

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, June 20, 2001

SUBJECT:

Proposed Regional Economic Development Strategy Partnership Agreement

BACKGROUND:

- Mar 28, 2001: Board approves \$35,000 as a contribution for costs associated with the preparation of a Regional Economic Development Strategy, to be carried out by the Capital Enterprise Partnership (CEP) (now the Greater Victoria Enterprise Partnership Society), subject to - approval of a project description, work plan, and a partnership agreement negotiated under section 176 of the *Local Government Act*.
- May 9, 2001: Draft of proposed Regional Economic Development Strategy partnership agreement reviewed and discussed by representatives of the CEP (Lorne Whyte, Glenn Terrell), the CRD (Chairman Causton, Vice-Chair Hunter, Mark Hornell) and Mayor Beth Gibson (representing the Mayor's Economic Summit).
- June 5, 2001: CEP representatives Lorne Whyte, Ken Stratford and Doug Taylor meet with Mark Hornell to discuss revisions to the proposed partnership agreement.

DISCUSSION:

Attachment A identifies the constitution, directors and address of the Greater Victoria Enterprise Partnership Society (GVEPS), an organization established under the *Society Act*, to:

1. Create the blueprint for the Economic Development Strategy for the Greater Victoria region;
2. Support the economic development of the Greater Victoria region; and,
3. Serve as a liaison group between organizations and agencies engaged in economic development in the Greater Victoria region.

In addition to the CRD's \$35,000 contribution, GVEPS has received commitments from the Federal Government to contribute \$100,000 to the cost of preparing the proposed strategy.

Attachment B presents a Proposed Regional Economic Development Strategy Partnership Agreement for the Committee's information, review and consideration. This proposed partnership agreement is limited in scope, focused on the preparation of a Regional Economic Strategy. The GVEPS does not wish to enter into a more comprehensive agreement that would address the maintenance and implementation of the Regional Economic Development Strategy at this time. In their view, a further agreement could be negotiated upon successful completion of the Regional Economic Development Strategy and its adoption into the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) through an interim amendment, that would address ongoing maintenance and implementation of the strategy, including cost sharing arrangements.

The proposed RGS includes the following action (5.1) related to this agreement:

The CRD agrees to participate with a broad cross-section of business and community interests, member municipalities, the Province, and the Federal Government in establishing, through a written agreement, a regional economic development partnership. The partnership would oversee preparation and maintenance of a Regional Economic Development Strategy and coordinate actions, programs, investments and initiatives in its implementation.

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This action goes beyond the scope of the currently proposed partnership agreement. However until such time as the RGS is adopted and firm commitments to its implementation made, the GVEPS believes that it cannot enter into an agreement to undertake maintenance and implementation of the Regional Economic Development Strategy on behalf of the CRD.

Staff concur that at the present time, the proposed partnership agreement goes as far as can reasonably be expected toward implementing proposed RGS action 5.1. Staff however, believe that clause 3 (3), related to the makeup of the proposed Project Management Team (PMT) and deleted from the proposed partnership agreement by GVEPS, should be restored. This clause read as follows in an earlier draft of the proposed agreement, and is shown in boldface in Attachment B:

The PMT will include senior staff representation from the Capital Regional District's Regional Planning Services Department and senior staff representation of member municipalities, provincial and other agencies as designated by the Capital Regional District's Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC).

The number of these proposed representatives on the PMT could be subject to negotiation in developing terms of reference for the project for the approval of the Boards of the CRD and GVEPS. As well, staff recommend that clause 4 - Terms and Renewal, deleted by GVEPS, be restored to the Agreement but with a term of 2 years, reduced from the 5 years originally proposed.

Once the agreement is finalized, it will be presented to the Committee and the Board for approval. At this time, staff wish to finalize the agreement and submit it for review by the CRD solicitor.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Regional Planning Committee endorse in principle the proposed Regional Economic Development Strategy Partnership agreement.

Mark Hornell, MCIP
Acting Manager, Regional Planning Services

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

W.M. Jordan, Executive Director