

- The Transportation Plan is expected to be completed this year and the CRD will continue to work on the Regional Sustainability Strategy to support transportation.
- Key corporate objectives for housing are increasing the leverage of the Capital Region Housing Corporation's (CRHC) equity and assets, increasing effectiveness of the Regional Housing Trust Fund and increasing regional housing opportunities by responding to the market and changing conditions.
- Innovative projects that involve secondary suites, multi-family units, working with municipalities for inclusionary zoning will be considered.

In response to questions from Council, Mr. Lapham stated:

- The CRD is working with the CRHC to blend the overall portfolio and make investments in upgrades on a staggered basis; investments and energy consumption will be reported back to the CRD Board.
- A full asset inventory with life expectancy of major investments and lifecycle costs is available.
- The CRD engaged with tenants on the Crime-Free Multi-Housing Program; tenant groups are established and can be approached for consultation on other projects including climate action.
- There are challenges regarding Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) housing stock; subsidies are based on the differential between the current interest rate and the interest rate at time of construction.
- There are 1500 people on the wait list for affordable housing; CRHC focuses on families.
- CRD is open to housing agreements given the number of people on wait lists and the lack of availability of housing; the idea of subsidizing home ownership with covenants is being explored.

Ms. L. Hutcheson, CRD General Manager, Environmental Sustainability, and Acting General Manager, Parks and Community Services presented information on CRD Climate Action Objectives and Parks Objectives, and stated:

- Environmental Stewardship is in response to the need for regional sustainability including responding to global climate change, increasing collaboration with all levels of government and the private sector to protect ecosystem functioning and conserving natural resources.
- Initiatives include increasing efforts to mitigate climate change and responding to the effects of climate change, increasing conservation of regional ecosystems and increasing protection of marine and freshwater habitat.
- Success can be monitored by reviewing the integration of climate adaptation programs into regional services, completion of the climate action sub strategy, completion of regional sensitive ecosystem inventories and completion of an economic value report.
- The Land Acquisition Fund was established in 2000 at \$10 per household; to date the Fund has purchased 45,000 hectares of land, totally \$45 million; CRD Parks has contributed 73% of the land.
- Funding is committed to 2016; land acquisition generates \$3.6 million per year.

In response to questions from Council, Ms. Hutcheson stated:

- The BC Climate Action Charter obligates the CRD to be carbon neutral by 2012.
- To operate the organization, it is not realistic to have zero emissions; purchasing offsets or using different initiatives is important to balancing projects.
- Land purchase is used as a balancing project to offset carbon emissions; other balancing projects include the diversion of organics to the landfill and the acquisition of the Western Forest Products lands.
- The creation of a priority pollutants return program for excessive pharmaceuticals is being explored.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. H. Charania, 757 Genevieve Road stated:

- He questioned the ability to leverage the Housing Fund for affordable housing projects rather than leaving it dormant.
- He is concerned about the CRD purchasing land to offset the carbon footprint.

Councillor Derman stated:

- The land was bought by the CRD for parkland; the Regional Water Supply Commission bought land and will undertake a re-forestation of that watershed.
- The water on this land would not have to be filtered and will be available if and when water is needed; re-forestation will assist with offsetting carbon footprints.

Councillor Brice stated:

- The CRD bought the Western Forest Products lands for parkland and will protect the land in perpetuity; the re-forestation will assist with reducing the carbon footprint.

In response to a question, the Chief Administrative Officer stated:

- The money in the Housing Fund has been retained and will be allocated by Council on a project by project basis, based on the merit of each project.

Councillor Wergeland stated that the presenters are examples of the amazing quality of staff that the CRD has.

MOVED by Councillor Derman and Seconded by Councillor Wade: "That the presentation on Capital Regional District services be received with thanks."

CARRIED

Adjournment

On a motion from Councillor Wade, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

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CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate

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MUNICIPAL CLERK