

**REPORT TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025**

SUBJECT **AAP Results & Adoption for Bylaw No. 4575 – Biodiversity and Environmental Stewardship Coordination Establishing Bylaw No. 1, 2023**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To report back on the results of the Alternate Approval Process for Bylaw No. 4575 and advance the bylaw for adoption.

BACKGROUND

The CRD Board's 2023-2026 Strategic Priorities identified as strategic initiative 3b to "explore options for a regional approach to biodiversity and the protection of ecological assets".

At its meeting held December 13, 2023, the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board gave third reading to Bylaw No. 4575, "Biodiversity and Environmental Stewardship Coordination Establishing Bylaw No. 1, 2023" (Appendix A). The bylaw authorizes an annual maximum requisition amount of five-hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to establish a new regional service for the purpose of coordinating a regional approach to biodiversity, protection of ecological assets and environmental stewardship. The service will include conducting research, obtaining data, managing problem species, establishing partnerships with government and non-government organizations including First Nations, and facilitating an environmental stewardship strategy along with public outreach and education.

On December 13, 2023, the CRD Board established that elector approval be obtained by Alternative Approval Process (AAP) for the electors in the entire service area in accordance with section 342(4) of the *Local Government Act (LGA)*. The number of registered electors was determined to be 331,937 of which 10% is 33,194 electors [the number needed to voice opposition]. Notice was published on November 21, 2024 in the Times Colonist and under Notices on the CRD website in accordance with section 345(2) of the *LGA* and the CRD's Public Notice Bylaw. In addition to the two statutory notices, additional notice was placed in six editions of the Black Press on November 27 and November 28, 2024, the Salt Spring Island Exchange, and public notice boards.

The CRD received 29 valid response forms indicating opposition to the adoption of the bylaw by the closing date of January 15, 2025. As the response rate was less than 10% of electors, elector approval was received for Bylaw No. 4575. In accordance with section 86(8) of the *LGA*, the Corporate Officer's certification of results is attached as Appendix B.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

1. That the attached Certificate of Results of Alternative Approval Process for Bylaw No. 4575 (Appendix B) be received; and
2. That Bylaw No. 4575, "Biodiversity and Environmental Stewardship Coordination Establishing Bylaw No. 1, 2023" be adopted.

Alternative 2

That this report be referred back to staff for additional information.

CONCLUSION

On January 15, 2024, elector approval was obtained by an Alternative Approval Process (AAP) for Bylaw No. 4575, "Biodiversity and Environmental Stewardship Coordination Establishing Bylaw No. 1, 2023". The bylaw authorizes an annual maximum requisition amount of five-hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to establish a new regional service for the purpose of coordinating a regional approach to biodiversity, protection of ecological assets and environmental stewardship. The Bylaw received approval from the Inspector of Municipalities on February 2, 2024, prior to elector approval by AAP, and is now ready for adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the attached Certificate of Results of Alternative Approval Process for Bylaw No. 4575 (Appendix B) be received; and
2. That Bylaw No. 4575, "Biodiversity and Environmental Stewardship Coordination Establishing Bylaw No. 1, 2023" be adopted.

Submitted by:	Marlene Lagoa, MPA, Manager, Legislative Services & Deputy Corporate Officer
Concurrence:	Glenn Harris, Ph.D., R.P.Bio., Acting General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Kristen Morley, J.D., General Manager, Corporate Services & Corporate Officer
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

Appendix A: Bylaw No. 4575

Appendix B: Certificate of Results for Bylaw No. 4575