 3 year bylaw (final year is 2016)
- o Consider a longer term when the bylaw is renewed.

Staff provided an overview of the 2016 proposed transfers to operating reserves.

iii. Public Comment on 2016 – 2020 Financial Plan

It was noted that in the past public comment was received only on final budget date. Public comment has been added to each of the two preliminary budget meetings as well as the final meeting on March 31st when the budget is approved. The public is encouraged to provide any feedback if they so wish.

Chair Given asked if there was anyone in the gallery who wished to comment on the preliminary budget. There was no comment from the public.

iv. Recommendations to move forward to the March 10, 2016 Budget Meeting

#GS12/16 FORTIN/FINDLATER

THAT the Governance & Services Committee receive for information the 2016-2020 Financial Plan documentation;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to bring forward any recommended amendments discussed today to the Governance & Services Committee budget meeting scheduled for March 10, 2016.

CARRIED Unanimously

6. ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

CERTIFIED TO BE TRUE AND CORRECT

G. Given (Chair)

B. Reardon (Director of Corporate Services)

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN

2016 REGIONAL GRANTS IN AID REQUESTS - Amounts to be recommended to the Regional Board for budget

* new organization request

	Kelowna	Peachland	Lake Country	West Kelowna	Electoral Area Cent. OK West	Electoral Area Cent. OK East	Total for approval	Total Request
Arts Council of the Central Okanagan	10,000	300	1,232	0	0	0	\$11,532	\$18,750.00
BC Schizophrenia Society	7,500	200	600	1,000	500	0	\$9,800	\$20,000.00
* BrainTrust Canada Association	3,370	200	312	0	0	0	\$3,882	\$4,750.00
Canadian Mental Health Association (Kelowna)	10,000	200	0	1,000	0	0	\$11,200	\$25,000.00
Central Okanagan Community Gardens	20,000	100	1,500	5,571	0	0	\$27,171	\$35,000.00
Children's Festival Society	0	100	1,131	1,000	0	0	\$2,231	\$5,000.00
Freedom's Door (Resurrection Recovery Resource Society)	0	200	0	0	0	0	\$200	\$35,000.00
Hands In Service	8,000	200	0	0	0	0	\$8,200	\$15,000.00
John Howard Society	12,000	500	300	0	500	0	\$13,300	\$31,800.00
Kelowna Art Gallery	0	200	0	2,740	0	0	\$2,940	\$5,000.00
Kelowna and District Society for People In Motion	5,000	100	822	1,990	500	0	\$8,412	\$12,500.00
* Kelowna Family Services Centre Society	0	200	0	0	0	0	\$200	\$10,000.00
Kelowna Women's Shelter	2,000	500	0	796	500	0	\$3,796	\$5,000.00
NOW (New Opportunities for Women) Canada Society	22,000	400	0	2,500	0	0	\$24,900	\$39,930.00
Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs	0	200	0	0	328	0	\$528	\$1,100.00
Okanagan Humane Society	3,500	200	329	796	98	0	\$4,923	\$5,000.00
Project Literacy Kelowna Society	5,000	250	200	1,592	0	0	\$7,042	\$10,000.00
Seniors Outreach and Resource Centre	10,000	200	0	0	0	0	\$10,200	\$24,000.00
Westside Celebration Society (Westside Daze)	1,000	100	0	0	55	0	\$1,155	\$2,300.00
Total Grants requested	119,370	4,350	6,426	18,985	2,481	0	\$151,612	\$305,130
Administration Overhead	5,849	213	315	930	122	0	\$7,429	
Totals	125,219	4,563	6,741	19,915	2,603	0	\$159,041	\$305,130
Tax Rate (per \$1000 of assessment)	0.0036	0.0034	0.0021	0.0026	0.0027	0.0000		

UPDATED: Feb. 25, 2016

	REQUISITION	ASSESSMENTS
REGIONAL BOARD	10,000	4,850,317,458
APPORTIONMENTS		
City of Kelowna	7,095	3,441,463,905
District of Peachland	280	135,699,877
District of Lake Country	657	318,813,726
District of West Kelowna	1,592	772,053,360
Electoral Area C.O. West	196	94,904,767
Electoral Area C.O. East	180	87,381,823

cok	peach	lc	wk
7,095	280	657	1,592

Overhead Rate 0.049

4,850,317,458

City of Kelowna	3,441,463,905
District of Peachland	135,699,877
District of Lake Country	318,813,726
District of West Kelowna	772,053,360
Electoral Area C.O. West	94,904,767
Electoral Area C.O. East	87,381,823

Res. Tax Rate

0.0002

cow

196

coe

180



Governance & Services Committee

TO: Governance and Services Committee

FROM: Ron Fralick
Planning Manager

DATE: March 1, 2016

SUBJECT: Update on the Okanagan Wetland Strategy activities and next steps.

Purpose: To update the Governance & Services Committee on the status of the Okanagan Wetlands Strategy – Phase II activities facilitated through the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB).

Executive Summary:

The RDCO is a partner in the collaborative approach to wetlands management in the Okanagan. Wetlands provide unique and critical habitat for many rare plant and wildlife species and also provides valuable ecological services. Phase I of the Okanagan Wetlands Strategy focused on data collection, outreach and mapping of Okanagan wetlands. Phase II focuses on collaboration with Okanagan organizations to assist in wetland outreach and extension work including the management of hands-on wetland projects throughout the Okanagan.

Don Gayton, Contract Project Manager, Okanagan Wetland Strategy, will provide an overview of wetland education and restoration activities and anticipated next steps.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the presentation on the Okanagan Wetlands Strategy be received for information.

Respectfully Submitted:

Ron Fralick, MCIP, RPP
Manager of Planning

Prepared by: Margaret Bakelaar, Environmental – Land Use Planner

Approved for Committee's Consideration

Brian Reardon, CAO

Implications of Recommendation:

Strategic Plan:	The Regional Board has articulated in the Strategic Plan that responsible environmental protection and water stewardship is a goal and that the RDCO should be a region with protected bio-diversity throughout. It also identifies the Board's desire to be "a region that is a recognized leader and innovator on many fronts (environmental, social, community, economic, government, etc.); and "[contribute] to a safe and healthy environment for residents, visitors and future generations, while maintaining and promoting a balance of responsible environmental protection". The Okanagan Wetlands Strategy addresses this strategic direction.
Policy:	A goal of the Regional Growth Strategy is to manage and protect water resources. A policy is to continue in partnership with the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) and regional partners to encourage valley wide cooperation and coordination regarding the conservation of water and protection of all water sources.
Legal/Statutory Authority:	The <i>Local Government Act</i> , Part 14 Planning and Land Use Management enables local government to develop policies through Official Community Plans relating to the preservation, protection, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment, its ecosystems and biological diversity.

Background:

Wetlands provide unique and critical habitat to a broad range of plant and wildlife species, including many species at risk. Wetlands also have numerous functions and values (ecological services) such as supporting biodiversity, water purification, flood protection, storm water management, groundwater recharge, and erosion control as well as providing a source for recreation and education.

Wetlands are rare in the arid climate of the Okanagan and have been heavily impacted by development including: urban growth, agriculture, changes in the hydraulic regime, fragmentation of the land base and climate change. According to local studies it is estimated that 84% of low elevation wetlands in the Okanagan and lower Similkameen valleys have been lost and wetlands continue to be lost at a rate of 1.4%/year.

The RDCO is an ongoing partner in the development of the Okanagan Wetland Strategy which provides a foundation for and coordination of education, conservation, and restoration efforts on Okanagan wetlands. Phase I focused on data collection, outreach, inventory and mapping of Okanagan wetlands. The Phase II focus is to encourage collaboration, develop extension material and manage wetland restoration projects. The presentation will provide an overview of wetland education and restoration activities and anticipated next steps.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Financial; Alternatives; Organizational Issues; External Implications