

Meeting Minutes
Committee of the Whole

Wednesday, May 27, 2015

1:30 PM

6th Floor Boardroom

Continuation of April 29, 2015 Meeting - Regional Sustainability Strategy

PRESENT

Directors: N. Jensen (Chair), R. Atwell, M. Alto, D. Blackwell, S. Brice, J. Brownoff, V. Derman, B. Desjardins, A. Finall (1:40), B. Gramigna (for J. Ranns), C. Hamilton, L. Helps, M. Hicks, B. Isitt, R. Kasper (for M. Tait), M. Lougher-Goodey (for S. Price), C. Plant, D. Screech, L. Seaton, K. Williams, R. Windsor and G. Young

Staff: R. Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer; T. Robbins, General Manager, Integrated Water Services; K. Lorette, General Manager, Planning and Protective Services; S. Bagh, Senior Manager, Regional and Strategic Planning; S. Palmer, Senior Project Coordinator, Regional and Strategic Planning; A. Bains, Acting Corporate Officer, and S. Norton, Deputy Corporate Officer (Recorder)

ABSENT

Directors: D. Howe (Vice Chair) and W. McIntyre

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda

**MOVED by Director Desjardins, SECONDED by Director Helps,
That the agenda be approved with the addition of Items 5.2 and 5.3.
CARRIED**

5. Committee Business

5.1. 15-399 Regional Sustainability Strategy Update

Chair Jensen noted that:

- several delegations presented at the meeting on April 29
- there will be two staff presentations today
- staff have distributed a table showing the relationship of the Notice of Motion put forward by Director Helps to the staff recommendations in the April 29, 2015 staff report.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, T. Robbins reviewed the types of water services in the Region:

- Regional Water Supply System
- Juan de Fuca Water Distribution System
- Saanich Peninsula Water System
- Municipal Water Distribution Systems
- CRD Local Community Water Services in Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JdF EA)
- First Nations Water Services
- Private Water Systems

- *Improvement Districts*

He noted that there will need to be clear language used in the RSS with respect to water servicing, as there have been various terms used by the delegations and submissions including regional water, piped water and public water. He pointed out that, except for wells, private, improvement district and local community water systems, all other water services get their water supply from the Regional Water Supply System, which over time will be subject to capacity restrictions.

Direction Finall entered the meeting at 1:40 pm.

During the discussion, it was clarified that the RSS should refer to water services under the control of the CRD.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, S. Bagh reviewed the following information:

- RGS/RSS decision-making tree 2011 and 2013 Board decisions to develop the RSS with an overarching climate change lens
- Reaction to climate change lens – overall support for RSS but some feel it has been detrimental to growth management prominence
- Amendment of RGS vs moving forward with RSS
- Board direction needed regarding water servicing policy and inclusion of municipal commitments
- Changes to RSS content based on April 29 staff recommendations - details in Appendices 9 and 12 of April 29 staff report
- Table showing the relationship of the Notice of Motion to the April 29 staff recommendations
- RSS adoption process and timeline – decide on acceptable content and put it forward as a bylaw to go to first reading and public hearing, while working on outstanding issues, i.e. this will not be the final document
- Decision Framework – staff need direction on content and process matters

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Confusion comparing RGS with RSS; need clarity on how to proceed starting with RGS and then show how RSS amends it
- District of Sooke motion advising that they will not support the proposed RSS as it denies people in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area the right to safe and clean drinking water through the CRD water service
- How the input obtained through the extensive public engagement process on the RSS will be kept as part of this proposed new process
- Need for presentation to Board on regional growth strategy legislation to give background on the RGS, i.e. why it was done and what was its intended use

MOVED by Director Blackwell, SECONDED by Director Seaton,

- 1) That the document be called the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS);**
- 2) That staff take the adopted RGS document and bring forward proposed amendments, by each section, based on the work done for the draft Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS) document.**

CARRIED

Pending a motion on the water servicing policy issue, staff responded to questions regarding:

- Need for distinction between water “service” areas and water “serviced” areas in mapping, e.g. different colours
- Current water servicing policy in RGS and criteria for expansion or extension of sewer

and water services outside of the Urban Containment Boundary and Service Policy Area (RUCSPA)

- *Whether Master Implementation Agreements for water and sewer referenced under Action 5 of RGS, and actions under Action 6 regarding District of Sooke Regional Context Statement and JdF EA OCPs were implemented, as well as any Provincial Implementation Agreements*
- *Deferral by the District of Sooke of an RGS amendment to allow water servicing extension to the municipal boundary pending the RGS review*
- *How to move forward under the RGS to address concerns of water servicing in the JdF EA*

Noting that the implementation agreements had not be enacted upon under the RGS, it was felt that the staff should provide an update.

**MOVED by Director Desjardins, SECONDED by Director Helps,
That staff bring back a report on what has been, and what has not been, acted upon under Action 5 on page 7 [and Action 6 on page 8] of the adopted Regional Growth Strategy.
CARRIED**

It was noted that certain values were raised by the public during the public engagement process on the draft RSS for strengthening the RGS.

**MOVED by Director Isitt, SECONDED by Director Derman,
That staff be directed to report on options of strengthening the RGS with respect to climate action, protection of natural areas and protection of agricultural lands.
CARRIED
OPPOSED Blackwell, Kasper, Seaton**

The discussion continued on the water servicing policy as it relates to the JdF EA. A motion was put forward regarding the JdF EA having the same opportunity for the expansion of water services as member municipalities. On the motion:

- *Arguments that the water servicing policy is discriminatory, unfair and applied unequally to the residents of JdF EA*
- *Purpose of policy is to prohibit densification and urban sprawl in JdF EA; however, all JdF EA land use decisions are approved by the Board and must be deemed consistent with RGS*
- *Growth in next twenty years in JdF EA is only 700 homes, therefore no need for water policy to control density*
- *Board recently passed Otter Point OCP which deferred the possibility of water throughout the area to the RGS review process*
- *Process for water servicing changes for member municipalities depends whether inside or outside RUCSPA*
- *Motion would require a proposed bylaw to come back aligning OCPs with the RUCSPA boundary to enable water servicing; Board would have to deem bylaw consistent with RGS; consistency is in the opinion of the Board*

**MOVED by Director Hicks, SECONDED by Alternate Director Gramigna,
That the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area have the same opportunity for the expansion of water services as the municipalities have under the RGS or the RSS.**

Discussion continued on the above motion. There was general consensus to support the concept of the opportunity for water service expansion in the JdF EA, but Committee requested clarification regarding: the implications of the motion; options for achieving opportunity for water servicing (e.g. remove policy as a growth tool or amend RUCSPA); the differences in how the policy is applied within the member municipalities, whether inside or outside RUCSPA.

**MOVED by Director Screech, SECONDED by Director Derman,
That consideration of the above motion be postponed pending clarification and further information from staff.**

CARRIED

**OPPOSED Alto, Blackwell, Desjardins, Gramigna, Hicks, Kasper, Seaton,
Windsor**

It was noted that a long time has passed since the Board had heard a review of the legislation and there are new Board members who would benefit from the information.

**MOVED by Director Finall, SECONDED by Director Derman,
That staff provide an information session on the regional growth strategies legislation, and the requirements and intentions that led to the adopted Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) document as part of the next Committee of the Whole meeting on the RGS.**

CARRIED

- 5.2. 15-555** Supplemental Information Relating to the Regional Sustainability Strategy Update Staff Report Presented at the April 29, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting

The information in the report was considered together with Item 5.1.

- 5.3. 15-558** Motion With Notice: Improvements to Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS) - Director Helps

The motion was considered together with Item 5.1. The motion did not move forward as the previous motions under 5.1 referred the Regional Sustainability Strategy back to staff.

6. Motion to Report to CRD Board

- 6.1. 15-426** Motion to Report to CRD Board

There was no report forwarded to the Board, which was to meet immediately following this meeting, because the items were referred back to staff.

7. New Business - None

8. Adjournment

**MOVED by Director Blackwell, SECONDED by Director Brice,
That the meeting be adjourned at 3:21 pm.**

CARRIED

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER