

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT
Regional Planning Services Department

Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, November 20, 2002

SUBJECT:

Regional Growth Strategy Referral Process - Update Report #6

BACKGROUND:

2002

- February 27 The Board gives Bylaw No. 2952 first and second reading and resolves to hold a public hearing on the bylaw, ask the Minister to appoint a provincial facilitator, and to submit the bylaw to member municipalities, the Cowichan Valley Regional District and the Minister for acceptance following the public hearing and before third reading.
- April 3 The public hearing on Bylaw No. 2952 is held by Chair Causton as a delegation of the board at the Ambrosia Catering and Event Centre, 638 Fisgard Street, Victoria. The report of the public hearing was subsequently received by the Board on April 24th and referred to member municipalities for information.
- April 5 Bylaw No. 2952 is formally submitted by letter signed by Chair Causton to member municipalities, the CVRD and the Minister for acceptance. The bylaw is also distributed for information to the Islands Trust, School Districts, First Nations and the Greater Vancouver Regional District.
- May 8 Provincial facilitator Dale Wall presents to the Board on the role of the facilitator for the CRD Regional Growth Strategy.
- May 15 The RGS Referral Process Update Report #1 is presented to the Regional Planning Committee. No formal responses were received at this time.
- June 19 The RGS Referral Process Update Report #2 is presented to the Regional Planning Committee. Formal acceptance of the RGS is received from the District of Sooke and the Cowichan Valley Regional District.
- July 17 The RGS Referral Process Update Report #3 is presented to the Regional Planning Committee. Formal acceptance of the RGS is received from the District of Saanich, the Township of Esquimalt, and the Township of Central Saanich.

- August 14 RGS Referral Process Report on Issues and Options for Resolution (Update #4) is presented to the Board of Directors. At this date formal acceptance has been received by Central Saanich, Colwood, CVRD, Esquimalt, Langford, Oak Bay, Saanich, Sooke and Victoria. Acceptance has not been obtained from Highlands, Metchosin, North Saanich, Sidney and View Royal.
- September 11 A memorandum of understanding between the Town of View Royal and the CRD Board is approved by the Board of Directors. The MOU recognizes the Town of View Royal as a core municipality for the purpose of the RGS.
- September 23 Correspondence is received from Dale Wall, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, extending the referral period to October 31, 2002.
- October 21 The Provincial Facilitator meets with representatives from the Province, the District of Highlands and the District of Langford to resolve outstanding issues related to the RGS.
- October 31 The statutory referral period ends.

DISCUSSION:

The statutory referral period for the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS), Bylaw No. 2952 concluded on October 31, 2002.

Originally scheduled to end Tuesday August 6, 2002 the referral period was extended twice, first to September 30 and to October 31, 2002. The last extension was granted to allow the District of Highlands, the District of North Saanich and the Town of Sidney staff and elected officials to explore possible options to resolve the concerns raised by these municipalities.

The Provincial Facilitator worked with the District of Highlands and the District of Langford to develop an agreement on boundary-related issues. The agreement was not acceptable to the District of Highlands and was subsequently set aside. On the recommendations of the District of Highlands Council, their previous resolution to reject the RGS Bylaw was rescinded and a resolution was passed to accept it.

Regional Planning Services staff worked with the District of North Saanich and the Town of Sidney to find acceptable solutions to their issues. The District of North Saanich is continuing to work with regional district staff on possible options. The Council was not provided with adequate time to consider the most recent option presented to them, due to the October 31 deadline. Municipal staff from the District of Sidney has not indicated a willingness to work with regional district staff on this issue.

Based on his observations of the process and the issues outstanding, the Provincial Facilitator did not want to extend the deadline on the statutory referral period for a third time. According to the

provincial representatives, the municipalities can continue to work with the regional district to develop mutually acceptable solutions to the issues outstanding.

At this stage of the process the Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services will advise on the next steps in the Provincial dispute resolution process established for the regional growth strategies.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Regional Planning Committee recommend to the Board that it:

- (1) direct staff to continue to work with the District of North Saanich to reach agreement on the RGS Bylaw and the implementation elements, and
- (2) advise the Minister of Community, Aboriginal, and Women's Services that at the conclusion of the statutory referral period, two municipalities had still not accepted the regional growth strategy and request, in writing, that the minister notify the District of North Saanich, the Town of Sidney and the Regional District what the implications of non-acceptance are and what steps he wishes to take at this stage.

Tracy Corbett, Senior Planner
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

W.M. Jordan, Executive Director