

News

Assent on rail corridor sought

Morning Star Staff

Lake Country residents can now decide if they support borrowing funds to purchase a rail corridor.

On Friday, the Lake Country council initiated an alternative approval process. It is seeking elector approval to borrow up to \$2.6 million to fund 50 per cent of the purchase of the discontinued CN rail line within Lake Country.

"Anyone that supports the borrowing for this purchase does not need to do anything," said Reyna Seabrook, corporate services manager.

Lake Country voters opposed to the borrowing must submit an established elector response form with an original signature by Feb. 23 at noon.

In order to keep track of how many forms have been distributed, forms can be picked up at the municipal office starting Wednesday or they can be mailed upon

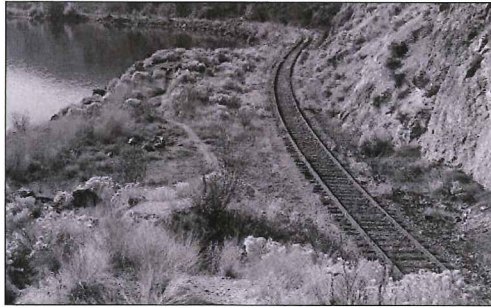


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Lake Country wants to borrow \$2.6 million to buy a rail corridor.

request.

If less than 10 per cent of Lake Country's 9,315 eligible electors object to the borrowing, the district can borrow the funds through the Municipal Financial Authority and pay the back over 20 years.

"This may result in the average residential dwelling valued at \$475,000 seeing an equivalent value property tax increase of about \$27 per year

over 20 years," said Seybrook.

The City of Kelowna will invest in the remaining 50 per cent of the CN rail line lands within Lake Country to minimize the tax impact on Lake Country residents and help protect the opportunity to acquire the entire CN rail line.

Lake Country has identified some portions of surplus lands to protect for the benefit of the community but the

sale of remaining surplus lands will go directly to reducing Kelowna's 50 per cent investment in Lake Country lands and increase Lake Country's ownership.

Over time Lake Country will purchase Kelowna's 50 per cent investment in the lands back.

"The district is committed to ensuring the process is transparent and informative to all citizens," said Seybrook of the AAP.

"Information will be provided through a variety of channels including the news media, website, social media and public open houses to interact with staff."

Open houses will be held Jan. 21 at the municipal office from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Jan. 22 at the Oyama Community Hall from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The overall price tag for the rail line is \$22 million and it also involves the Regional District of North Okanagan.

Fairbairn sets the tone for RDNO

RICHARD ROLKE

Morning Star Staff

The Regional District of North Okanagan's chairperson wants an active board.

Rick Fairbairn used the first meeting of 2015 Wednesday to set the tone for the coming 12-month term by saying that he plans to keep directors informed about



Rick Fairbairn

what he is doing.

"About once a month I will have a written report that outlines what's been going on to further communication," said Fairbairn, who is also the director for rural Lumby.

"If there are issues board members feel are important and should be considered on the (meeting) agenda, they can bring them forward."

Fairbairn has also made committee appointments for 2015.

Director Bob Fleming will be the appointee to the fire training centre policy

board while director Herman Halvorson will attend Fraser Basin Council meetings.

Representatives to the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be directors Juliette Cunningham, Doug Dirk and Fleming, while director Brian Quiring will go to the Okanagan Film Commission.

Director Shirley Fowler returns to the Sterile Insect Release board while director Mike Macnabb is back at Okanagan Regional Library.

Director Hank Cameron has been sent to the Southern Interior Mountain Pine Beetle Action Committee.

Regional district wants greater role with province

RICHARD ROLKE

Morning Star Staff

Local politicians want more of a voice in Victoria.

The Regional District of North Okanagan board will send letters to various provincial ministries calling for longer time frames for consultation and feedback from local jurisdictions.

Among the ministries that will be approached is health.

"There are issues around expansion of the hospital and water is part of its mandate," said director Juliette Cunningham.

Other provincial ministries that will be approached are agriculture, transportation, community develop-

ment and environment.

Shuswap planning recognized

The Regional District of North Okanagan has been recognized for its role in protecting the Shuswap watershed.

The Union of B.C. Municipalities pre-

sented the Columbia-Shuswap Regional District with an award for the Shuswap Land Integrated Planning Process, and CSRD has now decided to share the honour with RDNO.

"The aware is all about partnerships,"

said Rhona Martin, with CSRD.

"Your board supported the whole process. It's important that you receive this honour."

SLIPP began in 2008 in response to increased development, pollution

entering the lakes and conflicting demands on recreation resources.

"We have received a lot of good information from the data collected," said Martin.

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