

**FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT
REGIONAL AND CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE
OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, January 10, 2018
9:00 am
FVRD Boardroom, 45950 Cheam Avenue, Chilliwack, BC

Members Present: Director Jason Lum, City of Chilliwack, Chair
Director Pam Alexis, District of Mission
Director Ray Boucher, Electoral Area F
Director Henry Braun, City of Abbotsford
Director Bill Dickey, Electoral Area D
Director Alec Niemi, Electoral Area C
Director John Van Laerhoven, District of Kent
Director Leo Facio, Village of Harrison Hot Springs
Director Terry Raymond, Electoral Area A
Director Chuck Stam, City of Chilliwack

Regrets: Director Sharon Gaetz, City of Chilliwack
Director Patricia Ross, City of Abbotsford
Director Wilfried Vicktor, District of Hope

Staff Present: Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer
Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services
Barclay Pitkethly, Director of Regional Programs
Stacey Barker, Deputy Director of Regional Programs
Jennifer Kinneman, Manager of Corporate Affairs & Strategic Communications
Alison Stewart, Manager of Strategic Planning
Jaime Schween, Manager of Corporate Administration
Matthew Fang, Network Analyst I
Amanda Molloy, Executive Assistant to CAO and Board
Cathy Squires, Executive Assistant
Chris Lee, Recording Secretary

Also Present: Director Al Stobbart, Electoral Area G

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lum called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA, ADDENDA AND LATE ITEMS

FACIO/NIEMI

THAT the Agenda, Addenda and Late Items for the Regional and Corporate Services Committee Open Meeting of January 10, 2018 be approved;

AND THAT all delegations, reports, correspondence and other information set to the Agenda be received for information.

[RACS 2018-001]

CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Agricultural Economy in the Fraser Valley Snapshot Update

Alison Stewart, Manager of Strategic Planning gave a presentation providing an overview of the *Agricultural Economy in the Fraser Valley Regional District*. She pointed out that Agriculture is a 21st Century industry and that Agriculture is a key component of the FVRD's economy. She reported that the Snapshot Update looks at Agriculture from an economic perspective rather than merely an inventory of agricultural commodities and incorporates the recently released 2016 Census of Agriculture results and findings of the *Fraser Valley Regional Adaptation Strategies* and the *Freshet Flooding and Fraser Valley Agriculture Study*.

The following key points were noted in the presentation:

High Level Overview

- Based on the 2016 Census of Agriculture there are 2576 farms reported in the FVRD;
- Total farm area: 61,236 hectares;
- Of total Lower Mainland farm area, 61% are located within FVRD

Economic Driver

- FVRD is #1 in BC - total gross farm receipts - \$1.5 billion;
- 31% increase from 2011;
- \$500 million more than Metro Vancouver and \$162 million more than the rest of BC combined;
- Generating an estimated \$3.1 billion of economic activity in the FVRD;
- Creating 18,000+ direct in indirect FTE jobs;
- Supports industries – food processors, transporters, wholesalers, suppliers, retailers, manufacturers, and other food services

Challenges

- Climate Change Adaptation (wetter winters and drier/hotter summers);
- Increasing land costs;
- Internal/external economic pressures (cost of goods & services, labour force and commodity prices)

Data pertaining to FVRD farm business operating expenses (2010 - 2015) was also presented and it was noted that Agriculture in the FVRD is a diverse industry.

Comments were provided by members and it was proposed that this informative presentation be also delivered at the Board meeting.

4. MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Minutes of the Regional and Corporate Services Committee Open Meeting - December 12, 2017

STAM/BOUCHER

THAT the Minutes of the Regional and Corporate Services Committee Open Meeting of December 12, 2017 be adopted.

[RACS 2018-002]

CARRIED

5. CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION

5.1 Boardroom Improvements Update

CAO Paul Gipps reported that over the coming months, improvements to the Boardroom will take place which will include new flooring for the Boardroom, a new and modern circular Boardroom table to be installed to enable better visibility, as well as technology changes to address ongoing challenges with the audio system and desktop microphones.

5.2 Proposed Amendment to FVRD Travel and Other Expenses Policy

Mr. Gipps reported that proposed amendments to the Travel and Other Expense Policy have been made to provide an option for Directors to take a per diem while on conference or FVRD business, as quite often the meals at conferences are costly and this option will prove to be more cost effective. The proposed Policy also amends the frequency for submission of claims. Clarification was sought regarding long distance automobile travel and allocation of costs based on interactions between Directors and staff time.

FACO/ALEXIS

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board adopt the amended draft Travel and Other Expenses Policy.

[RACS 2018-003]

CARRIED

5.3 Installation of Bike Maintenance Station at FVRD/Chilliwack Fire Office

The report dated January 10, 2018 from the Director of Financial Services pertaining to the installation of a bike maintenance station at the FVRD/Chilliwack Fire office was provided for information.

6. FINANCE

No items.

7. REGIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

7.1 REGIONAL PARKS

7.1.1 December 29th Ice Storm

Barclay Pitkethly, Director of Regional Programs reported that there was insignificant damage to regional parks during the December 29th ice storm compared to the last ice storm a couple of years ago. It was noted that some parks remain closed due to safety issues. No extraordinary expenses are anticipated from this recent ice storm.

7.2 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND INITIATIVES

Refer to item 3.1

7.3 E911 AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

7.3.1 Dispatch Call Volumes during the December 29th Ice Storm

Dave Philp, Manager of E911 and Information Technology provided a verbal update on the recent December 29th ice storm. He reported that in the morning around 11 am the dispatcher on duty noticed that the weather was changing rapidly and called in another dispatcher. As the weather got worse, additional dispatchers were called in and altogether there were 5 dispatchers on duty and the 3 dispatch stations were running full scale. An all time record of close to 1,000 calls were received on that day. Mr. Philp noted that a typical busy day would see 250 – 300 calls.

Staff was commended for stepping up and doing an extraordinary job and it was proposed that some form of appreciation be arranged to portray the Board's gratitude and to say thank you to the dispatch team.

In conjunction with that, Director Niemi reported that during the ice storm in Area C, BC Hydro attended to calls immediately and that although the Ministry of Transportation and Highways

cleared the highways, the side streets were not taken care off and residents were unable to get out. He would like this concern to be brought up with the Ministry.

9. REPORTS BY STAFF

None

10. REPORTS BY DIRECTORS

Director Niemi reported that they now have a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet in Electoral Area C!

Director Raymond reported that he received a phone call from a resident about a 10 year old boy who fractured his arm and broke a femur and after 5 hours at the local hospital he was finally attended to and sent home. The next morning at 9 am he was brought to the Abbotsford Regional Hospital and was attended to at 5:30 pm and operated on the next day. Director Raymond expressed dissatisfaction with the wait time and that he was not impressed with Fraser Health.

Director Alexis reported concerns regarding late agenda items for Board meetings and noted that receiving the items the day before the meeting makes it for difficult for meeting preparation. She referred to the December Board meeting in particular where a large amount of information was provided at the last minute. Mr. Gipps responded that staff will take note of this and will endeavour to rectify this concern.

Director Niemi also reported that he has received a number of calls from residents in his area regarding difficulty placing seniors in extended health facilities due to their rural location.

11 PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD FOR ITEMS RELEVANT TO AGENDA

None

12. ADJOURNMENT

ALEXIS/FACIO

THAT the Regional and Corporate Services Committee Open Meeting of January 10, 2018 be adjourned.

[RACS 2018-004]

CARRIED

The Regional and Corporate Services Committee Open Meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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Director Jason Lum, Chair

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