

COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

Minutes of the Electoral Area Directors' Committee meeting held April 4, 2017
in the Board Room of the Regional District Office, Salmon Arm, BC

Note: The following minutes are subject to correction
when endorsed by the Committee at the next EAD Committee meeting.

PRESENT

Chair:	P. Demenok	(Electoral Area 'C')
Directors:	K. Cathcart	(Electoral Area 'A') (Via Teleconference)
	L. Parker	(Electoral Area 'B')
	R. Talbot	(Electoral Area 'D')
	R. Martin	(Electoral Area 'E')
	L. Morgan	(Electoral Area 'F')
Staff:	C. Hamilton	Chief Administrative Officer
	L. Schumi	Administrative Clerk
	E. Johnson	Executive Assistant, Confidential Secretary
	J. Pierce*	Manager, Financial Services
	C. Kraft*	Deputy Treasurer
	G. Christie*	Manager, Development Services
	C. Paiement*	Team Leader, Development Services
	J. Thingsted*	Planner
	C. LeFloch*	Development Services Assistant
Other	Greg Kylo*	MLA, Shuswap
	Joe Wrobel*	President and General Manager of JPW Road and Bridge Inc.
	Mike MacKay*	Official Trustee – School District No. 83
	Nicole Bittante*	Secretary-Treasurer – School District No. 83

* attended part of meeting only

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

M/S Directors Morgan/Martin THAT:
the agenda be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING

MINUTES ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTORS' COMMITTEE MEETING FEBRUARY 7, 2017

M/S Directors Morgan/Talbot THAT:
the minutes of the February 7, 2017 Electoral Area Directors' Committee Meeting
be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

REPORTS BY STAFF

AMENDMENTS TO TOLKO FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN TO ADD NEW CUTBLOCKS AND ROADS

The CSRD has received a referral from Tolko Industries Ltd. (Lumby) regarding new cutblocks and roads it is adding to the Okanagan Woodlands Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP). An FSP defines the areas in which timber harvesting and road construction activities may occur during the term of the FSP.

Many of these cutblocks and roads are located within the "Community Crown Interface Area" of the Okanagan Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP).

Several cutblocks and roads are also located in known hazard areas of the CSRD, most notably the Mara Creek/Hummingbird Creek basin directly above the community of Swansea Pt.

In 1997, a large debris flow descended Hummingbird Creek and caused considerable property and infrastructure damage in Swansea Pt. It started as a debris avalanche below a culvert which received water diverted by a spur road and cutblock logged three years previously. Subsequent flooding, channel avulsions, and a debris flow in 2012 caused further damage to properties, homes, and Highway 97A.

The CSRD has received numerous emails and phone calls from Swansea Pt. and Salmon Valley residents who are concerned about the potential impact from the FSP amendments. Concerns have been raised about the risk of damaging landslides and debris flows but also the possible disturbance to domestic water sources and viewscapes.

Climate change models indicate that BC's climate appears to be changing in a manner which has the potential to increase the future frequency of landslide and flood events. At the same time, however, there is ongoing pressure for additional development to be approved in areas vulnerable to landslide hazards.

Discussion:

Mr. Jan Thingsted, Planner, Development Services, provided the Committee with background on a referral the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) received from Tolko Industries Ltd. (Lumby).

These amendments to their Forest Stewardship Plan primarily affecting Electoral Areas E and D. Mr. Thingsted showed maps of the locations for the proposed logging, noting the hazard areas, such as Hummingbird Creek and Swansea Point. Also noting the public response on this proposed amendment, main concerns are water quality, landslides and debris flow, along with potential loss of life and infrastructure damage.

Tolko Industries Ltd. (Lumby) has stated publicly that they are just in the preliminary stages of planning and will consult with the public for feedback on the plan.

A comment was made expressing concerns that Tolko did not take the time to speak to the community despite being aware of the sensitivity to the area and the traumatic events the residents experienced in 1997 and 2012. Concerns over logging plans in Malakwa and severely impacted a resident's water and it wasn't until the owner engaged the Forest Practices Board that it was rectified. Concerns expressed over the manner in which Tolko operates in, citing lack of public consultation. It was acknowledged that some residents of Swansea Point were present at today's meeting.

Director comment stating it would be a recipe for disaster, especially after what happened in Swansea Point. Many properties on Chase-Falkland Road are deeply concerned over the logging on such steep roads. It was also noted that Silver Creek residents have expressed concerns over the impact on the Salmon River Road and the quality of their water. Would like to see Silver Creek involved in the public engagement meetings.

A lot of dismay expressed over logging activities. Local Governments need to put more pressure on the Province to ensure the logging companies consult with the public on the work they are going to be doing, and perhaps even go as far as to hire an independent hydrogeologist to assess the land and potential impact. This would ensure clear, meaningful community input.

Further discussion around lack of public consultation when it comes to logging practices. General conception that they don't take citizens' concerns seriously, becoming an issue in the entire region. Information released by Tolko does not provide clear information, just an obscure map that you can barely read. Logging companies only doing what they're legally required to do, their mandate is to meet their cut control and make a profit.

Tolko's Forest Stewardship Plan was originally approved in 2006 and had an expiry date at the end of 2011, and was granted an extension to December 2017.

Mr. Thingsted noted that Tolko will still be required to obtain cutting permits from the Province and in certain high risk areas, such as Swansea Point, terrain stability assessments will be required. Whether they do that in house or hire a third party is unknown.

Chair Demenok invited Mr. Greg Kylo, MLA, to speak to the Committee on Tolko's Forest Stewardship Plan. Mr. Kylo noted his concerns over this logging due to the traumatic events of the past.

Discussion ensued around a full stop moratorium. Mr. Kylo agreed that proper third party assessments, along with habitat and environmental impact assessments need to be completed, let science dictate the future logging practices.

When asked if the taxpayers would possibly be asked to pay for these third party assessments, Mr. Kylo stated that he cannot speak to that as the Ministry of Finance would make that decision but he would certainly advocate for the provincial government to fund.

Recommendation to the Board

M/S Directors Martin/Talbot THAT:
the Board recommend to Tolko Industries Ltd. (Lumby) and the Minister of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations that a moratorium be placed on future logging activity in the Hummingbird Creek and Mara Creek basin due to the history of large debris flows in this area;

AND THAT: the Board request Tolko Industries Ltd. (Lumby) to hold public engagement meetings in Sicamous and Falkland to provide information and answer questions regarding the Forest Stewardship Plan amendments.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION

M/S Martin/Talbot THAT:
the above recommendation be amended to include Silver Creek in the public engagement meetings to provide information and answer questions regarding the Forest Stewardship Plan amendments.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT – CARRIED
VOTE ON MOTION AS AMENDED - CARRIED

REPORTS BY STAFF**CHANGES TO PROVINCIAL PRIVATE MOORAGE PROGRAM**

Requested by the Electoral Area Directors' Committee at its February 7, 2017 meeting.

Report from Christine LeFloch, Development Services Assistant, dated March 27, 2017.

Overview of recent changes to Provincial private moorage regulations and associated impacts to CSRD.

Letter attached from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, addressed to the District of Coldstream, regarding the Provincial Private Moorage Program.

Discussion:

Ms. LeFloch provided the Committee with an overview of her report including some history on the Provincial Private Moorage Program and the impacts the changes have on the Lakes Zoning Bylaw No. 900.

Discussion around discontent over lack of consultation from Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO). Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRSD) was not notified of these amendments until January 2017. Dock companies were informed directly of these amendments and encouraged to consult with the local government on CSRSD bylaws. These new amendments could see a legal dock as large as 120 m².

Comments made about public frustration increasing with local government even though it is provincial regulation, but the onus is on the CSRD to enforce. In responding to a question, Ms. LeFloch explained that these amendments are mainly intended to reduce staff workload.

Director commented that we need a more workable approach and suggested one of the recommendations is an overreaction and does not believe the Province will agree. Do not have the resources to adequately enforce regulations.

Gerald Christie, Manager of Development Services, acknowledged the Directors comments and specified the process would involve allowing local government more ability when it comes to making decisions on docks. Comment made on what exactly is trying to be achieved here, maintaining Lakes Zoning Bylaw No. 900 is important and concerns increasing over the Province bypassing local governments. Public needs to know CSRD bylaws still apply.

Ms. LeFloch explained to the Committee that there are a lot of archeological sites along Shuswap and Mara Lakes and if these lakes were application only areas it would give us the tools we need to protect these sites, since they are not public record. In responding to a question, Ms. LeFloch stated that Development Services staff are attempting to meet with dock builders and make them aware of the regulations and may continue doing so with a more aggressive approach.

Recommendation to the Board

M/S Directors Talbot/Morgan THAT:
the Board receive the staff report for information.

CARRIED

Recommendation to the Board

M/S Directors Talbot/Martin THAT:
a letter be sent to Premier Christy Clark and to Steve Thompson, Minister of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations, and MLA Greg Kylo, outlining CSRD concerns with the changes to the Private Moorage Program, lack of consultation with local government about the changes, and requesting that Shuswap and Mara lakes be designated as an application-only area for private moorage.

CARRIED
DIRECTOR MORGAN OPPOSED

Recommendation to the Board

M/S Directors Martin/Parker THAT:
a letter be sent to UBCM outlining CSRD concerns regarding the changes to the Provincial Private Moorage Program, and that the letter be copied to SILGA and the District of Coldstream.

CARRIED

Recommendation to the Board

M/S Directors Martin/Talbot THAT:
CSRSD staff be directed to prepare communications regarding Lakes Zoning Bylaw No. 900 to remind the public of the CSRSD bylaw requirements for docks, buoys and other foreshore structures.

CARRIED

REPORTS BY ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTORS

ROAD MAINTENANCE Requested by Chair Demenok.

Potential to help Directors consideration of priorities.

Discussion:

Mr. Joe Wrobel, President and General Manager of JPW Road & Bridge Inc. (JPW), in attendance to speak to the Committee regarding road maintenance. They seek input from stakeholders once every year to acquire feedback and prioritize maintenance which is usually held in September. However, due to the severe winter weather it was moved up to February. It is worth noting that JPW takes direction from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and does not make decisions on road maintenance but can provide input based on the Ministry's priorities and plans.

Discussions between Mr. Wrobel and the Committee surrounding road improvements needed in each area of the CSRSD especially filling potholes and road paving. Agreed that an annual meeting between the Committee and JPW is a good idea. The general consensus is that the Committee is satisfied with the winter maintenance done, acknowledging the fact that it can be a challenge to operate on a budget of approximately \$90 million when there is a lot of work to be done.

Chair Demenok asked Mr. Wrobel to provide a list of roads requiring rehabilitation in 2017. Mr. Wrobel advised he can provide a list within two weeks.

Director comments around Ministry of Transportation prioritizing only improvements to highways, mainly the Trans-Canada Highway. Secondary and side roads should also be a priority. Would like to see the MLA (Greg Kylo) put pressure on the Ministry of Finance to put more money into rural roads. Mr. Kylo did state he is lobbying for more money for rural roads as they are costing the most.

There was also some discussion around the reduction of speed limits in some areas.

**PRIORITIES FOR
MINISTRY OF
TRANSPORTATION
AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

Brought forward from March 23, 2017 Board meeting.

Instruction from Board meeting to write a letter noting that the CSRD's priority is the Trans-Canada Highway.

Discussion at the Electoral Area Directors' Committee meeting to determine further priorities.

Discussion:

Chair Demenok asked the Electoral Area Directors to draft a list of priority roads for their respective areas and defer to the next Electoral Area Directors meeting on June 27, 2017 for discussion.

IN CAMERA

M/S Talbot/Parker THAT:

pursuant to Section 90(1)(e): the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the committee considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the regional district; of the Community Charter, the Committee move In Camera.

CARRIED

The Electoral Area Directors' Committee meeting reconvened.

**MIKE MACKAY –
SCHOOL DISTRICT #83
STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Mike MacKay, Official Trustee for School District No. 83 and Nicole Bittante, Secretary Treasurer, School District No. 83 in attendance to discuss strategic plan with the Committee.

Main discussion regarding transparency and lack of communication between the school district and the public and elected municipalities, MLA's and local government. Mr. MacKay explained the school district's main objectives such as putting together a focus group and engaging in table top exercises. Some discussion regarding the challenges the school district faces such as overcrowding and space issues and utilizing the resources given. Mr. MacKay agreed he will ensure the lines of communication are opened up between the school district and the regional district.

**ELECTORAL AREA
MANAGER**

Requested by Chair Demenok.

CSRSD reviewed the need for an Electoral Area Services Coordinator in 2009.

Staff to report on history.

Discussion:

Charles Hamilton, Chief Administrative Officer, provided some history on the Electoral Area Service Coordinator within the CSRSD. Sharen Berger was originally in this position and upon review of the Development Services department, found that her job was mostly Planning related so dissolved the Electoral Area Services Coordinator position and created the Team Leader, Development Services.

Chair Demenok stated he would be interested in learning more about this, suggesting it would create better communication and streamlining of information. After a brief discussion the general consensus throughout the Committee is that they get sufficient support from staff and feel that there is really no need for extra support.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING OF COMMUNITY HALLS

Requested by Chair Demenok.

Cariboo Regional District has a model where it funds Community Halls.

Utilizing this model, what are the effects on grants or other funding requests?

What are the pros and cons of this approach?

Discussion:

Charles Hamilton, Chief Administrative Officer, spoke on the tax implications. Cariboo Regional District does not provide Grant in Aid funds so they had more money to fund these halls. As the CSRD's Grant in Aid budgets are fairly modest, wondering if there is public interest to use taxpayer's money to do this.

Directors comments that most halls can apply for Grant in Aid funds and there are some bylaws in place to fund community halls on an annual basis. Taxes would go up substantially if local government funded them, although some halls are in need of repair and significant upgrades.

Chair Demenok stated that a large part of Grant in Aid funds goes to the community halls and maybe a new approach to the management of tax dollars is needed, not necessarily spending more money. Would like to hold another Grant in Aid workshop in Area C.

SOUTH OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Requested by Chair Demenok.

Discussion:

Chair Demenok deferred this item to the next Electoral Area Directors meeting on June 27, 2017 so that all Committee members can have an opportunity to review the website.

FUTURE ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTORS' AGENDA TOPICS

Emily Johnson, Executive Assistant/Confidential Secretary, explained the process for preparing the Electoral Area Directors' meeting agenda. Staff suggested it would be helpful to have more background information on items suggested for the agenda. A form will be drafted for future agenda item requests.

Chair Demenok advised that he would like to see a Terms of Reference for the Committee. Currently there is no tracking mechanism for topics and recommendations coming out of Committee meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

2:39 p.m.

M/S Directors Morgan/Talbot THAT:
the April 4, 2017 Electoral Area Directors' Committee meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT

CHAIR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER