

## Kelowna News



### **RDCO board meeting highlights**

*by Contributed - Story: 52908  
Feb 23, 2010 / 2:30 pm*

Highlights of the Regular Regional Board Meeting – February 22

#### **Parks Legacy Acquisition Program Funding:**

The Regional Board has adopted a resolution to reduce previously planned funding of the Parks Legacy Acquisition Program for 2010. Subject to final budget approval the region-wide program is expected to now provide funds that will be leveraged to acquire ecologically significant properties valued at approximately \$13 million for the Regional Park system. Across the region a rate of 3.5 cents per thousand dollars of assessed property value will be collected for the program. That's combined with another two cent per thousand dollar rate (total 5.5 cents) to fund future Regional Park land acquisitions.

#### **Fintry Water Utility Feasibility Study**

The Regional Board has agreed to proceed with a complete study of the private Fintry Water Utility. Several property owners in the area serviced by the private utility have asked the Regional District to consider taking over ownership and operation of the more than 40-year old water system. Up to \$40,000 in Feasibility Funds will be used to conduct a thorough assessment of the utility, possible upgrades required and the financial impact on the more than 80 property owners serviced by the system. Any future acquisition may be considered in conjunction with the study that is currently underway to provide domestic water service to the Upper Fintry, Valley of the Sun and Shalal Road subdivisions along the northern portion of Westside Road.

#### **Water Board Grant Applications Supported**

The Regional Board has endorsed submitting nine applications to the Okanagan Basin Water Board Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant program. The grant requests from several area water districts and other organizations total more than \$176,000 including one from the Regional District for \$17,000 that would help fund an estimated \$43,000 in improvements for the Joe Rich watershed.

#### **Proposed North Westside Fire Boat**

The Regional Board supports a recommendation to establish a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Okanagan Landing Fire Department to respond as needed with its fire rescue boat for structural or interface fire fighting in the North Westside Fire Protection District area. The agreement would provide a trial period of at least one year so that members of the North Westside fire department can receive marine training and gather information to determine

whether a fire/marine rescue boat is an appropriate resource for the community.

### **Proposed Lakeshore Road South Rezoning**

The Regional Board has given second and third readings to a rezoning application for a 50-hectare parcel along the south end of Lakeshore Road in the Central Okanagan East Electoral Area. The applicant requested the zoning change to allow creation of four rural residential lots, two of them on Okanagan Lake while the other two front Lakeshore Road with a total of six residential dwellings planned. The applicant also proposes dedicating approximately 21-hectares of park land to the adjacent Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park. Final reading will not be considered until the applicant meets a number of conditions including registration of protective covenants.

### **Proposed Rezoning for Two Subdivisions:**

The Regional Board has given first reading to two separate rezoning applications affecting properties in the upper Ellison section of the Central Okanagan East Electoral Area. One application for a 62-hectare parcel adjacent to Farmers Drive asks for the rezoning to allow creation of 15 rural residential lots. The other rezoning application is for a 150-hectare parcel adjacent to the Bata Forest Service Road for a future 31-lot subdivision. Each applicant must complete a number of conditions before the Regional District schedules and advertises a Public Hearing.

### **Front Counter BC Application Supported:**

The Regional Board has given conditional support to a referral application from Front Counter BC made by the Mountain Bikers of the Central Okanagan. The organization has applied for a special designation under the Forest and Range Practices Act that would allow it to maintain and upgrade existing trails while rerouting problem trail areas adjacent to the Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park protected area near the Gillard Forest Service Road. Among the requested conditions of the Regional Board support before the Provincial agency considers the application: that the applicant develop a detailed management plan for the area and consult with other stakeholders that no motorized vehicles be permitted on any designated trails and that additional studies be done to investigate the area for sensitive ecosystems and high value habitat features.

### **January Building Statistics**

During January, the Inspections Section approved eight building permits for projects worth \$643,000 in the Central Okanagan East and Central Okanagan West Electoral Areas. In comparison during the first month of 2009, a total of 13 building permits were issued for construction projects in the electoral areas totalling \$354,600.

### **RDOS Growth Strategy Supported**

The Regional Board has endorsed the proposed Regional Growth Strategy for the neighbouring Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen. The process to develop the RDOS Regional Growth Strategy has been underway since 2004. Before any RGS can be adopted, the Local Government Act requires the support of all adjacent regional districts.

### **Okanagan Film Commission Update**

The Regional Board has received a presentation from members of the Okanagan Film Commission Board. Commissioner Jon Summerland and Vice Chair Gerri Logan outlined the variety of tasks the commission is involved with in promoting the area. During 2009, 25 productions conducted 219 shooting days at locations in the Okanagan-Similkameen and saw 283 local crew hired. It is estimated \$6.6-million was spent by those productions in the region. Producers of the movie 'Gunless' say because of their positive experience in the Okanagan, they are developing a television series that will be set in the valley and hope to shoot two to three projects in the region over the next five

years.

**Regional Hospital District Financial Plan:**

The Central Okanagan Regional Hospital District Board has received information regarding the 2010 Capital Funding Request from Interior Health. Almost \$1.3-million is requested for this year for the replacement of two specialized patient monitoring systems in the Intensive Care and Cardiac Care units, updating the nurse call system for the David Lloyd Jones facility and replacement of the air cooled evaporative condenser on the roof of the Cottonwoods care centre. The Central Okanagan Hospital District 2010 Financial Plan shows revenues and expenditures totalling \$11.9-million, which includes the Hospital District's share of the new Ambulatory Care tower and at Kelowna General Hospital. The Hospital District Board also approved a Capital Borrowing Bylaw of \$91.3-million for its share of the Interior Heart and Surgical Centre.

**Next Regional Board Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Regional Board will be Monday, March 22 at 7 p.m. in the Woodhaven Room at the Regional District office, 1450 KLO Road, Kelowna. Residents are welcome to attend.

**Governance and Services Meeting**

The Governance and Services Committee will meet Thursday, March 11 at 8:30 a.m. in the Woodhaven Board Room at the Regional District office, 1450 KLO Road, Kelowna. This session will include detailed discussion and deliberations regarding the proposed 2010 – 2014 Financial Plan. Residents are welcome to attend.