



## Request for EAD Meeting Item

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	That the EA Directors Committee recommend to the CSRD Board that monthly Board meetings are split into two sessions with DS files being covered on the Wednesday pm, immediately prior to the usual Board meeting date, and the rest of the Board agenda continue to be covered on the usual Thursday am
<b>REQUEST BY:</b>	Director Paul Demenok
<b>DESCRIPTION/CONTEXT:</b>	<p>The current situation whereby the CSRD Board reviews all monthly agenda items at one sitting is less than ideal for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The status quo is quite inconvenient for citizens who have a DS application to be heard at a Board meeting. At virtually every Board meeting, we have applicants arrive at the 9:30 am start time; then, two to three hours later, we ask them to leave while we go in-camera; then the Board has its lunch and we usually reconvene around 1:00 pm to start the DS part of the agenda. As we cannot provide applicants with any certainty as to what time their particular application will be heard, they must sit and wait for hours. Sometimes we reconvene at 12:45pm and applicants return later, only to learn that their file has already been heard. Applicants who work, or have farms, may be significantly inconvenienced in losing a day's pay, for example.</li> <li>2. It is anticipated that the volume of DS applications will continue to increase over time, thus lengthening the duration of CSRD Board meetings. We are also seeing an increase in the number of delegations, which also increases Board meeting duration. It has been shown in many settings that groups and individuals become significantly less effective as meeting durations are extended. Is it fair and appropriate that DS applications are always heard at the end of a long day, when directors and staff may be tired and are perhaps more interested in adjourning than in deliberating detailed points of concern? Is this the best way to handle a complex development application for example?</li> <li>3. The current schedule with a 9:30 am start necessitates that some directors may need to get up very early to drive hours to arrive on time. In the winter, this means that directors are driving in twilight, when roads may have yet to be cleared, or when roads are icy due to lower nighttime temperatures. With an adjournment time of 3:00 pm or later, these same directors are returning in darkness. Can we improve director safety in any way?</li> <li>4. A source of consternation for the EA Directors is that we receive the same meeting stipend as the municipal directors, who only participate in one half of all Board meetings. This is clearly unfair and inequitable. The salary survey conducted many months ago showed that CSRD EA Directors are relatively underpaid as compared to other EA Directors in the province. Since then, several Regional Districts have adjusted directors remuneration upward, thus leaving CSRD Directors further behind.</li> <li>5. A number of Regional Districts have already moved to a cycle of two Board meetings per month, so this is a common practice elsewhere.</li> </ol>
<b>DISCUSSION:</b>	Splitting the Board meeting into two sections would have the following benefits:

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DS applicants would know that their files are being heard at a more defined time frame (eg., 2:30-4:30 pm on Wednesday), and would be less inconvenienced.</li> <li>2. EA Directors and staff would be sharper and more attentive.</li> <li>3. Travel times for directors, both to and from meetings would be during daylight hours, a safer time for road travel, especially in the winter.</li> <li>4. EA Directors would be more appropriately compensated for time spent. The net annual impact on the directors remuneration budget would be minimal at \$14,400, but would address a longstanding inequity.</li> <li>5. These benefits would be obtained with minimal impact on staff time as total net time spent at the monthly Board meetings would not be increased over what is already occurring. A separate agenda could easily be created; public notice of Board meetings could easily reflect the two time frames in the same communication.</li> <li>6. Questions arising in the Wednesday DS sessions, could potentially be researched and addressed in the Thursday session, thus expediting the processing of DS files, if needed.</li> <li>7. This change as proposed would have no effect on the municipal directors or non-DS staff.</li> </ol>
<b>OTHER COMMENTS:</b>	