



## Sorrento-Blind Bay Incorporation Advisory Committee

# MEETING SUMMARY

**TIME & PLACE:** Thursday, June 3, 2021  
6:00 PM – 8:30 PM  
Online Zoom Meeting

**PURPOSE:** The Sorrento-Blind Bay Incorporation Advisory Committee will meet as part of the analysis phase of the study. The Committee will review budgets, tax comparisons and boundary review assessment criteria.

*The Incorporation Committee, which includes the Electoral Area C Director as non-voting ex-officio, will provide oversight and direction on the study process. Once a report is prepared by the consultant, the committee will present the findings to the CSRD Board and then make a recommendation to the Directors on an incorporation referendum or giving further consideration to dividing Electoral Area C into two separate Electoral Areas. This was supported as an alternative option, should an incorporation process not proceed.*

*A decision on incorporation would have to get the approval of the electorate through a **referendum vote** before any change could be made.*

*The 'default option' of dividing Electoral Area C into two electoral areas, is in the event that incorporation of Sorrento-Blind Bay does not go ahead.*

**PRESENT:**

Committee Members:

Brian Butcher (Blind Bay)  
Lorrie Kelsey (Blind Bay)  
Darlene Lincoln (Blind Bay)  
Sandra Heschuk (Sorrento)  
Tracy Lundberg-Schimpf (Blind Bay)  
Michael Shapcott (Sorrento)  
John Smith (Blind Bay), Chair  
Larry Stephenson (Blind Bay)  
Paul Demenok, Director, Electoral Area C (non-voting ex-officio)

**ABSENT:**

Rose Fritz (Blind Bay)  
Patrick Earley (Blind Bay), Vice-Chair

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Allan Neilson, Neilson Strategies  
Sherry Hurst, Leftside Partners  
Jennifer Sham, CSRD staff  
Brad Payne, CSRD staff  
Kailey Laidlaw, Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing, Province of BC.

**PUBLIC ATTENDEES:** Members of the public attending varied from 11-14 during the meeting.

**1. Call to Order at 6:00 PM**

Chair Smith declared quorum and called the meeting to order.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Moved by Tracy Lundberg-Schimpf**

**Seconded by Darlene Lincoln**

THAT the agenda for the June 3, 2021 meeting be approved.

**CARRIED**

**3. ADOPTION OF MEETING SUMMARY**

**Moved by Tracy Lundberg-Schimpf**

**Seconded by Darlene Lincoln**

THAT the meeting summary with for the April 29, 2021 be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**4. Multi Year Budget and Sample Tax Notices**

The consultants presented an updated *Multi-Year Budget* with two options for implementing changes to property taxes should a decision be made to incorporate. Scenario 1 called for transition funds to be used to build reserves. Scenario 2 called for transition funds to be used to smooth tax rates. After the presentation, and questions and answers, there was a discussion by the Committee.

**Moved by Larry Stevenson**

**Seconded by Darlene Lincoln**

THAT Scenario 2, the “smoothing option”, be adopted as the preferred scenario.

**CARRIED**

**5. Questions from the Public**

Chair Smith invited members of the public to ask questions. A question about the disposition of capital reserves was answered by the consultants. All current capital reserves designated for Area C specific services would be allocated to a newly incorporated entity if that entity is established. New capital reserves, part of the BC Government incorporation “offer”, would also be available to a new incorporated entity, if that option is approved in a referendum.

**6. Community Engagement Survey**

The consultants reviewed the *Community Engagement Strategy* with the Committee, including the proposed materials, engagement methods and timing. A detailed report was presented setting out a three-month process from mid-July 2021 to mid-October 2021. The primary audience are electors in the study area, with a secondary audience as those outside the study area in the rest of Area C.

Key components:

- First mailout to community – options at a glance
- Second mailout to community – longer and next steps
- Meetings – Incorporation Committee meetings (three additional)
- Two open houses in Blind Bay / Sorrento
- Small group meetings
- Online resources
- Local and social media
- Paid advertising opportunities

The Committee offered additions:

- Binders in key community locations
- Theme-oriented meetings
- Panel of unbiased experts from other incorporated areas
- “Open door” facility to allow people to ask question and get answers
- Fact-checking and misinformation correcting function

The following people volunteered to serve on the engagement committee: Larry Stephenson, Tracy Lundberg-Schimpf, Paul Demenok, Michael Shapcott, John Smith.

**Moved by Darlene Lincoln**

**Seconded by Lorrie Kelsey**

THAT the engagement strategy as set out in the consultants' memo be adopted, with the five additions from the Committee;

AND THAT the membership of the engagement sub-committee be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

#### **7. Incorporation Study Area Boundary Update**

The consultant advised a letter has been sent to the BC Government to put forward the recommendations from the April 29, 2021, meeting regarding the endorsement by the committee for changes to the boundary area.

The consultant also advised that he received an inquiry from another property owner who wanted to be excluded. Due to zoning considerations, the consultant recommended that the committee decline the request. The committee indicated support for the consultants' recommendation through consensus and directed that the consultant send a letter to the property owner setting out the rationale.

#### **8. Police Service Information Update**

The committee had earlier reviewed a police services information sheet. The consultant provided an oral update indicating that there is an ongoing review of the Chase and Salmon Arm detachments (which serve the incorporation study area). Once that review is completed, it will be presented to the committee. One issue, previously discussed by the committee, is that if the population of the proposed incorporation area grows above 5,000, there will be added policing costs, including the possibility of a detachment building. The consultant will keep the committee informed.

#### **9. Municipal Classification and Size of Council**

The consultant advised that the Provincial government is seeking the recommendation of the committee on two structural questions regarding a possible incorporation: First, the determination of the designation of district or town; and second, the size of the council.

Default option: district municipality with council of mayor and six councillors.

Another option: village or town with a council of mayor and four councillors.

The committee members generally expressed a preference for the default option of a district municipality but opted to reserve their final decision until after further consideration and consultation.

While almost all of BC municipalities have an "at-large" election system for mayor and council, municipalities in other parts of Canada have a "ward" system to allow for local representation throughout the municipality. The committee had an initial conversation and opted to reserve a final decision until after further consideration and consultation.

#### **10. Adjourn**

Meeting closed at 8:07 PM.

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Chair