



**REPORT TO PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2013**

**SUBJECT FIRST NATION ENGAGEMENT ON THE REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY
STRATEGY**

ISSUE

To apprise the Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee (PT&PSC) on the status and next steps in engaging First Nations in the Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS) process.

BACKGROUND

Prior to the launch of the RSS process, the Board directed staff to undertake early and ongoing engagement with First Nations, as per the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) legislation and as directed by the Province. Specifics regarding how and the extent to which First Nations engagement should and can be undertaken, are to be determined by the CRD Board. Committee has been advised of the incremental engagement activities with First Nations leading up to the launch of the RSS.

Building on the delegations to each First Nation in 2012 (attended by the Chair and two Regional Planning staff), a consultant (EPI International) has been engaged to assist staff with finalizing and implementing an engagement strategy. A brief summary of the proposed engagement options is contained in Attachment 1.

The proposed engagement options were developed in consideration of the following requirements: reflect differing capacities, interests and governance structures; seek out opportunities for First Nations and local government to learn more about one another; endeavour to establish a standard for collaborative planning; and adhere to the RSS schedule as well as possible recognizing that the timeline may not align with First Nations priorities or capacities.

There are 10 First Nations with Reserve Lands in the CRD. The recommended engagement activities fall into three categories, depending upon where each First Nation is in the treaty process:

- With respect to the Te'mexw Treaty Association (Scia'new (Beecher Bay), Songhees, T'Sou-ke and Malahat Nations) representing four of the five members of the collective, this group will engage with the RSS process through their treaty table as part of their ongoing negotiations, as directed by their lead negotiator. The nature and scope of engagement activities is to be determined through this process. Regional planning and the Chief Administrative Officer are currently in discussion with the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs to receive written confirmation that this approach is acceptable to the Province.
- Pacheedaht First Nation is currently in Step 4 of treaty negotiations. Engagement activities will be coordinated through a separate side table to their treaty process.
- The remaining five Douglas Treaty nations (Tsartlip, Tsawout, Pauquachin, Tseycum, and Esquimalt) will continue to be approached directly for engagement opportunities.

ALTERNATIVES

That the Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee:

1. receive Report PPS/RSP 2013-05 Update on First Nations Engagement in the RSS process for information with instructions to staff to provide ongoing updates and at key decision-making points relative to engagement activities.
2. receive Report PPS/RSP 2013-05 Update on First Nations Engagement in the RSS process and direct staff to research alternative engagement options.

ENGAGEMENT OPTIONS

The options for engagement vary according to the First Nation community and the respective phases of the RSS. They are documented in Attachment 1 and summarized as follows:

- Options in Phase 1 of the RSS focus on developing and delivering communications materials and developing relationships at the staff level with Band Administrators.
- During Phase 2 - the broader RSS community engagement phase, the options involve more hands on sessions which may include tying in with existing outreach events or facilitating separate events.
- During Phases 3 and 4, the options blend ongoing communications (fine-tuned over the previous phases) with the potential for a more formal CRD-hosted welcoming event to celebrate the emerging relationship with the First Nations communities who participated in the process.

In later phases, Committee direction would be sought regarding the hosting of a CRD welcoming event.

IMPLICATIONS

Intergovernmental Implications

The engagement options identified gives direct and intentional consideration to the relationship between municipalities and their neighbouring First Nation. The engagement team will work closely with municipal staff and councils to ensure options are compatible with municipal interests and protocols.

Growth Management Implications

This process is an important first step in identifying areas of mutual interest and understanding First Nations community aspirations with the intention of ultimately integrating their community vision, into the RSS.

Economic Implications

The resources required to deliver the recommendations in the draft engagement strategy are accounted for in the existing RSS budget and work plan. As the engagement process unfolds, staff will make every effort to weight the activity options in consideration of the allotted resources.

CONCLUSION

First Nations engagement in the RSS process began before the RSS was formally launched, with delegations (made up of the Board Chair and Regional Planning staff) to Chiefs and Councils in 2012. Subsequent to those meetings, a consultant with extensive expertise with First Nations and local government collaboration was contracted for the duration of the four phases of the RSS process. The consultant team has worked with Regional staff to develop engagement options for each First Nations community outside of the Te'mexw Treaty Association (Attachment 1). The recommended approach and activities reflect the unique context, capacity and current level of interest of each nation.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee:

1. receive Report PPS/RSP 2013-05 Update on First Nations Engagement in the RSS process for information with instructions to staff to provide ongoing updates and at key decision-making points relative to engagement activities.

****ORIGINAL SIGNED****

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Attachment: 1 Summary of Engagement Options

Summary of Engagement Options

The proposed engagement strategy builds off initial CRD outreach undertaken in the spring/summer of 2012 where Chiefs and Councils and Band Administrators were introduced to the RSS project.

Next steps in the process propose a round of informal meetings between Band Administrators (and other staff where appropriate or desired), the project consultants and CRD staff. Municipal planning staff from the District of Central Saanich for Tsartlip and Tsawout First Nations and from neighbouring municipalities for the other First Nations will be invited to attend with the delegation. The purpose of these meetings will be to present a suite of engagement options, with the intention of determining the best mix of activities, based on their own internal needs, capacities and direction from their leadership.

Table 1 (below) summarizes the proposed suite of engagement options for each First Nation with an indication of the resources required relative to the relationship-building potential and the intended audience.

Table 2 (below) summarizes the expected level of uptake for each of the First Nations based on preliminary feedback received during the delegations to Chiefs and Councils as well as the consultant's experience in similar planning processes in other communities.

The following is a glossary of terms for the proposed list of engagement options:

Project Binder	A convenient binder provided to which ongoing RSS information and relevant materials is added and stored in one convenient location.
Fact Sheets / Primer	Concise backgrounders that can begin to fill knowledge gaps regarding CRD, municipalities, RSS process and First Nations.
Community newsletter	Inserts or article submissions as a way to disseminate information to broader First Nation membership.
Website / Web Portal	Develop a "partners" tab to include links to member municipalities and a First Nations page to provide two-way information.
Community Information Posters	A Large format version of the newsletter to be posted around First Nation venues to help increase exposure and awareness.
Integration with RSS events	Special attention to ensure wider RSS events include First Nations participants.
Shirtsleeves Sessions	"Rolling up the shirt sleeves together" – a show of goodwill and relationship building by way of strategic capacity support where appropriate and feasible to work together to get things done (may or may not be related to RSS specifically). E.g., Technical planning support (GIS mapping) or Soft planning (communications).
CRD and First nations Presentations and Meetings	Direct information / update presentations on the RSS process to staff, Chief and Council, Committees. Presentations can be staff to staff, staff to leadership or leader to leader, as appropriate.
Piggybacking outreach	Possible coordination with existing First Nations community events, with RSS presence and communication.
Kitchen table conversations	Informal meetings with small groups (family groups, staff departments, Elders, youth) to discuss / explore mutual areas of interest.
CRD hosted event	A formal event involving First Nations leadership and staff – as a method to collect feedback, build relationships or as a celebration and 'thank-you' event.
Community visit / tour	Visit by elected officials and staff from CRD or local governments to a First Nation's home community (and vice versa) to build mutual understanding of each other's community concerns, governance and political / admin processes.

Table 1

SUMMARY TABLE OF ENGAGEMENT OPTIONS

TOOLS	TIME	COST \$	PARTICIPANT TIME	RELATIONSHIP BUILDING POTENTIAL	PRIMARY AUDIENCE
<i>Phase One</i>					
A) Project Binder					Council, Staff
B) Fact Sheets/Primer					Council, Staff, Community
C) Community Newsletter					Council, Staff, Community
D) Website					Council, Staff, Community
E) Community Information Posters/Displays					Community
<i>Phase Two</i>					
A) Project Binder - updates					Council, Staff
C) Community Newsletter - updates					Council, Staff, Community
D) Website - updates					Council, Staff, Community
F) Integration with Other RSS Events/Outreach			varies		Council, Staff, Community
G) "Shirtsleeves" Sessions - topics TBD		varies			Council, Staff
H) CRD and First Nations Presentations and Meetings					Council, Staff
I) Protocol or MOU for Ongoing Engagement					Council, Staff
J) "Piggybacking" Outreach on Existing Events					Council, Staff, Community
K) Kitchen Table Conversations					Council, Staff, Community
<i>Phase Three</i>					
A) Project Binder - updates					Council, Staff
C) Community Newsletter - updates					Community
D) Website - updates					Council, Staff, Community
F) Integration with Other RSS Events/Outreach			varies		Council, Staff, Community
G) "Shirtsleeves" Sessions - topics TBD		varies			Council, Staff
H) CRD and First Nations Presentations and Meetings					Council, Staff
L) CRD-Hosted Engagement Event					Council, Staff
M) Community Visit/Tour					Council, Staff, Community

- Indicates low requirement (e.g. Low technical capacity required)
- Indicates medium requirement (e.g. Medium amount of time)
- Indicates high requirement (e.g. High cost)

Table 2

Symbology:

Full moon: high likelihood of interest Half moon: possible uptake New moon: unknown / to be determined

STRATEGY SUMMARY TABLE BY FIRST NATION

OPTIONS	Pacheedaht First Nation	Tsartlip First Nation	Tsawout First Nation	Pauquachin Nation	Tseycum First Nation	Esquimalt First Nation
<i>Phase One</i>						
A) Project Binder	●	●	●	●	●	●
B) Fact Sheets/Primer	●	●	●	●	●	●
C) Community Newsletter	●	●	●	●	●	●
D) Website	●	●	●	●	●	●
E) Community Information Posters/ Displays	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐
<i>Phase Two</i>						
A) Project Binder - updates	●	●	●	●	●	●
C) Community Newsletter - updates	●	●	●	●	●	●
D) Website - updates	●	●	●	●	●	●
F) Integration with Other RSS Events/ Outreach	◐	●	●	●	●	●
G) "Shirtsleeves" Sessions - topics TBD	◑	◑	●	●	◑	◐
H) CRD and First Nations Presentations and Meetings	●	●	●	●	●	●
I) Protocol or MOU for Ongoing Engagement	◐	●	●	◑	◑	●
J) "Piggybacking" Outreach on Existing Events	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐
K) Kitchen Table Conversations	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐
<i>Phase Three</i>						
A) Project Binder - updates	●	●	●	●	●	●
C) Community Newsletter - updates	●	●	●	●	●	●
D) Website - updates	●	●	●	●	●	●
F) Integration with Other RSS Events/ Outreach	◐	●	●	●	●	●
H) CRD and First Nations Presentations and Meetings	●	●	●	●	●	●
L) CRD-Hosted Engagement Event	●	●	●	●	●	●
M) Community Visit/Tour	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐

● LIKELY

◐ UNLIKELY

◑ TBD