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REPORT TO REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 2021

SUBJECT Elk/Beaver Lake Recreational Use Advisory Committee – Terms of Reference and Associated Bylaw

ISSUE SUMMARY

To provide the 2021 Elk/Beaver Lake Recreational Use Advisory Committee Revised Terms of Reference and the associated amended bylaw for approval.

BACKGROUND

Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park was established in 1966, is just over 442 hectares in size and has the highest visitation of all the regional parks. In March 1992, the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board adopted the Elk/Beaver Lake and Bear Hill Management Plan (Bylaw 2001). In 1993, the Board established the Elk/Beaver Lake Recreational Use Advisory Group (EBLRUAG). This Advisory Group consisted of stakeholders who represented various recreational interests on Elk/Beaver Lake. The Park Management Plan was amended in April 1995 through Bylaw 2303. The revision included the statement that “a standing recreational use advisory group shall be established.”

The Elk/Beaver Lake Management Plan (Bylaw No. 2001) states under section 3.3.16 (Recreational Use Advisory Group) that a standing Recreational Use Advisory group shall be established. The bylaw further defines the purpose, membership and role of the advisory group in the bylaw. Proposed is an amended bylaw to state: a standing Recreational Use Advisory Committee will exist, with terms of reference set by the Board from time to time (Appendix B).

The terms of reference for the Advisory Group were last revised and approved by the Board in 2017 with a term of three years.

Proposed is a revised terms of reference (Appendix A) to reflect the new Transport Canada processes for lake use event permitting. In addition, the terms of reference have been updated to reflect the current bylaws and corporate standard for terms of reference. This includes changing the name from advisory group to advisory committee.

Upon CRD Board approval of the revised terms of reference, advertisements will go out to recruit volunteers for the four members of the public for Board approval: a representative for motorized recreational use, a representative from the swimming community, and two representatives from the general public.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the CRD Board:

1. That the revised Terms of Reference for the Elk/Beaver Lake Advisory Committee be approved;

2. That Bylaw No. 4430, “Elk/Beaver Lake and Bear Hill Regional Park Management Plan Bylaw No. 1, 1992, Amendment Bylaw No. 3, 2021”, be introduced, and read a first, second and third time; and
3. That Bylaw No. 4430 be adopted.

Alternative 2

That the Terms of Reference and bylaw be referred back to staff for further revision.

IMPLICATIONS

Intergovernmental Implications

Membership in the group includes representatives from Transport Canada, the Saanich Police Department and the BC Ministry of Environment. This enables the advisory committee members to exchange information about events on the lake and build effective community relationships.

Social Implications

The EBLRUAG has been a longstanding advisory group, discussing lake use and providing advice. Over the years, on-lake issues have been successfully addressed through this group. The group also annually reviews proposed events on the lake.

CONCLUSION

Regional Parks staff continue to coordinate the Elk/Beaver Lake Recreational Use Advisory Group. The Terms of Reference have been revised to include updated language around event recommendations and changing the name from advisory group to advisory committee. The associated bylaw will also be updated to state that a standing Recreational Use Advisory Committee will exist, with terms of reference set by the Board from time to time.

RECOMMENDATION

The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That the revised Terms of Reference for the Elk/Beaver Lake Advisory Committee be approved;
2. That Bylaw No. 4430, “Elk/Beaver Lake and Bear Hill Regional Park Management Plan Bylaw No. 1, 1992, Amendment Bylaw No. 3, 2021”, be introduced, and read a first, second and third time; and
3. That Bylaw No. 4430 be adopted.

Submitted by:	Jeff Leahy, RPF, Senior Manager, Regional Parks
Concurrence:	Larisa Hutcheson, P.Eng., General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

- Appendix A: Elk/Beaver Lake Recreational Use Advisory Committee – Terms of Reference
- Appendix B: Bylaw No. 4430, “Elk/Beaver Lake and Bear Hill Regional Park Management Plan Bylaw No. 1, 1992, Amendment Bylaw No. 3, 2021”