

To: CAO for the Electoral Area Services Committee
From: Jaime Reilly, Acting Director of Corporate Affairs/
Corporate Officer

Date: 2019-11-14
File No: 1390-20

Subject: Video Web Streaming of Electoral Area Services Committee meetings

RECOMMENDATION

OPTION 1:

THAT the Electoral Area Services Committee approve the addition of video web streaming for Electoral Area Services Committee meetings.

OPTION 2:

THAT the Electoral Area Services Committee maintain the status quo of not video web streaming Electoral Area Services Committee meetings.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

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BACKGROUND

In May 2014, the FVRD Board directed staff to assess the feasibility and cost effectiveness of video web streaming FVRD Committee and Board meetings. Following an assessment, video web streaming for the Fraser Valley Regional District Board meetings was implemented in late 2014.

The Board also provided direction at the same time that consideration of video web streaming for the Electoral Area Services Committee (EASC) meetings be left for future consideration. In recent months, several board directors have inquired about the possibility of including web streaming of committee meetings.

DISCUSSION

For local governments, video web casting is quickly becoming an essential tool for citizen engagement and a way of improving access to meetings for the public living in rural areas.

Video web streaming of EASC meetings would allow the public to watch live committee meetings as they happen, or watch previous meetings after they have taken place. The public can access the video

web casting on the FVRD website, through the convenience of their laptop or mobile device. Providing video web streaming would allow the FVRD to reach a broader audience, particular those who would have difficulty attending the EASC meetings during business hours.

In addition, video web casting of EASC meetings would also allow FVRD staff members to follow along with the meetings from their desktop computers. In the case of longer EASC meetings, this means that they would only need to appear at the meeting when their agenda item is going to be discussed, maximizing staff time.

COST

The existing hardware and web software used to provide video web streaming of the FVRD Board meetings can accommodate the video web streaming of EASC meetings with no additional costs or staff time.

CONCLUSION

Following the successful implementation of video web streaming of FVRD Board meetings in 2014, staff are now seeking the Committee's direction on implementing video web streaming for future Electoral Area Services Committee meetings.

COMMENTS BY:

Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services

Reviewed and supported.

Jennifer Kinneman, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed and supported.