

AREA C GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2017 CARLIN HALL**

Note: the following minutes are subject to correction when endorsed by the Area C Governance Committee at its next Committee meeting.

PRESENT: HENRY SCHNELL (Eagle Bay), KAREN BROWN (Shuswap Lake Estates), CAL HESCHUK (Sorrento), EDITH RIZZI (Sunnybrae Hall), LENORE JOBSON (Sunnybrae Seniors), DON PATERSON (Notch Hill), LARRY STEPHENSON (Carlin), STEVE WILLS (Cedar Heights), ANDY BARTELS (McArthur Heights/Reedman Point), GARETH SEYS (South Shuswap Chamber of Commerce), PAUL DEMENOK (Director, Electoral Area C), ALLAN NEILSON, SHERRY HURST, JULIET ANDERTON (Neilson-Welch Consulting)

REGRETS: RENEE REBUS (White Lake)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:00 PM

PURPOSE: The meeting on February 16th is the second official meeting of the Governance Study Steering Committee). The primary purpose of the meeting is to review the Draft Interim Report and the Draft Overview. Input and feedback provided by the Committee will form the development of the final Interim Report and the final set of engagement materials for distribution and/or presentation to the residents of Electoral Area C.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Committee members and the consulting team introduced themselves to the members of the public forming the gallery. A headcount was taken that totalled, not including the committee and consulting team, 94 in the public gallery.

2. STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MOVED/SECONDED by Andy Bartels/Edith Rizzi to accept the Minutes of October 13, 2016 – PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Karen Brown was appointed to record the Minutes of this February 16th 2017 meeting.

Before the general business of the meeting started, Consultant Allan Neilson reiterated to the public in attendance that this was the first stage in exploring the current governance of Area C and NOT an incorporation study. Questions, at this stage of the meeting, would be taken only

from the Governance Committee and at the end of the meeting, questions would be taken from the gallery.

3. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS FROM OCTOBER 13, 2016 MEETING

Sherry Hurst addressed the Committee and public about a question raised at the October 13th 2016 meeting regarding weighted votes. Director Demenok had stated at that meeting that he wasn't aware of any times wherein a weighted vote was needed or used. Sherry explained, in summary, the 45 services that the CSRD provides in which 18 of them are delivered to and paid for by Area C. Whenever it's only delivered to one area, the whole Board is entitled to vote on those issues. These are 18 services wherein a weighted vote cannot be used. Other services that are mandated by the Local Government Act such as regulatory, planning and general admin services; these also require the whole board therefore no weighted votes allowed. Several services to Area C involve collecting monies and giving to another service through Grants in Aid for example. No administrative or operational time needed so you would never see those types of decisions come to the Board therefore no weighted votes needed. Airport, Economic Development and Watershed Council are examples where the whole board is not involved but rather sub committees and commissions; these do not come before the board as well therefore no weighted votes. That all being said, it is not unusual that Director Demenok would not be seeing issues involving weighted votes come to the table.

Chair Steve Wills raised the issue of not having proper representation for the Area C population which is a topic that comes up a lot in the area. Director Demenok shared that the CSRD is made up of 11 Board members who represent from the Squilax to the Alberta border so representation is more senatorial in nature. When you speak about decisions based on population, it doesn't happen a lot in government; it's not usually based on population. He agreed with the Chair that it doesn't solve the concern one may have of directors outside of Area C having input on community issues here. This is the way it is set up under the Local Government Act for our regional district and cannot be addressed outside of this board system.

4. PURPOSE AND PROCESS OF GOVERNANCE STUDY

Allan Neilson then reminded everyone of the purpose and process for this study. We are here to document and assess the current state of government. We are here to identify concerns and if there are different delivery options available for service or different forms of governance for Area C. Steering Committee will make a recommendation after having canvassed community and engaging with residents. The recommendation by the Committee could be remaining status quo or exploring a change.

Allan then took the committee and public through the stages of the study setting out three or four committee meetings, development of interim reports & engagement materials, final reports and finally the committee recommendation & presentation to the CSRD Board.

Karen Brown asked if the numbers were current and for the next report, if the numbers from the latest census and updated numbers could be included in the report.

5. DRAFT INTERIM REPORT

Sherry Hurst then proceeded to go through the 56 page Draft Interim Report.

a) Services

- i) Director Demenok answered a question raised about budgets and reserves. He stated that under the regional district model, they budget by function and each budget has to go to each activity or service. If it's not spent, it goes into a reserve. This is one fundamental difference between municipalities and electoral areas under a regional district.
- ii) Sherry added that there is an Area C Fire Services Advisory Committee
- iii) Edith Rizzi asked if every community had a First Responders Group within Area C to which she received the answer that the Shuswap First Responders covers all populous areas within Area C.

b) Planning & Development Services

- i) Sherry explained this department covers the Official Community Plans (OCP's,) development permits, planning projects and bylaw enforcement; also special one off projects like this study and a Parks Master Plan - two projects currently underway in Area C.
- ii) Sherry also shared that there is an Advisory Planning Committee for Area C.
- iii) All of these services are covered by property taxation and a few permit fees

c) Parks/Recreation Services

- i) Covers community parks, Shaw Centre, library services.
- ii) Karen Brown asked about the Library Service; seems a tad high in tax dollars to residents. Edith Rizzi raised the same issue. Director Demenok added that the library services is across the board for regional districts and there has been a report recently that our Blind Bay branch is underserved. Edith also commented that she is rather shocked by the number of dollars going to the library system, especially compared to monies going to parks, 28 in the area.
- iii) Karen Brown shared that as a library patron at the coast, she paid a nominal fee of \$10 a year for her membership and is sure that might help ease some of the tax burden on residents, especially those who cannot or do not use the service.

d) Economic Development Services

- i) Covers Shuswap Economic/Development, Shuswap Tourism, Info Tourism Service Fee to Chamber of Commerce and the Film Commission.
- ii) Ec/Dev Officer Robyn Cyr was in attendance and answered a few questions raised, one in particular about a 1.3 million reserve. ** Update: This was an error on the report. The 1.3 million dollars in the report is the payment in lieu of taxes that is allocated to communities that surround the Mica Dam.
- iii) To also clarify, the \$600,000 dollars allocated for Economic Development on the report is for all regions of the Shuswap serviced by the Ec/Dev Department, NOT just Area C. All of those service areas include Electoral Areas C, D, E, F & Sicamous.
- iv) Shuswap Tourism services Areas C, D, E, F, Sicamous, Salmon Arm, Enderby and Chase. Enderby and Chase put monies into the Shuswap Tourism fund.
- v) Film Commission covers Areas B, C, D, E, F, Salmon arm, Sicamous, Revelstoke and Little Shuswap.
- vi) Area C Tourism Info covers the South Shuswap Chamber in Area C.

e) Transportation Services

- i) Airport and Transit were fees were explained by Sherry; no questions asked.

f) Administrative Services

- i) One of the questions that arose was to do with CSRD vehicles – are they leased or owned to which Director Demenok replied ‘leased’.
- ii) Karen Brown asked about the provincial grant that comes to the regional district to offset administrative costs. Is that open to incorporated municipalities as well to which Sherry replied ‘Yes’.

g) Water Services/Watershed Council/Liquid Waste Management/Street Lighting

- i) Sherry explained the various water services in Area C. The CSRD owns 5 in Cedar Heights, Eagle Bay, Sunnybrae, Reedman Point and Sorrento.
- ii) Director Demenok shared that there is an approved liquid waste management plan. Extensive consultation has gone back 8 or 9 years and has been signed off. He asked for a show of hands how many participated in that study in 2008. Six people raised their hands.
- iii) Street lighting, landfills and recycling depots were explained.

h) Miscellaneous Services Within Area C

Miscellaneous services offered by our regional district were covered. Director Demenok covered at the end, that he'd like to see the next version of the report set out what we get back from our services for the money that is put in. Could we, in a future report, see the 'value back to customer' for Area C?

i) Services Offered by Provincial Government

- i) Roads – Gareth Seys asked if MOTI has a current assessment of our road conditions and what kind of shape they are in. Director Demenok asked for a report for amount paid and what we have gotten in return for the amounts paid in. Karen Brown expanded on that and asked if we can get a report over the last five years.
- ii) Karen Brown asked about police costs and would like to know what kind of service we are currently getting. She spoke with Staff Sergeant Scott West from the Salmon Arm Detachment, who services Salmon Arm, rural areas outside of Salmon Arm including all of Area C to Sorrento (which is serviced by Chase Detachment). Salmon Arm had approximately 7000 callouts last year, 2100 of which were for rural. Estimating that we had approximately 1400 to 1500 to our area last year, Staff Sergeant West could not give an average response time.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MATERIALS

Juliet Anderton from the consulting team took over and introduced the first draft of the Community Engagement materials. The project website is up and running off of the CSRD site. Karen Brown suggested that the landing page is not that easy to find and perhaps a link off the CSRD homepage to the Governance Study landing page could be useful to help the public find the information that they need.

Draft Interim Report is now in circulation and a Draft Overview of the Interim Report is also done. They will be undertaking compiling a Survey that will be mailed out and available online for the public to take. They will also be undertaking stakeholder group meetings in the area to garner feedback. It is planned to host a series of community open houses at various venues within Area C – to be determined.

It is noted that a 2017 Tax Bill will be inserted into the Community Engagement Package rather than the 2016 Tax Bill currently in the materials.

Karen Brown asked if the Survey will be vetted for duplication and do we need to worry about this? Juliet shared that the survey is one tool to gauge public response and certainly if a number of online surveys come from the same IP address, they can be vetted.

Karen also asked if the consultants can ask on the survey if they attended a public meeting or open house before providing input through the survey?

Also raised, what is the 'grabber' for people to come to the meetings and/or open houses? At this point, Karen Brown polled the audience to see what brought out such large numbers for this meeting and appears that it was the topic of 'possible incorporation' that brought them out.

Juliet then wrapped things up by saying that a public engagement summary will be prepared in time for the June 15th meeting for the committee.

Allan Neilson then summarized the next steps moving forward:

- Update Interim Report
- Update Website
- Finalize Overview
- Create Other Community Engagement Materials & Distribute to Committee Members
- Engage Community Through Mail Survey, Meetings & Open Houses
- Third Committee Meeting June 15
- Possible Fourth Meeting (If Needed)

Andy Bartels asked a general question. If the CSRD is given the report and if the committee recommends exploring incorporation or another governance model, wouldn't they be challenged by the possible loss of tax dollars and revenue to the CSRD? Sherry Hurst explained that yes, there would be lower revenues going to the CSRD but also lower expenses to pay for the services to Area C so it's a wash. Allan Neilson added that the CSRD is indifferent in this process and it's important for them to remain 'neutral' through this study.

Karen Brown asked what is the commitment required by committee members for the Open Houses. Are they encouraged to be at all open houses scheduled to which the answer is "yes, as many as one can attend".

Open House dates were not confirmed by the Committee members nor the final locations. This will need to be relayed to all committee members and to the public. If committee members could be notified ASAP by the CSRD Deputy Manager, Corporate Administration or by the consulting team, it would be appreciated.

7. PUBLIC GALLERY QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

Two representatives from Blind Bay Hall Chris Harris & Jean Toker started off the questioning asking why the Blind Bay Hall had not been approached to sit on the Governance Committee. Discussion ensued on that topic. All of the meetings are public in nature and everyone in attendance was reassured that there is no information that is not shared with the public at any given time. There was ample opportunity to raise questions and have them answered this evening for example and the public was reminded that those members of the Governance Steering Committee are conduits back and forth for information. Their recommendation to the CSRSD will be based on the public's engagement and input so no one is left without a voice in this governance study process.

Lorraine Seys asked if we couldn't get some input from the younger demographic. Certain members of the Governance Committee do have direct ties with the NSSCR, daycare centres and arts and sports groups that engage younger residents. Certain steps will be taken here.

Jerry Paquette asked about process for getting on an area committee to which Director Demenok responded on the process.

Question from Gary of White Lake wondering if we shouldn't steer clear of the word 'incorporation' when putting it out there for people to engage to which the committee responded shared based on the show of hands tonight, do you think we would have had an open house if we'd simply put 'come out and learn about governance in Area C'?

Another question asked of the consultants "is there a process to audit and evaluate those services provided by the CSRSD or others in order to determine value for our tax dollars". Allan noted the question.

Another gallery member asked what the study is costing. A response was provided by the Chair, confirmed by the Elected Representative and agreed to by the consultant. Specifically the response was "Study costs is \$50,000; Director Demenok (on behalf of the CSRSD) had approached the Minister of Community, Sport & Cultural Development (Peter Fassbender) and a \$50,000 Provincial grant was authorized. The amount coincides with the cost of the study.

Another person asked if they have any control over raw sewage from Salmon Arm being dumped into our drinking water. Chair Steve Wills reminded that this was a governance meeting and the question was not applicable to the subject matter.

Another gallery member reminded everyone that if people want to get more information and be involved, it's important to put yourself out there.

Gareth Seys reminded the gallery that there is the South Shuswap Chamber of Commerce AGM on Thursday February 23rd at 6:30 Cedar Heights. If they want involvement, come out if you're a member.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:35 PM

Certified Correct

Chair:

Steve Wills