



The Board Reports

Regional District of Central Okanagan
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Highlights of the Regional Board Meeting—June 10, 2002

Regional Hospital District Meets

The Regional Hospital District Board is made up of the same members as the Regional District Board. The Regional District coordinates funding for the Regional Hospital District, funding 40% of hospital facility construction and major equipment.

At the meeting of the Regional Hospital District last night, approval was given to the following capital improvement projects to be funded over the next two years:

Item	RHD Share
Building Security System	\$ 58,500
Humidifier Upgrade	80,000
Patient Care Station Upgrade	200,000
Nurse Call System	260,000

Of the above projects, \$358,500 is required for this year, and \$240,000 will be required in 2003.

Contact: *Harold Reay* 763-4918
Director of Financial Services

Big Boost for Sewer Collection System

Thanks to the Canada/British Columbia Infrastructure Program, the Casa Loma/Lakeview Sanitary Sewer Collection System received a contribution to a maximum of \$3,516,166. The application for funding this project was part of the local government component of the Canada/British Columbia Infrastructure Program. The funding will be used to extend sewer service to the Casa Loma and portions of Lakeview Heights that have been experiencing a high rate of septic failure resulting in excessive phosphorus loading into the lake. While there are a few conditions regarding contractual agreements between the Regional District and the Canada/BC Infrastructure Program, it is anticipated that the system design will be completed this fall with construction to begin next spring.

Contact: *Hilary Hettinga, P. Eng.* 868-5241
Director of Engineering Services

New Changes to Smoke Control Bylaw

Changes to the Smoke Control Bylaw will help to improve air quality by restricting smoke from land clearing and agricultural burning. The changes include:

- Burning of materials from land clearing for development will no longer be permitted. Developers will be encouraged to take advantage of other options such as wood grinding and incorporating the mulch back into the landscaping or sending it for compost.

- Agricultural burning is now limited to air quality days rated as 'Good'. Previously, agricultural burning could take place on days rated as 'Good' and 'Fair'. Local governments are limited in their authority to regulate agricultural burning, which is a practice protected under Provincial legislation.

The Regional Board also received a report on Land Clearing Wood Residues, as requested at the March 25th meeting. The report provides information about the effects of outdoor burning on air quality and health, the public consultation process undertaken, information on options for developers and the agricultural industry, as well as information about programs in other areas.

A communication plan will be developed to promote the changes and alternatives to burning.

Changes to the Smoke Control Bylaw are just one in a series of steps being taken to improve and protect air quality in the Central Okanagan.

Contact: *Corey Davis* 862-3339 (local 429)
Regional Air Quality Coordinator

New Member on APC

Mark Coleman was appointed to the Westbank Advisory Planning Commission by the Regional Board at last night's meeting. Director Novakowski put forward Mr. Coleman's name for consideration to bring the number of members to six. The Advisory Planning Commission comments on planning issues prior to their consideration by the Regional Board.

Contact: *Jason Johnson* 868-5227
Manager of Current Planning

May Building Statistics

Building permits picked up in May as 85 permits were issued during the month with a total construction value of \$5,890,410. During this period there were 73 permits completed with a total construction value of \$4,675,113. The 85 building permits represent the highest number of building permits issued during the month of May in the last five years.

Contact: *Kelly Roth* 868-5211
Director of Inspection Services

Plan Review to Protect Water Quality

The Regional Board gave approval to undertaking a review of the Regional District's Master Drainage Plan with a focus on protecting the quality of storm water being introduced to the environment as a result of urban development. Although the Regional District does not have direct authority for drainage, it does recognize that drainage is integral to proper subdivision development. The Regional District has acted proactively by developing

a Master Drainage Plan for execution by the Ministry of Transportation and Highways in their subdivision process. In recent years, issues around the quality of storm water affecting downstream aquatic habitats have become a concern. The Regional Board approved retaining Urban Systems to complete a review of the Master Drainage Plan and prepare Storm Water Quality Policies up to maximum amount of \$24,000. Funding for the project will be paid for from the Feasibility Study Fund.

*Contact: Hilary Hettinga, P. Eng. 868-5241
Director of Engineering Services*

Support for Waste Biofuels

Cars powered by our garbage are no longer the stuff of science fiction. The Regional Board gave approval to submitting a joint application with the City of Kelowna to the Green Municipal Enabling Fund to undertake a study on Municipal Waste-Derived Transportation Biofuels. The Board also committed financial assistance of up to \$15,650 towards this study.

The study will look at ways of using innovative combinations of emerging technologies that use commercially available fuel sources derived from the organic waste materials generated by our communities. Currently, no energy is being captured from our biosolids, solid waste, wood waste or other industrial waste streams. It is believed that the current energy production potential from these types of waste could be greater than the total energy demand for our entire local government vehicle fleet which currently uses diesel, gasoline and propane as fuel sources.

At best, waste derived fuels could theoretically displace current petroleum-based transportation fuels in local government vehicle fleets, reducing greenhouse gases from vehicle emissions. The use of waste derived fuels would also reduce the amount of organic solid waste sent to landfills, reducing the greenhouse gases produced from the breakdown of organic materials in the landfill.

*Contact: Hilary Hettinga, P. Eng. 868-5241
Director of Engineering Services*

New Search for Fire Hall Location

The Regional Board gave approval to proceeding with plans and applications for a new location for the Wilson Landing Fire Hall. The Regional Board will continue to pursue acquisition of property adjacent to the current Wilsons Landing Fire Hall and submit the appropriate rezoning applications to the Regional Board for approval.

Ministry of Transportation and Highways has already given preliminary support to the new proposed location.

*Contact: Hilary Hettinga, P. Eng. 868-5241
Director of Engineering Services*

New Way to Save

In efforts to continually find ways to reduce the cost of providing services to Regional District residents, the Regional Board gave approval to a plan to switch the cost of sewer services from a parcel tax to a utility bill. Currently the parcel tax, a tax applied to each piece of land, is used to pay for the cost of providing sanitary sewers to more than 20 neighbourhoods encompassing approximately 1450 parcels of land. The parcel taxes are collected by the province who in turn charges each resident a collection fee of 5½% per year on top of the cost of the parcel tax. If the Regional District collects the money as a utility bill, similar to garbage collection, it would save taxpayers more than \$900,000 over the remaining amortization periods. The Regional District directed the Engineering Department to develop a strategy to provide residents with information about the proposed change and opportunities for input. Tentatively, the utility billing would start in January 2003.

*Contact: Hilary Hettinga, P. Eng. 868-5241
Director of Engineering Services*

Haz Waste Round Up Set for Oct. 5th

The Regional Board gave approval to awarding the contract for the 2002 Hazardous Waste Round Up to R.S. Environmental Field Services of B.C. Inc. The company was the lowest of three bids submitted for the event, and also meets all criteria for performance and safety. The annual Household Hazardous Waste Round Up will be held on Saturday, Oct 5th. This is an opportunity for residents to dispose of household hazardous products that are not accepted under provincial stewardship programs, which provide for year-round disposal. In the Central Okanagan, the following locations accept some hazardous materials throughout the year:

- Battery Doctors in Kelowna accepts some consumer grade pesticides, flammable liquids and gasoline
- Newalta in Lake Country accepts waste paints
- Boucherie Bottle Depot on the Westside accepts waste paints.

If you need a bit of paint, you can also pick some up for free from the paint that has been dropped off at these depots.

For more info, visit the Regional Waste Reduction Office section of our web site at www.regionaldistrict.com

Contact: *Jan Enns* 868-5250
Waste Reduction Coordinator

New Dewatering Centrifuge

The Westside Wastewater Treatment Plant will be able to handle their sludge better with the help of a new dewatering centrifuge. The Regional Board gave approval to the quotation/proposal from Alpha Laval Inc. (No. PT02-208) in the amount of \$312,500 plus applicable taxes for a dewatering centrifuge. Alpha Laval was the lowest of four companies that bid to supply the specified equipment. The new equipment will be used to help prepare the dewatered waste material for future biosolids composting.

Contact: *Hilary Hettinga, P. Eng.* 868-5241
Director of Engineering Services

Support Wanted for Watercraft Recommendations

The Regional Board will be writing a letter to the Attorney General stressing the importance of enacting legislation to support a ticketing system for boating infractions on inland waters. Currently, enforcement is carried out through the expensive and time-consuming process of summary conviction prosecutions under the criminal code. The Regional Board also supports a request for additional increased presence of the Canadian Coast Guard on Okanagan Lakes throughout the summer. In previous years support from the coast guard for patrolling lakes in the Okanagan has been decreasing. The Regional Board will be encouraging member municipalities, local boating associations and yacht clubs to also lobby for these changes.

Contact: *Gary Leier* 868-5249
Director of Human Resources

Election Officers Named

The Regional Board appointed Lyla Lindsay as Chief Election Officer and Tina Bouwman as Deputy Chief Election Officer for the upcoming 2002 General Local Elections. These officers are required to perform the many duties and responsibilities associated with preparing for and conducting the 2002 elections to be held on Saturday, November 16, 2002.

Contact: *Wayne d'Easum* 763-4918
Chief Administrative Officer

Grant-In-Aid

\$2000 – Area 'Westbank', Director Len Novakowski – Westbank Okanagan Thompson International Sculpture Symposium
