



Making a difference...together

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Capital Regional District Board
Sitting as Committee of the Whole
Held Wednesday, January 9, 2013, in the Board Room, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC**

- PRESENT:** **Directors:** A. Bryson (Chair), D. Blackwell (Vice Chair), S. Brice, L. Cross, J. Cullington (for C. Hamilton), T. Daly, V. Derman, B. Desjardins, G. Hill, D. Howe, M. Hicks, B. Isitt, N. Jensen, F. Leonard (12:09), P. Madoff (for D. Fortin), W. McIntyre, J. Mendum, W. Milne, J. Ranns, V. Sanders (for J. Brownoff), L. Seaton, L. Wergeland (12:10) and G. Young
Staff: K. Daniels, Chief Administrative Officer; G. Harris, Acting General Manager, Environmental Sustainability; I. Hennigar, Acting General Manager, Parks and Community Services; R. Lapham, General Manager, Planning and Protective Services; D. Lokken, General Manager, Corporate Services; T. Robbins, Acting General Manager, Integrated Water Services; C. Neilson, Senior Manager, Human Resources; S. Santarossa, Corporate Officer, and S. Norton, Deputy Corporate Officer (Recorder)
- ABSENT:** **Director:** M. Alto

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOVED by Director Blackwell, **SECONDED** by Director Milne,
That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 10, 2012

MOVED by Director Blackwell, **SECONDED** by Director Seaton,
That the minutes of the meeting of October 10, 2012 be adopted.

CARRIED

3. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS – None.

4. 2013 BOARD COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Director Leonard entered the meeting at 12:09 pm and Director Wergeland at 12:10 pm.

K. Daniels advised that the Board Chair and the Chairs of the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee and Environmental Sustainability Committee had met last year and asked staff to look at the committee structure, including a Committee of the Whole model, to improve governance by integrating, and preventing overlap, of certain regional functions and activities.

Using a slide presentation, S. Santarossa reviewed the staff report including: the current committee structure, and its advantages and disadvantages; a proposed Committee of the

Whole structure (COW) with two meetings per month with separate functional responsibilities, and the advantages and disadvantages.

The following points were discussed during the ensuing debate on the proposed COW structure:

- How Board members could add items to a COW agenda
- Concern about the time impact on the Electoral Area Directors, as well as all Directors
- Suggest a subcommittee of current and past Board Chairs could look at better use of current COW meetings for regional issues that converge or are covered by more than one committee
- Suggest the current committee terms of reference used by staff for agenda preparation be forwarded to the respective committees for approval
- Concern about loss of quorum for COW meetings; suggest starting no later than 12:30 pm
- Need to specify regional transportation planning separate from regional planning for COW#2
- Concern about length of meetings and ability to finish business; suggest could have three COW meetings a month instead of two
- Concern about public perception if most delegations are heard at COW
- Would need to see impact on the budget and Procedures Bylaw for a COW structure
- Concern about public perception if Board merely ratifies COW recommendations, i.e. who are the decision-makers
- How would advisory committees report, i.e. Solid Waste Advisory Committee currently reports to the Environmental Sustainability Committee
- As this is second year of three-year term for elected officials, would be a good time to do a one-year trial of a COW structure
- Concern about ownership and the loss of champions for issues which are achieved under the current structure

Director Isitt left the meeting at 12:47 pm.

Debate continued:

- Concern the same discussion at COW will be repeated at Board meetings
- Board would be better informed when making decisions since all Directors present at COW, which could mean shorter Board meetings
- Concern with staff support for COW; many staff would have to be on standby and the detailed advice of departmental experts could be lost

It was noted that there was not general support for a move to a full Committee of the Whole structure and that a more incremental approach should be investigated.

MOVED by Director Blackwell, **SECONDED** by Director Derman,
That the Board Chair be delegated the authority to strike a select committee of current and past Board Chairs to discuss opportunities for better use of Committee of the Whole meetings, and to report back within 3 months.

On the motion, it was suggested that the select committee could: define items that should go to a COW meeting; identify the top three problems and propose how they could be fixed; contact other regional districts of similar size about their committee structure and their strengths and weaknesses.

MOVED by Director Ranns, **SECONDED** by Director Sanders,
That the motion be amended to include review of the staff proposal for a Committee of the Whole committee structure.

On the amendment, it was suggested that the select committee should also evaluate the proposed COW structure and report back earlier than three months. It was noted that the amendment was contrary to the conclusion drawn from the discussion and the motion.

The question on the amendment was called. **DEFEATED**
Hicks, Howe, McIntyre, Ranns, Sanders In Favour, All Others **OPPOSED**

The question on the main motion was called. **CARRIED**
Ranns **OPPOSED**

5. **NEW BUSINESS** – None.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Director Mendum, **SECONDED** by Director Blackwell,
That the meeting be adjourned at 1:10 pm.

CARRIED

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER