

**REPORT TO PLANNING AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, April 25, 2007**

SUBJECT

REGIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATION MODEL – Status Report

PURPOSE

As directed by the Capital Regional Board in 2006, the Protective Services Department was to prepare a Regional Disaster Response Coordination Model in consultation with the Regional Emergency Coordinators Commission for consideration by the Board. This report is intended to update the Committee on the consultation process and to provide for receipt of the Consultant's report that is being presented to the Regional Emergency Coordinators Commission on April 19, 2007 and the Forum of Councils on May 5, 2007.

BACKGROUND

The Capital Region's municipalities and electoral areas continue to evolve their individual emergency programs. There is a longstanding disaster response mutual aid agreement between municipalities to facilitate resource sharing. Reflecting on the numerous large scale disasters which have occurred during 2005, the Regional Emergency Coordinators Commission (RECC) concluded that this method of service delivery, while responsive to emergency events within municipal boundaries and electoral areas and possibly between neighbouring municipalities, would be inadequate to respond to an area wide disaster within the CRD. The RECC identified the following concerns and observations with respect to the management and coordination of an area-wide disaster response:

- Competition for limited local resources will be intense.
- Competition for out of region resources would also be anticipated.
- Differences in policies and procedures between agencies.
- Lack of timely and complete information from all sources to allow "big picture" assessment of the situation.
- Lack of inter-jurisdictional communications.
- Media interest will be high and response activities intensely scrutinized.

The RECC therefore requested that the Board pursue funding to prepare a possible model for Regional Disaster Coordination. The Board identified the need for improved emergency preparedness and disaster planning as a strategic priority in the 2006/2008 Strategic Plan with the objective of providing for:

- reliable emergency communications
- reduced risk to residents
- improved confidence re/ area wide emergency preparedness
- increased trust between emergency response departments

For the purposes of this project the RECC participated directly by selecting a steering committee with five members that selected the consultant and supported the project by providing information, meeting with the consultant and reviewing the draft information presented in the report. The RECC as a whole was provided with progress updates and received a presentation of the final consultant report on April 19, 2007.

CONSULTATION PROCESS FOLLOWED BY REGIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE MODEL PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TEAM

<i>Agency/Group</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Role / Responsibility</i>
RECC Steering Committee	Jan-March 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appointed by the RECC Chair to work with the CRD Project Manager. ▪ Assist the CRD with the evaluation of proposals and the selection of a consultant to complete project. ▪ Provide direction to the Project Manager and the consultant to identify a viable model ▪ Evaluate draft reports and provide feedback on report format and consultation strategy. ▪ Assist Consultant and Project Manager in recommending a preferred model for consideration by the RECC and CRD Board.
RECC	Nov 2006 – April 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide input to the CRD on the content of the RFP and project plan. ▪ Receive project updates at regularly scheduled meetings. ▪ Receive presentation and final draft of the report from the consultant. ▪ Provide feedback to project team on the viability of the selected model and clarity of the report. ▪ Assist in providing information to Public Safety Providers and interested parties on merits of the selected model.
Public Safety Providers	April 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attend workshop and receive Consultant presentation of the report. ▪ Provide comments and suggest possible revisions to CRD staff for incorporation into the selected model.
Forum of Councils / Municipal Councils	May 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Receive proposed model with amendments as proposed by the RECC. ▪ Provide comments and suggested revisions to the proposed model. ▪ Consider endorsing proposed model.
Planning & Protective Services Committee / CRD Board	June/July 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Receive final report from staff with recommendations for implementation of the selected regional disaster response coordination model.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Capital Regional District received a UBCM grant and the Regional District Board has provided matching funds through the regional feasibility study process to develop a regional disaster response coordination model for all CRD member municipalities and electoral areas.

TIMEFRAME

It is anticipated that the Regional Disaster Response Coordination Model Report will be finalized by May and presented to the Planning & Protective Services Committee and CRD Board by June / July 2007.

FINAL PRODUCT AND MONITORING

Implementation of a Regional Disaster Response Coordination Model will need to include recommendations to begin the process of identifying the implications of establishing the necessary regional, sub-regional, and local authorities. A new model will need to integrate and clarify the roles of the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP), the Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Center, (PREOC), a possible Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC), Emergency Operations Centers (EOC's) for regional services and Emergency Operations Centers (EOC's) for the municipal and electoral area local authorities within the Region.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this report is to update the Planning and Protective Services Committee on the status of the Regional Disaster Response Coordination Model report and consultation process. The Consultant's report is being presented to the Regional Emergency Coordinators Commission on April 19, 2007 and the Forum of Councils on May 5, 2007. Following completion of the consultation process and the receipt of comments, staff will prepare a further report to the Committee providing recommendations and outlining the implications of implementing the recommended model.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Consultant's report on Regional Disaster Coordination Models be received as information.

David Gibbs
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Robert Lapham, MCIP
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Concurrence

COMMENTS: