

**REPORT TO PARKS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019**

SUBJECT **Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force Recommendations**

ISSUE

To provide recommendations of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force.

BACKGROUND

The Climate Action Program holds a mandate to support regional collaboration on climate action. To facilitate this, staff administer two inter-municipal committees, one for staff, which meets quarterly (the Climate Action Inter-Municipal Working Group (IMWG)) and one for elected officials, which meets semi-annually (the Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force (Task Force)). Climate Action Program staff work directly with IMWG members to plan and implement regional climate action initiatives. Staff also participate on a number of provincial-scale local government networks, which also directly support regional initiatives related to low-emission buildings and transportation and climate adaptation.

Members of the Task Force are appointed by their municipal Councils after each election cycle. The CRD electoral area directors are automatic appointees. The aim of this committee is to provide input to CRD community-focused climate action programming, identify priority areas amongst local governments, share learnings with their municipal Councils and respond to directives of the Parks & Environment Committee. The Terms of Reference are provided in Appendix A.

The Task Force had its inaugural meeting on April 3, 2019. CRD staff provided an update on the committees' mandates, the CRD reporting structure, highlights of current CRD-led initiatives, further background on the climate emergency declaration and actions to date and facilitated a discussion on local government opportunities moving forward. Senior staff from the provincial Climate Action Secretariat also presented on the CleanBC plans and programs. The meeting minutes are provided in Appendix B.

The Task Force reports to the Parks & Environment Committee. At its meeting, the Task Force passed a motion that staff bring forward the following requests:

- That the Terms of Reference be amended to increase Task Force meetings to once per month;
- That staff include a plan to host a Forum of Community Associations on Climate Change/Climate Emergency in the workplan.

ALTERNATIVES

That the Parks & Environment Committee recommend to the CRD Board:

Alternative 1

1. That staff facilitate one additional Task Force meeting in 2019 (at the availability of the members), and quarterly in 2020, and provide a meeting space for monthly informal meetings.
2. That staff consult with the CRD Climate Action Inter-Municipal Working Group about interest and ability to support a regional Forum of Community Associations on Climate Change/Climate Emergency event in 2020.

Alternative 2

1. That staff facilitate one additional Task Force meeting in 2019 (at the availability of the members), and quarterly in 2020, and provide a meeting space for monthly informal meetings.
2. That staff consult with the CRD Climate Action Inter-Municipal Working Group about interest and ability to support a regional Forum of Community Associations on Climate Change/Climate Emergency event in 2019 and defer the completion of the regional greenhouse gas analysis as directed by the Board.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Without compromising program delivery, current Climate Action Program can accommodate one additional Task Force meeting in 2019, resulting in quarterly meetings, and maintain quarterly meetings into 2020. This adjustment will align with quarterly meetings of the IMWG.

Due to the effort and resources required to undertake a regional forum for community associations staff are unable to support this in 2019 without deferring the completion of the greenhouse gas modelling and analysis initiative. Staff recommend that CRD consult with our partners to propose the forum in 2020 as part of the service planning process. If a regional Forum of Community Associations is to take place in 2020 with the assistance of municipalities, costs are anticipated to be \$20,000.

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS

For the remainder of 2019, the CRD Climate Action Program is committed to a number of granting agencies or other partners to participate in the following community based climate initiatives including: ICLEI Canada's Adapting Together Project, FCM funded Transition 2050 Residential Retrofit Acceleration Project, Walk and Wheel to School Week in partnership with Island Health, and a grant-dependent regional sea level rise mapping and modelling project. Staff have also been directed by the Board to complete a regional greenhouse gas modelling and actions analysis. The CRD is also in negotiations to complete a work plan with BC Hydro Sustainable Communities associated with a staff support grant. It is anticipated that additional projects will relate to electric vehicle infrastructure, energy efficient buildings and industry capacity building. This is in addition to directly supporting municipalities and electoral areas in their planning and programs and administering the two climate action inter-municipal networks.

In order to accommodate a Forum of Community Associations this year, the above established work plan must be adjusted and completion of the regional greenhouse gas modelling and analysis initiative deferred.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The CRD will continue to administer the CRD Climate Action IMWG and Task Force, and participate on other provincial local government networks to identify, plan and execute regional climate action projects and initiatives, share information and respond to directives of the CRD Board.

It is anticipated that municipal/electoral area representatives would need support for the planning and delivery of a community association event, in order to accommodate the neighbourhood-scale focus. It is unclear of their ability to support such an event at this time.

CONCLUSION

The CRD administers two inter-municipal committees that support regional climate action activities. At the inaugural Task Force meeting, members requested additional staff resources to include additional meetings, as well as hosting a Forum for Community Associations on Climate Change and the Climate Emergency Declaration. The Climate Action service has a fully subscribed work plan but can make slight additions to the current meeting schedule and recommend investigation of interest in a regional forum for community associations in 2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Parks & Environment Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That staff facilitate one additional Task Force meeting in 2019 (at the availability of the members), and quarterly in 2020, and provide a meeting space for monthly informal meetings.
2. That staff consult with the Capital Regional District Climate Action Inter-Municipal Working Group about interest and ability to support a regional Forum of Community Associations on Climate Change/Climate Emergency event in 2020.

Submitted by:	Glenn Harris, Ph.D., R.P.Bio., Senior Manager, Environmental Protection
Concurrence:	Larisa Hutcheson, P.Eng., General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

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Attachments: Appendix A – 2019 Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force Terms of Reference
Appendix B – Minutes of April 3, 2019 Meeting of the Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force