

To: Fraser Valley Aboriginal Relations Committee
From: Jessica Morrison, Policy Analyst – First Nations

Date: 2018-06-19
File No: 3400-01

Subject: FVRD Projects Review

INTENT

This report is intended to advise the Fraser Valley Aboriginal Relations Committee of FVRD projects and initiatives which involve First Nation communities and organizations. Staff are not looking for a recommendation at this time, and has forwarded this information should members want more clarification to discuss the item further.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Support Environmental Stewardship
Foster a Strong & Diverse Economy
Support Healthy & Sustainable Community
Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

BACKGROUND

The FVRD First Nation Relations program is based on the core values of Relationships, Collaboration and Learning. These core values inform the work that is conducted throughout all departments in the organization. These efforts are highlighted in this report.

DISCUSSION

Environmental Services

The FVRD currently provides animal control services through contracts with Tzeachten, Seabird Island, and the SAY Lands Group (Skowkale, Aichelitz and Yakwekwioose).

Mosquito control is conducted on all Reserve Lands where floodwater mosquitoes are hatching:

- Shxwhá:y Village
- Cheam
- Peters
- Shxw'ow'hamel
- Chawathil

- Seabird Island
- Scowlitz
- Sts'ailes
- Skawahlook
- Matsqui

These band agreements are informal, and allow access to FVRD contractors to provide treatment. One exception is written permission from Matsqui First Nation to conduct enhanced mosquito habitat mapping on Matsqui Island that will allow for improved access and mosquito treatment in that location.

The FVRD recently met with Chief Robert Gladstone of Shxwhá:y Village to discuss mosquito control and knotweed control, and toured the area with the mosquito contractor to confirm some locations where mosquitoes may be coming from, and where they are not. The FVRD has also assisted Shxwhá:y Village Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society to conduct control of knotweed on their property.

In January the FVRD visited Spuzzum First Nation together with First Class waste to help deliver a workshop on composting and diversion of compostable materials. This visit was in connection with the changes to the curbside program for Area B, which includes Spuzzum First Nation.

In May, the FVRD was invited to host a Recycling information booth at Cheam First Nation Environmental Management Planning Open House. As a result of the event, Cheam is now signed up for battery recycling through Call2Recycle, and the FVRD is now in discussions with Call2Recycle about creating further relationships with other First Nations in the FVRD about recycling batteries. Cheam has invited the Environmental Services team to future events to promote composting and to convey information around hazardous waste.

Extended producer Responsibility (EPR) stewards from the province are looking into the accessibility issues for First Nations and have recently hired a coordinator to help spread information and involvement around stewardship programs. The FVRD sees this is an area where we could help to facilitate working relationships.



Parks

Neilson Regional Park is undergoing a number of facility improvements. The unique archaeological resources in the area have necessitated a series of archaeological investigations, which have been contracted through the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre (SRRMC). Additional subsurface testing in the park will be conducted in late June.

Discussions are underway to conduct upgrades and futures projects in Thompson Regional Park, and the Parks department will seek archaeological approval through the SRRMC to complete this work.

On Elk Mountain, environmental impacts are being addressed, and referrals to relevant First Nations will be conducted. The FVRD is considering the installation of washroom facilities and tent pads. The

SRRMC has been contracted to provide a Cultural Heritage Overview Assessment (CHOA), and on June 20th, the FVRD, SRRMC and the Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe will be hiking the trail together to discuss in more detail.

With respect to Mount Cheam, the FVRD will be making an application to the SRRMC to review a plan to replace aging washroom facilities at the parking lot of trail.

In Electoral Area C, the FVRD has been in communication with Sts'ailes regarding 1km of Roadside Trail (Morrison Valley Roadside Community Trail). Sts'ailes is supportive of the project and will provide support in terms of archeological observation when the trail traverses potential culturally sensitive sites. In the same Electoral Area, the FVRD is working out details for the Elbow Creek Trail Project, and will also be in communication with Sts'ailes to complete that work.

Another trail project is underway in Electoral Area H, where Phase I of the Cultus Lakeside Community Trail involves installation of a 1.2km trail from Maple Bay to Leisure Valley. The FVRD has been engaged with the people of the River Referrals Office (PRRO), as well as the Soowahlie First Nation, both of whom are supportive of this phase of the project.

Planning

The FVRD provides building inspection services to, Skowkale, Aichelitz, Yakwekwioose, and Spuzzum, and is in further discussions with Leq'á:mel and Seabird Island to provide the same.

We provide planning and development review services to Skowkale, and are in discussions to provide sanitary sewer servicing to Cheam First Nation.

The planning department has shared recent geotechnical reports with affected First Nations including Popkum (Bridal Falls geotechnical report), and Boston Bar First Nation (North Bend geotechnical report).

Engineering

During the Fraser freshet flooding the FVRD worked with several First Nation communities, particularly Leq'á:mel on the North Nicomen Dike, where we completed a collaborative project under EMBC funding. The FVRD provided engineering and design support as well as construction supervision and inspection where Leq'á:mel provided construction services, including design, and site supervision.

The FVRD now supplies water to Yale IR8 from the Dogwood Valley Water System, through an MTSA for the provision of bulk water.

Engineering is also working with Cheam First Nation on a sewer project. A potential development in Area D near Popkum requires that the FVRD create a sewer system. Cheam has been experiencing issues with their existing septic infrastructure, and the creation of a single system that can serve both communities suits both Cheam and the FVRD. Staff have met and discussed the project with INAC, and they are in support as well. The estimated timeframe for delivery of the project is roughly two years.

COST

As per individual projects, no new costs introduced with this report.

CONCLUSION

The FVRD will continue to stay focussed on the three core objectives of the First Nation Relations Program across the organization while maintaining existing services, and building out into new support areas for the Regional District.

COMMENTS BY:

Alison Stewart, Manager of Strategic Planning

Not available for review

Barclay Pitkethly, Director of Regional Programs

Reviewed and supported

Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services

Reviewed and supported

Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed and supported