



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

Thursday, March 13, 2025
10:00 am

In person at FVRD Boardroom, 4th Floor, or by Zoom Conference Call
45950 Cheam Avenue, Chilliwack, BC V2P 1N6

- Members Present:**
- Director Patricia Ross, City of Abbotsford, Chair
 - Director Chris Kloot, City of Chilliwack, Vice Chair
 - Director Cory Cassel, Electoral Area G
 - Director Bill Dickey, Electoral Area D
 - Director Leo Facio, Village of Harrison Hot Springs
 - Director Paul Horn, City of Mission *(Zoom)*
 - Director Patti MacAhonic, Electoral Area E *(Zoom)*
 - Director Ken Popove, City of Chilliwack
 - Director Sylvia Pranger, District of Kent
 - Director Ross Siemens, City of Abbotsford *(Zoom)*
 - Director Victor Smith, District of Hope *(Zoom)*
 - Director Mel Waardenburg, Electoral Area C
- Staff Present:**
- Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer
 - Stacey Barker, Deputy CAO/Director of Regional Services
 - Kelly Lownsbrough, Director of Corporate Services & CFO
 - Jaime Van Nes, Director of Legislative Services/Corporate Officer
 - Lauren Olynick, Deputy Corporate Officer
 - David Urban, Manager of Integrated Planning & Engagement
 - Christina Vugteveen, Manager of Parks
 - Alison Stewart, Manager of Strategic Planning
 - Sam Piper, Manager of Communications
 - Beth Klein, Controller/Deputy CFO *(Zoom)*
 - Melanie Jones, Accountant *(Zoom)*
 - Kinga Al-Mubarak, Accountant *(Zoom)*
 - Theresa Alexander, Planner I *(Zoom)*
 - Joel Niezen, Support Technician
 - Amanda Molloy, Administrative Manager
 - Keely Hill, Executive Assistant *(recording secretary)*
- Also Present:**
- Director Peter Adamo, Electoral Area B *(Zoom)*
 - Director Hugh Davidson, Electoral Area F *(Zoom)*
 - Director Taryn Dixon, Electoral Area H *(Zoom)*
 - Director Diane Johnson, Electoral Area A *(Zoom)*

1. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Chair Ross provided introductory remarks recognizing the homeland of the 31 First Nations located within the Fraser Valley Regional District.

2. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:01am.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA, ADDENDA AND LATE ITEMS**

Moved By FACIO
Seconded By PRANGER

THAT the Agenda, Addenda and Late Items for the Regional and Corporate Services Committee Open Meeting of March 13, 2025 be approved;

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

CARRIED

4. **MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING**

4.1 Draft Regional and Corporate Services Committee Meeting Minutes - February 13, 2025

Moved By KLOOT
Seconded By POPOVE

THAT the Minutes of the Regional and Corporate Services Committee Open Meeting of February 13, 2025 be adopted.

CARRIED

5. **MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**

5.1 Motion brought forward from Director Patti MacAhonic, Electoral Area E regarding Choose Team Canada Approach in Response to US Tariffs and Buy Local Imperative

Moved By MACAHONIC
Seconded By SMITH

WHEREAS

1. President Donald Trump has imposed unilateral 25% tariffs on Canadian exports to the US, and further punitive tariffs in the event of any Canadian **retaliation, Trump's tariffs are anticipated to destabilize the North American trading block and Canadian economy;**
2. **Experts suggest Trump's tariffs could cost the Canadian economy \$275 billion in GDP by 2030 and more than 200,000 in lost jobs;**
3. On February 2, while proposing a temporary pause to his tariff agenda, President Trump reiterated his desire to see Canada become part of the **United States. "What I'd like to see— Canada become our 51st state,' Trump said in the Oval Office when asked what concessions Canada could offer to stave off tariffs.";**
4. **Prime Minister Trudeau has announced the federal government's response to any Trump tariffs with phased and targeted retaliatory tariffs, and a consumer call to action urging Canadians to "choose Canada";**
5. Provincial, territorial, municipal, regional, and First Nations governments from coast to coast are united in a collective Team Canada approach to respond to US economic threats and aggression;
6. **Canada's premiers have** agreed to measures to strengthen internal trade and economic cooperation, and in BC, Premier Eby has suggested Crown Corporations halt buying American goods and services and instead buy Canadian goods and services first;
7. In response to tariff threats the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade (GVBOT) has challenged B.C. politicians of all political stripes to adopt a three-per-cent annual GDP growth target; and
8. The benefits of buying local are well documented, according to Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses (CFIB), 66 cents on average stay local for every dollar spent at a local business as the greatest share goes to procuring goods from other local, independent businesses, while according to the Independent BC report local businesses return 63% of revenue back in **BC's economy compared to 14% for multi-national companies**, and local independent businesses contribute to more vibrant Local Shopping Areas and play an important role in the livability and sustainability of the Fraser Valley Regional District electoral areas, municipalities and neighbourhoods.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

1. **THAT** the Fraser Valley Regional District Board direct staff to support Canadian businesses in a "Buy Canadian" strategy, purchasing goods and services that

are based in Canada, while ensuring compliance with all applicable trade agreements and procurement practices with specific value thresholds.

Discussion ensued with respect to the preamble whereas clauses included in the Notice of Motion, resulting in the following amendment being brought forward:

Moved By PRANGER
Seconded By KLOOT

THAT the main motion be amended by striking the preamble whereas clauses from the motion.

CARRIED

Discussion ensued and the question was called on the main motion as amended:

Moved By MACAHONIC
Seconded By SMITH

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board direct staff to support Canadian **businesses in a “Buy Canadian” strategy, purchasing goods and services that are based in Canada, while ensuring compliance with all applicable trade agreements and procurement practices with specific value thresholds.**

CARRIED

6. LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

6.1 Board Direction on Updates to the FVRD Board and Committee Procedures Bylaw

Discussion ensued with respect to options for updates to the FVRD Board and Committee Procedures Bylaw. The Committee provided direction on updating the procedures bylaw to include the option for determining the results of an election for Chair and Vice Chair to include two rounds of tie voting before determining election results by way of draw by lot. The Committee also discussed the meeting start time for FVRD Board meetings and concerns were raised regarding daytime meetings and possible conflicts for some member municipalities. Comments were offered noting a preference to changing the FVRD Board meeting start time to coincide with the 2026-2030 Board term. Further comments were offered by the Committee regarding the timeline required for distributing agendas prior to all FVRD Committee and Board meetings.

Moved By FACIO
Seconded By DICKEY

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board provide direction to staff in preparation of updates to the Fraser Valley Regional District Board and Committee Procedures Bylaw.

CARRIED

7. **FINANCE**

7.1 **2024 - 2028 Financial Plan Bylaw Amendments**

Moved By KLOOT
Seconded By POPOVE

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board give three readings and adoption to the bylaw cited as *Fraser Valley Regional District 2024-2028 Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1777, 2025*.

CARRIED

8. **REGIONAL SERVICES**

8.1 **REGIONAL PARKS**

8.1.1 **Trans Mountain Tower Site Licence Agreement - Sumas Mountain Regional Park**

Moved By CASSEL
Seconded By HORN

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board authorize its signatories to enter into a five year Tower Site Licence Agreement with Trans Mountain Pipeline ULC for the purpose of continuing the placement of an existing communication tower located in Sumas Mountain Regional Park.

CARRIED

8.2 **STRATEGIC PLANNING AND INITIATIVES**

8.2.1 **BC Transit - North of Fraser Public Engagement**

The staff report dated March 13, 2025 by Theresa Alexander, Planner I was provided for information.

9. ADDENDA ITEMS/LATE ITEMS

No items

10. REPORTS BY STAFF

No items

11. REPORTS BY DIRECTORS

No items

12. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD FOR ITEMS RELEVANT TO AGENDA

No questions were asked online or in person and no written correspondence was received.

13. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING

Moved By FACIO
Seconded By WAARDENBURG

THAT the meeting be closed to the public, except for Senior Staff and the Executive Assistant, for the purpose of receiving and adopting Closed Meeting Minutes convened in accordance with Section 90 of the *Community Charter* and to consider matters pursuant to:

- Section 90(1)(l) of the *Community Charter* - discussions with regional officers and employees respecting regional objectives, measures and progress reports for the purposes of preparing an annual report under section 98 [*annual regional district report*];
- Section 90(2)(b) of the *Community Charter* - the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the regional district and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party.

RECESS

CARRIED

The open meeting recessed at 10:46am.

14. RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

The open meeting reconvened at 10:50am

15. RISE AND REPORT OUT OF CLOSED MEETING

No items.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By FACIO
Seconded By WAARDENBURG

THAT the Regional and Corporate Services Committee Open Meeting of March 13, 2025 be adjourned.

CARRIED

The Fraser Valley Regional District Regional and Corporate Services Committee Open meeting of March 13, 2025 adjourned at 10:50am.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

.....
Director Patricia Ross, Chair

.....
Corporate Officer/Deputy