

## SCRD Meeting – Dec. 8, 2011

I've been to meetings of the SCRD Board before, but not for some time and only as a delegation. Last night was my first full SCRD Board meeting as an observer.

First, let me report that all Directors were present and took pleasure in wishing rookie Director Mauro a happy birthday. ☺

Staff in attendance included John France, CAO; Angie Legault, Legislative Services Manager; Bryan Shoji, General Manager, Infrastructure Services; Tina Perrault, Treasurer; and Steve Olmstead, General Manager, Planning & Development Services. (*I'll learn the names of others as we go.*)

The media was not represented.

*Some of you may be familiar with what the Regional District's legislated responsibilities are, how it is structured and how it conducts its business. I'm not, so I went looking for some information. By asking the question "why were regional districts created in BC?", I found this helpful little 13 page primer published in 2006.*

[http://www.crd.bc.ca/about/documents/primer\\_rd\\_bc.pdf](http://www.crd.bc.ca/about/documents/primer_rd_bc.pdf) *In it, this statement provides some perspective and is worth remembering:*

- *The region is a federation of municipalities and rural areas. Each constituent unit is in effect a shareholder and has a seat on the board of directors. As a consequence, regional districts are part of the municipal system not separate from it. The regional district does not sit over the municipalities with the municipal units serving the region. Rather it is the reverse: the regional district exists to further the interests of its municipal members.*

*An interesting difference between regional districts and municipalities is how votes are tallied. In municipalities, councillors have one vote. With regional districts, directors may cast one or more votes depending on the issue and on the population of the area they represent. Here again, the little primer is helpful.*

- *The legislation provides for two different kinds of votes at a regional board:*
  - *corporate vote:*  
*In a corporate voting situation all board directors are entitled to vote on the basis of "one director one vote". The corporate vote is used respecting significant issues where the collective wisdom of the whole board is required. Corporate votes are used to make decisions on establishing a new service, contracting for a debt, or adopting the annual budget or dealing with matters of corporate procedure or staffing decisions.*
  - *stakeholder vote:*  
*In a stakeholder voting situation only those directors participating in a service are entitled to vote and in accordance with the principle of "representation by population" the weighted vote is used. The stakeholder vote is used for decisions relating to the management and operation of an existing service.*

*Here's how votes are tallied in the Sunshine Coast Regional District:*

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>population</u>	<u>directors</u>	<u>votes</u>
District of Sechelt	8,454	1	5
Town of Gibsons	4,182	1	3
SIGD	827	1	1
Egmont/Pender Harbour	2,624	1	2
Halfmoon Bay	2,558	1	2
Roberts Creek	3,307	1	2
Elphinstone	3,552	1	2

<i>West Howe Sound</i>	<u>2,235</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<i>Totals</i>	27,759	8	19

*Curiously, the SCRD's website says that the weighted vote is used for the SCRD annual budget. Perhaps the rules have changed since the little primer was written. I'll clarify this as soon as I can.*

The Board adopted the Agenda and approved the Minutes of the last meeting (November 24).

In response to a question from Director Tretick, Staff agreed to provide new Directors with documents such as the Business Plan for Dakota Ridge in their orientation kits.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

- In response to a letter from Helen Steeves, VP Championships, BC Golf, the Board agreed to provide a letter of support for an application to hold the 2012 Provincial Boys Championship at the Sunshine Coast Golf and Country Club July 10-13.
- The Association of Vancouver Island & Coast Communities (AVICC) needs to replace three directors as a result of the recent elections. Deadline for nominations is December 9<sup>th</sup>. The Board declined to make a nomination.

#### REPORTS

##### Administrator

- Economic Development Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)  
John France reported that the CAOs met this week and expect to have an MOU regarding coast wide economic development ready for the consideration of the Board and municipalities by February
- Emergency Preparedness Conference  
John France and Paul Fenwick attended a conference on the subject and will be reporting to the Board at the next meeting. Training and the placement of assets to be used in emergencies are important factors

##### Director Lewis

- Appreciated the full house for the swearing in of the Board
- No further report

##### Director Turnbull

- Good to be back, enjoyed the inaugural session
- Attended a SAR workshop
- Attended the Conservation Association celebration event
- Attended the Gibsons inaugural session

##### Director Lutes

- Attended Sechelt inaugural session
- Attended opening of the Early Learning Centre at Sechelt Elementary; Minister Abbott was there as well
- Attended the most recent meeting of the Ferry Advisory Committee
- Is attending a First Nations course every second Saturday

#### Director Maura

- Thanked staff, fellow directors and past Director Eric Graham for their guidance
- Looking forward to the next three years

#### Director Tretick

- Glad to be back (had been an alternate two terms ago)
- Attended the Gibsons inaugural session – Squamish participation was moving
- Town of Gibsons will be dealing with a number of left over issues: Harbour Plan, Gospel Rock; the budget will be a challenge as grants are down and costs (and expectations for service) are up
- Looking forward to working with this excellent Board

#### Director Shugar

- Welcome to directors, municipalities have made good choices
- Attended celebration of Conversation Association the week after the election
- Attended a recreation & parks master plan meeting on Monday. People have enthusiastic expectations – don't want to be a wet blanket, but the expectations will run into financial reality
- Roberts Creek will continue its weekly farmers' market through the winter
- There was a small spill on Beach Avenue attributed to a leaky home oil tank
- Director Shugar's Gumboot Office will continue

#### Director Nohr

- Thanked staff for a good inaugural session and to the Board for its support
- Attended inaugural sessions in Gibsons and Sechelt
- Attended the recreation & parks master plan session – reality will hit in January when work on the budget begins
- Catching up on things which slipped during the election, like Rotary
- *Director Nohr has a short piece in this week's The Local on how newly elected politicians have to reduce their expectations on their ability to effect immediate change*

*The Regional District conducts the details of its business in committee. There was not a great deal of discussion of the following items of business. Committee reports containing as many as a dozen items were adopted on one show of hands. The following list shows the material covered last night. Two were interesting and I have marked them **in yellow**. After some time, I should have a better sense of what the Board is doing and what are the most important issues, especially to Gibsons. I hope you'll bear with me through the learning process.*

#### Corporate & Administrative Services Special Report November 21

- The Board received a report in which seven principles for service agreements between local government and first nations are presented.

#### Corporate & Administrative Services Report recommendations 1-7, November 24

- Strategic planning 2012
- Treasurer's report regarding 2011 "Parking Lot" items
- Service Equity Annual Review Update
- Directors constituency & travel expenses
- Contracts between \$20,000 and \$100,000
- Rural Areas Grants-in-aid

- Sunshine Coast Avalon Recovery Society

#### Infrastructure Services Report recommendations 1-12, December 1

- Transportation Advisory Minutes
  - Payne Road/Highway 101
  - Request to Telus to re-establish payphone at New Brighton Dock
  - Request to Telus for installation of cell tower
  - Request for Translink Ticket Sales agreement with BC Ferries
- Traffic calming at Gibsons Community Centre
- Public Wharves Advisory Minutes
- Public Wharves
- BC Transit Enterprise Investment Initiative
- Impacts of Proposed Zero Waste Initiatives on Sechelt Landfill – Part 2
- Corporate Carbon Neutrality – an overview moving forward in 2012
- Styrofoam recycling pilot review
- Source assessment response plan schedule update
- Divisional monthly report
- Illegal dumping in watersheds
- BC Hydro Smart Metering program

#### 2012 Meeting Schedule

- Ms Gault presented the Board and committee meeting schedule for 2012. A few amendments were made. A revised copy will be issued.

#### Monthly CAO/Directors Meetings

- The first meeting in the new year will be held at 2 pm on Thursday, January 19

#### Board Orientation

- The Board orientation session will be held on Friday, January 27 at 10:30 am. It is expected to last most of the day.

#### Meeting to discuss Impact of Proposed Zero Waste Initiatives on the Sechelt Landfill

- Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 10 at 1:30 pm
- The Zero Waste Management Plan will increase the diversion of solid waste from the landfill from 50% to 69% by 2016. This will extend the life of the landfill, but it will also reduce revenues to fund operating and closure costs in the future. This will mean an increase in the net operating cost of the landfill. Staff feel a special meeting is required to explain the complexity of the analysis supporting these conclusions, and to discuss funding strategies going forward.

#### Ferry Commissioner's Comprehensive Review of the Ferry Act

- David Dick and Barry Cavens of the Ferry Advisory Committee were in attendance. Mr Dick presented the Board with a short "executive summary" of the papers which the Committee has submitted to the Ferry Commissioner.
- Mr. Dick explained that the government is inclined to move the Horseshoe Bay/Langdale Route (Route 3) into the major route category and transfer the annual subsidy for Route 3 (\$4.6 million shared between the provincial and federal governments) to the minor routes. The effect of this move will be to increase fares on our route. His goal is to convince the government to leave the subsidy aligned with

our route, and he will ask John Weston to support this. He noted that the government contributes about \$13.75 per rider on the Inland Ferries (which are clearly seen to be an extension of the highway system), but only between \$1 and \$2 per rider on the coastal ferry system.

- Director Nohr noted the Premier has promised to listen to what the Ferry Commissioner has to say in his report, which is expected to be published in January.
- The Board also discussed nominations to the Ferry Advisory Committee. Concerned that Jacob Knaus is not currently on the list of nominees, the Board will endeavour to ensure that he is.
- Messrs Dick and Cavens were warmly thanked for their efforts on behalf of Coast residents.

Community Services recommendations, December 15

- The Board delegated authority to the Committee to act on time sensitive recommendations that arise from the Committee's meeting scheduled for December 15

## BYLAWS

The Board adopted a bylaw to establish a service for the purpose of operation and maintenance of the Painted Boat Community Sewage Treatment System.

## NEW BUSINESS

New Directors are encouraged in the Local Government Leadership Academy certification program

The Board conducted an IN CAMERA session which ended at about 9:20

That's it for now folks. I'll try to be more succinct in the future, when I understand better what's going on.

Cheers,  
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"These notes have been prepared by a Gibsons resident to reflect what he heard and saw, and was able to record by hand, during a meeting of the SCRD Board. These notes have not been verified against the digital sound recording of the meeting. These notes are not an official record of the meeting – only the minutes of the meeting, produced by SCRD staff and adopted by the regional Board are official."