

## **Council Update – Councillor Gord Baird – October 7, 2019**

### **CRD Regional Water Supply**

September 18 2019

The significant issue that is relevant to the public is the Federal Government's newly released guidelines around lead concentration in drinking water. In the guidelines, the Federal government has noted that they now expect lead to be monitored at the tap rather than at the meter. The CRD water supply has exceptional quality, and the water supplied is well below the maximum allowable concentrations for lead. Due to this new requirement to test at the tap, the CRD will be doing a corrosivity analysis across the region to see if there are hot spot areas where pH is low. The BC Building code has for many years required plumbing fixtures to have low lead content but older building could be affected from waters with low pH. CRD Integrated Water Services reached out to VIHA to partner in this, and is the first in BC to begin looking at and assessing water supply with these new guidelines.

### **JDF Water Distribution Commission**

October 1 2019

We reviewed and approved the 2020 budget. In summary, the retail water rate will increase 4.86% to \$2.2159/m<sup>3</sup> with the average monthly water bill being \$518/yr. Even though DCCs pay for the installation of new infrastructure, once it is installed the water revenues support the regular scheduled maintenance of the infrastructure. There will be a revenue lag before the revenue generated from retail water sales catches up to the new infrastructure that has been added over the recent years in preparation for the significant developments (Skirt Mtn, Bear Mtn. and Royal Bay). Lots of discussion, and the budget was approved unanimously.

### **Regional Vegetation Management Strategy**

Correspondence was submitted to the other municipalities who had indicated interest in co-applying with the Grant Application. The correspondence is attached.

### **CRD Climate Action Intermunicipal Task Force**

October 1 2019

I attended for Councillor Ann Baird. At this meeting the CRD had Cara Pike, a communications specialist, present on how to communicate to the public on climate change. The focus was on how to engage in a conversation with the public, without initiating a loss of hope, and meeting them where they are at. CRD noted that they have limited resources and capacity to put towards the Climate Emergency. A budget of \$10,000 is being put towards this communications strategy. I pointed out that the CRD seems to not understand the existential threat, nor the science and timelines, using the example of promoting hydrocarbon fuel past 2060, and that to push communications to the public without actually having a grasp of the science, that they were doing a disservice. I pointed out that we just recently had 20,000 people (5% of the CRD) at the climate march trying to engage us in conversation, and that they seemed to have a better grasp on the science than most municipal elected officials and municipal staff and that the \$10,000 would have more wisely been spent educating the elected officials and staff as to the existential threat. There was discussion from other elected officials about imminent societal collapse.



File: 0400.05.01

August 27, 2019

Capital Regional District  
Attention: Emile Gorman  
625 Fisgard Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

Township of Esquimalt  
Attention: Rachel Dumas  
1229 Esquimalt Road  
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P1

District of Metchosin  
Attention: Tammie Van Swieten  
4450 Happy Valley Road  
Victoria, BC V9C 3Z3

District of North Saanich  
Attention: Curt Kingsley  
1620 Mills Road  
North Saanich, BC V8L 5S9

District of Oak Bay  
Attention: Deb Hopkins  
2167 Oak Bay Avenue  
Victoria, BC V8R 1G2

Town of Sidney  
Attention: Sandi Nelson  
2440 Sidney Avenue  
Sidney, BC V8L 1Y7

District of Sooke  
Attention: Carolyn Mushata,  
Laura Hooper and Matt Barney  
2205 Otter Point Road  
Sooke, BC V9Z 1J2

Town of View Royal  
Attention: Elena Bolster and  
Sara Jones  
45 View Royal Avenue  
Victoria, BC V9B 1A6

Dear Colleagues:

***RE: REGIONAL VEGETATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY***

On January 24, 2019, your local government received a letter from the District of Highlands regarding a proposed joint grant application to UBCM's Community Resiliency Investment Program (2020 intake) for the development of a Regional Vegetation Management Strategy. The intention was for the CRD to undertake this initiative on behalf of the interested local governments in the region.

The CRD Board endorsed the initiative, and through collaboration with various stakeholders, including the Province of BC, a path forward for the proposed development of a regional strategy has been laid out.

The purpose of this letter is to engage those communities that indicated interest in being co-applicants for a funding application to develop a regional strategy, inform them of the proposed approach to engage a consultant to undertake the work with the interested local government partners, and obtain any feedback or answer any questions in this regard.

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Please refer to the attached Draft outline for a request for proposals from qualified consultants to carry out the work.

Should you or the appropriate contact person in your local government have any input regarding the proposed outline, or should any questions arise, please contact District of Highlands Councillor Gord Baird via the undersigned.

Your participation in this initiative is appreciated.

Yours truly,



Tina Neurauter  
Corporate Officer



## Draft Proposal Outline

### The Services

The contractor shall provide the following services:

#### Phase 1

Meet with key staff and stakeholders to:

- confirm project objectives,
- lead the creation of a project workplan including milestones and deliverables, and
- identify the project planning team and associated terms of reference.

#### Phase 2

- Gather and review information regarding planning and policy information and spatial data to support the context of this project.
- Meet with planning team to review this information and confirm the context of the project.
- Jointly with planning team, meet with stakeholders, First Nations, and local governments, as necessary, to review the context of the project and solicit input.

#### Phase 3

- Review the information and data gathered in Phase 2 to identify values at risk within and adjacent to CRD.
- Develop, implement and lead a one-day values workshop to confirm and rank the values at risk. Participants at this workshop will be identified by planning team and will include provincial, local, and regional government staff, First Nations and key stakeholders.
- Utilize BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis data, CRD Parks data, BCWS specialist knowledge, and Forest Professional input regarding wildfire hazards within and adjacent to CRD. This information will be used to inform the risk analysis and create the management strategies.
- Meet with planning team as required.
- Please note: a formal burn probability analysis is not part of this project.

#### Phase 4

- Using the information gathered in Phase 3, complete an analysis of the wildfire risks to the identified values and the planning team can influence:
  1. the likelihood of wildfire events,
  2. impacts to the identified values.
- Develop management strategies that address regional wildfire resiliency and adaptation, communications, education, prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery related to wildfire risk within the CRD. These strategies must identify actions, key personnel, partners, and proposed timelines.
- Review community evacuation plans and identify concerns associated with overlapping evacuation routes.
- Develop Firesmart/Vegetation Management strategies for specified areas (vegetation types)
- Meet with the planning team as required.

#### Phase 5

- Create a draft report that encompasses all the information from the 4 phases above.
- Review the draft report with the planning team and incorporate any updates to the plan.
- Submit a final report to the planning team



**Key Personnel**

The Services shall be overseen and the project team lead by Registered Forest Professional(s) from the Associated of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP).

**Deliverables**

A final report encompassing all the information gathered, analysed and prepared as identified in the Services above. A document that can be utilized for inclusion in a Staff Report to the Parks and Environment Committee.

**Timeframes**

The Phase 1 meeting with planning team must occur by \_\_\_\_\_.

The Phase 3 values workshop must occur by \_\_\_\_\_.

The Phase 5 final report must be submitted to the planning team by\_\_\_\_\_.

