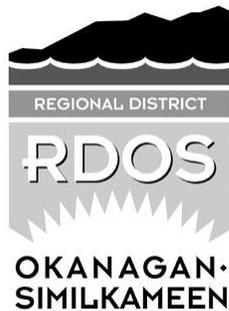


Penticton News



RDOS board highlights

*by Contributed - Story: 56456
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The following are highlights of the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen board meeting held Thurs., August 19.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Agricultural Land commission Referral - 13715 Willowbrook Road 7 5597 Green Lake Road – Electoral Area "C"
– The Board agreed to authorize a boundary adjustment application to proceed to the Agricultural Land Commission that would create parcels of approximately 1 ha and 11.92 ha in an Agricultural One (AG1) Zone.

Development Variance Permit Application - 10315 Old Richter Pass Road – Electoral Area "A" – to allow for a redevelopment of an existing carport to a garage was approved.

Development Permit Application - 600 Ellis Street – Electoral Area "E" – to obtain a form and character development permit to facilitate and 18 unit multi-family development was approved.

UBC OKANAGAN - The Board was addressed by Dr. Tom Siddon, representing the Deputy Vice Chancellor of UBC Okanagan Dr. Doug Owrap, Cynthia Mathieson, Dean of the Barber School of Arts and Sciences, and Dr. John Janmaat, candidate for the BC Regional Innovation Chair with respect to creating a Chair in Water Resource and Ecosystem Management. The Okanagan basin is one of the direst watersheds in Canada and a region that is experiencing some of the fastest population growth in the country. Dr. Janmaat's proposed research themes will look at:

- BC Water Act modernization process, with emphasis on water allocation and providing for ecosystem needs watershed governance, interaction between land use, water resource and ecosystem management with special attention to agriculture.
- Water diversion and storage systems, irrigation activities, foreshore development, and land use change and impacts on habitats critical for sustaining biodiversity of the Okanagan.
- Public attitudes and perceptions of water and how they drive water use, particularly in the Okanagan where climate and environment play a critical role in the attracting residents and tourists.

The RDOS Board supported the contribution of \$500,000 over a five year period through the Okanagan Basin Water

Board for the BC Regional Innovation Chair in Water Resources and Ecosystem Management for UBC Okanagan.

2010 CITIZEN SURVEY - The Regional Board was presented with the results of the 2010 Citizen Survey of services provided within the eight electoral areas in the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen. 400 residents were randomly selected to share their opinions and ideas about the Regional District as their local government with respect to Quality of Life, Service Satisfaction, Environment, Communications, Information Technology, and Fiscal Responsibility.

Residents overall satisfaction ratings indicated 74% of our residents rate the quality of life in their community as excellent, with the highest being Naramata at 88%. 60% rate it as an excellent place to raise children, with the highest rating going to Area B (Cawston) at 90% and 77% rate the Regional District as an excellent place to retire, with Areas A (Osoyoos), C (Oliver), D (Okanagan Falls/Kaleden) & E (Naramata) virtually tying at 80%. 85% agree the Regional District is doing a good job overall.

78% of our citizens believe they get good value for taxes paid. When asked, 68% of our citizens prefer that we offer the same level of service at the same level of taxation while 11% would prefer that we reduce the current level of service. Asked whether they might support a tax increase, 17% said they would support an increase for increased service. The complete report on the 2010 Citizen Survey is available for download from the Regional District website at www.rdos.bc.ca or by contacting the Regional District at (250)492-0237.

OKANAGAN GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROJECT - The Board approved the Regional District to partner with the Okanagan Basin Water Board, Department of Environment and Agriculture Canada to develop new monitoring wells for water table levels in the Okanagan Valley. The fund will be allocated from the Okanagan Basin Water Board's budget. The Regional District has been receiving increasing evidence that aquifers in the Okanagan Valley are decreasing, most recently in the Faulder area, with representation from the Twin Lakes area as well. Water Management was identified as one of our more significant issues in the Corporate Strategic Plan and Watershed Protection one of our corporate priorities.

ELECTORAL AREA 'A' NORTH WEST SEWER SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT AMENDMENT BYLAW - The Board established a sewer service area for a portion of Electoral Area „A“ on January 21, 2010, to be delivered by the Town of Osoyoos. The Regional District was advised by the Town that nine properties within the service area have opted out. To address the request of these nine property owners, an amendment bylaw has been created and adopted by the Board.

REVIEW OF AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION OPERATIONS, POLICIES AND LEGISLATION - The Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is embarking on a review of all facets of the organization, including operations, policies and legislation, to ensure that it is appropriately positioned to continue the agricultural land preservation program well into the future. The purpose of the review is to determine if the Commission is capable of meeting its mandate as outlined in section 6 of the Agriculture Land Commission Act as well as exploring opportunities to more effectively and efficiently administer the ALR. A number of meetings are scheduled for around the province during August and September.

Both staff and elected officials are welcome to participate and the ALC anticipates most delegations from local governments will be between 5-10 people. The ALC has developed a preliminary plan that has them in Kelowna on Thursday, September 9, 2010 and the RDOS is tentatively scheduled for 10:00 am – 11:30 am, with the venue still to be determined.

There is no agenda and no need for preparations and/or presentations as Mr. Bullock envisions a general discussion regarding the ALR issues in our area.

The ALC has no plans for follow up meetings so they are encouraging the RDOS representatives to take the opportunity to meet with Mr. Bullock in September.

STATUS ON APPLICATIONS/ISSUES BEFORE THE BOARD

Bylaw No. 2453.08 Electoral Area "C" Zoning Amendment Bylaw Public Hearing

Bylaw No. 2452.05 Electoral Area "C" OCP Amendment Bylaw Defeated

Bylaw No. 2453.09 Electoral Area "C" Zoning Amendment Bylaw Defeated