

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

BYLAW NO. 4575

A BYLAW TO ESTABLISH A SERVICE FOR REGIONAL COORDINATION OF BIODIVERSITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

WHEREAS:

- A. The Board of the Capital Regional District wishes to establish a regional Biodiversity and Environmental Stewardship service (the "Service") to pursue a regional approach to biodiversity and the protection of ecological assets with public authorities and groups across the capital region under s.332 of the *Local Government Act*.
- B. Participating area approval is required and assent of the electors has been obtained by regional alternative approval process, pursuant to ss.342(4) and 345 of the *Local Government Act*; and,
- C. The approval of the Inspector of Municipalities has been obtained under s.342 of the *Local Government Act*.

NOW THEREFORE the Regional Board of the Capital Regional District in open meeting assembled enacts as follows:

1. Service

- 1.1 The Service being established and to be operated is a service for the purpose of coordinating a regional approach to biodiversity, protection of ecological assets and environmental stewardship ("the Service"), including:
 - a. Conducting research and obtaining biodiversity and ecological asset inventory and data, monitoring, mapping and managing their key stressors and problem species (i.e. invasive plants and animals);
 - b. Coordinating, communicating and establishing collaborative partnerships with municipalities, First Nations, large landowners, other government agencies, and stewardship groups to protect, restore and enhance key biodiverse habitats and ecological assets, and to minimize and manage the impacts of stressors and problem species (i.e., coordinating training on managing invasive species, provision of educational resources, and establishment of a shared treatment and monitoring contract); and
 - c. Facilitating the development and implementation of an environmental stewardship strategy and public outreach and education program to increase public awareness of, and engagement in, the protection of biodiversity and ecological assets and managing invasive species.
- 1.2 For clarity, this bylaw does not establish a service to regulate the natural environment under the *Community Charter*.

2. Service Area Boundaries

The boundaries of the service area are coterminous with the boundaries of the Capital Regional District (the "Service Area").

3. Participating Areas

All municipalities and electoral areas within the Capital Regional District are the participating areas for this service (the "Participating Area").

4. Cost Recovery

As provided in Section 378 of the *Local Government Act*, the annual cost of providing the Service shall be recovered by one or more of the following:

- a. property value taxes imposed in accordance with Division 3 of Part 11 of the *Local Government Act*;
- b. fees and charges imposed under Section 397 of the *Local Government Act*;
- c. revenues raised by other means authorized by the *Local Government Act* or another *Act*;
- d. revenues received by way of agreement, enterprises, gift, grant or otherwise.

5. Cost Apportionment

- a. The annual costs for the service, net of grants and other revenues, shall be apportioned among the participating areas, as follows:
 - i. Fifty (50) per cent of the costs shall be recovered on the basis of the population of the participating areas; and
 - ii. Fifty (50) per cent on the converted value of land and improvements in the participating areas.
- b. Population, for the purpose of this section, is the population estimate as determined annually by the Regional Planning department of the Capital Regional District.

6. Maximum Requisition

The maximum amount that may be requisitioned under Section 339(1)(e) for the Service will be the greater of:

- a. Five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000); or
- b. An amount equal to the amount that could be raised by a property value tax rate of \$0.0028 per one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), which when applied to the net taxable value of the land and improvements within the Service Area, will yield the maximum amount that may be requisitioned for the Service.

7. Citation

This Bylaw may be cited as Bylaw No. 4575, "Biodiversity and Environmental Stewardship Coordination Establishing Bylaw No. 1, 2023".

READ A FIRST TIME THIS	13 th	day of	December,	2023
READ A SECOND TIME THIS	13 th	day of	December,	2023
READ A THIRD TIME THIS	13 th	day of	December,	2023
APPROVED BY THE INSPECTOR OF MUNICIPALITIES THIS	2 nd	day of	February,	2024
APPROVED BY REGIONAL ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS THIS	15 th	day of	January,	2025
ADOPTED THIS		day of		20__

CHAIR

CORPORATE OFFICER