

QUARTERLY UPDATE

April - June 2021



The Quarterly Update is produced four times a year to communicate progress on active projects and initiatives.



Board Directors prepare for a mixed virtual/in-person meeting.

ADMINISTRATION

Workplace safety continued to be a top priority as we complied with provincial health orders, WorkSafeBC and other public health directives. On June 15, we entered phase two of the Province's Restart Plan which allowed staff to begin a gradual return to the office.

- » For the June 24 Board meeting, several Directors returned in-person to the boardroom for the first time since fall 2020.
- » Board and committee meetings continue to be webcast via Zoom until further notice. [Meeting dates and agendas](#) are available online. Public hearings continue to be conducted virtually rather than in-person. Visit the [Public Hearings](#) page to learn how to participate.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES & STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

- » Working alongside the Boston Bar/North Bend Enhancement Society, we are supporting the \$1.9M grant funded initiative to restore the historic 1914 CNR Stationhouse in Boston Bar. The vision is to develop a museum showcasing railway, Indigenous, Chinese and settler history in Electoral Area A and vicinity. We expect to "break ground" on this project in the spring of 2022.
- » We continue to support the Board's strategic goal of building meaningful relationships with Indigenous leaders and communities in the region, seeking out

opportunities for collaboration and engagement. This work includes on-going participation at the Katzie and SXTA Treaty Tables as a member of the provincial negotiating team.

CORPORATE SERVICES

Human Resources

- » A number of recruitments were completed in the first quarter, including a new Manager of Planning and other positions in the Planning & Development department. In preparation for the summer season, staff was hired at the Hope and Area Recreation Centre and Almer Carlson Pool.

Information Technology

- » The IT team is preparing the network for staff returning to the office over the next few months. Preparations include a major upgrade to FVRD's phone system hardware and network programming at the main office and CARE Centre that is expected to be completed by July 20, 2021. It will allow staff to receive calls to their office lines even when out of the office through a mobile or desktop app.
- » Work is now underway on improving online services to make it easier for the public to purchase and renew dog licenses, book building inspections, pay utility bills and access other services. The updated myFVRD system is expected to go live in early fall.

Fire Dispatch Management

- » Radio coverage tests and improvements are now complete for the Harrison radio coverage project. Radio licensing has been obtained and we are currently purchasing the required hardware. Chilliwack ROIP radio coverage tests are in progress.

FINANCE

- » The second quarter was a busy and productive period for the Finance team. Key highlights included approval of the 2020 year-end audits and financial statements for the FVRD and Hospital District Board. Annual reporting was completed for a variety of stakeholders: Local Government Financial Reporting (LGDE- via Province of BC), Gas Tax Annual Reporting, Annual Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) and Statistics Canada.

- » With preparations underway for the 2022 budget, we launched a series of financial software training initiatives for staff and are undertaking activities to improve internal processes.

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

- » In April, a Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel was held for the Cultus Lake Integrated Water Supply and Distribution System, Cultus Lake Integrated Water Supply and Distribution Capital Construction Service Area, South Cultus Lake Sewage Treatment Service Area, Lake Errock Water System Capital Construction Service Area and the Popkum Sewer Service Area. For these five bylaws, the FVRD was given the ability to retroactively hold and validate a parcel tax roll review panel for the years 2017, 2018 and 2020 through legislation recently passed in the Municipalities Enabling and Validating Act (MEVA) in 2020. As part of the MEVA requirements, the FVRD held another parcel tax roll review panel in 2021.
- » In May, the Board adopted a Privacy and Accountability Policy. This policy forms the foundation of the FVRD's existing Privacy Management Program and demonstrates our commitment and accountability regarding the protection of privacy and personal information in all FVRD programs, activities and operations. The policy sets out expectations around legal obligations to protect privacy and personal information from unauthorized collection, use, disclosure or destruction under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.
- » In June, the terms of reference for the Regional & Corporate Services Committee were updated to incorporate all regional Indigenous relations and treaty-related matters into the Committee's body of work. The aim is to raise the profile of the Indigenous relations portfolio at the Committee/Board levels and reinforce the Board's commitment toward developing more meaningful and collaborative relationships.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Electoral Area Planning

- » In May, the Hemlock Valley Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1626, 2021 was brought to the Board for first reading. The draft plan reflects community input, meaningful engagement with Sts'ailes First Nation, and coordination with Sasquatch Mountain Resort and the Province of BC All-Seasons Resorts Branch. After further public and stakeholder review,

and a public hearing, the plan will be brought back to the Board for consideration.

- » In May, we hired a senior-level planner to administer the Commercial Gravel Operations (CGO) Bylaw. During this quarter, staff applied calcium chloride to a 1.5 km length of Chehalis Forest Service Road to reduce nuisance dust to the Morris Valley community caused by gravel trucks and other vehicles. This work was funded by CGO Bylaw revenues. Staff also explored options and approaches for baseline noise and dust monitoring at priority sites.
- » In June, the Planning team completed a Request for Proposal process and identified a consultant to provide professional planning and engineering services for the development of a neighbourhood plan for Harrison Mills in Electoral Area C.
- » In June, the results of a community survey on cannabis production regulation was presented to the Board. The 465 survey responses received will inform new regulations to be presented to the Electoral Area Services Committee and Board for consideration in the fall of 2021.
- » In response to development applications, the Planning Team initiated two zoning amendments, issued six Development Permits, brought nine Development Variance Permits to the Board for decisions, processed four Crown referrals and coordinated two virtual public hearings.

Bylaw Enforcement

- » In June, the Bylaw team initiated the development of a new policy and procedure to guide bylaw compliance and enforcement efforts. This included a presentation to the Electoral Area Services Committee, a survey of Electoral Area Directors, and a community survey.

Building Inspection

- » The Building team processed 82 building permit applications, issued 47 permits worth over \$10 million construction value, and conducted 702 inspections this quarter.

Emergency Management

- » The Emergency Management Regulations Bylaw 1622, 2021 was adopted by the Board in May. Bylaw 1622 updates and clarifies roles, responsibilities, and authorities under the Emergency Program Act.
- » The Emergency Management Program Service Area Merger & Establishment Bylaw No. 1606, 2020 was adopted by the Board in June. Bylaw 1606 consolidates various emergency management and preparedness services areas into a single service.

- » Emergency Management staff monitored weather and water level forecasts for the Fraser and Harrison River freshets as well as the status of three wildfires within or adjacent to the electoral areas to determine whether any emergency operations centre support was required.

ENGINEERING & UTILITIES

- » The Engineering & Utilities department was awarded a UBCM Asset Management Planning Grant for the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition Analytics Project.
- » Work continued on the Nicomen Island Improvement District Flood Protection project in Electoral Area G. Efforts were mainly focused on the detailed design of the upgrades to the Improvement District's five pump stations.
- » The Electoral Area C Garbage Fees and Charges Establishment Bylaw was adopted introducing an updated tipping fee structure for non-service area users.
- » The Area A Garbage Disposal Fees and Charges Establishment Bylaw was adopted introducing a tipping fee at the FVRD's Chaumox Landfill for construction and demolition waste.
- » The FVRD Water Supply System, Fees and Charges Establishment Bylaw consolidated the regulation of the FVRD's 12 water systems into one bylaw, established requirements for permitting oversized service connections, and established a capital improvement connection (buy-in) fee for certain water systems.
- » The Utilities team installed a 200 mm diameter, 100 metre water main from Highway 9 to Parkrose Wynd in Electoral Area D.
- » The Utilities team also conducted annual maintenance on all fire hydrants, valves, and pressure regulator valves.
- » We contributed to the Planning Department's Harrison Mills Neighbourhood Plan Request for Proposal. Engineering elements cover an upgrade of the Morris Valley water and sewer systems including the upgrade of the water reservoir, relocation of the water well, and a major upgrade of the waste water treatment plant.
- » Engineering & Utilities conducted annual Diking Structure Maintenance Program for six diking and mitigation structures in Electoral Area C, E, F, and H. These structures are under Provincial Diking Act and require annual inspection and maintenance under the Act.

REGIONAL SERVICES

Animal Control

- » Animal Control impounded 82 dogs from April 1- June 30. 24% of the dogs were licensed when impounded and qualified for a free ride home!
- » Animal Control Officers attended 790 calls for service in the second quarter and conducted an additional 278 park patrols, providing education to dog owners on leash and licensing requirements.
- » The hearing for a dangerous dog impounded in January has been postponed to August, when the case for a destruction order will be heard. Animal Control is still awaiting a decision on another case that was heard in December 2020 where the Judge reserved a decision and adjourned the Court.

Environmental Services

- » Comments received on the Air Quality Discussion Paper earlier in the year have been incorporated and a new draft Air Quality Management Plan completed (available at: fvrd.ca/airquality). The plan will be finalized later this summer or early fall.
- » We continued to provide 'Love Our Air' – our air quality educational program – to fifth graders during the 2020/2021 school year. The workshops moved fully online this year, and despite the virtual format, they remained in great demand with very positive feedback. The program was delivered to 75 classrooms, a 50% increase from last year.
- » Floodwater mosquitoes have arrived and treatments are continuing at river edge and seepage sites where mosquito larvae are found. The Fraser River seems to have peaked on June 8 and is now beginning to decline. Residents can contact the FVRD's Mosquito Hotline at 1-888-733-2333 or email mosquitoes@fvrd.ca for inquiries or complaints.
- » Invasive Weed Control technicians have been busy mapping and removing wild chervil and giant hogweed along roadways and have now started with tansy ragwort and knotweed. Residents are asked to contact the Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society (info@fvisss.ca) to arrange for pickup of bagged tansy ragwort or to report invasive weeds.

Fire Services

- » We are grateful to the volunteer firefighting teams from our region that responded to the Lytton fire in late June. Our firefighters joined units from around BC who provided their skills, equipment and support to the Thompson-Nicola Regional District-led emergency management effort.

- » In the second quarter, volunteer fire departments attended to 279 calls in our region. 85 of these calls were for fire, 120 for medical, 57 motor vehicle incident, 12 alarm, 2 hazmat, and 3 mutual aid. Mutual aids were all for the Lytton fire. Departments with the most calls were North Fraser (114) and Chilliwack River Valley fire departments (54).

Parks & Outdoor Recreation Planning

- » Trail improvements took place at Sumas Mountain Regional Park to enhance trail access.
- » Dewdney Regional Park was closed for two weeks in June due to the Fraser River freshet. This year the park switched from a seasonal opening to year-round operation.
- » After a one-year hiatus, the FVRD Wildsafe Program is back to help keep “wildlife wild and communities safe.” For more information visit www.wildsafebc.com.
- » A BC Wildfire Service crew from Cultus Lake led a training exercise with Parks staff at Elk Mountain to learn about and address trail braiding.

Almer Carlson

- » Preparations are underway to open the pool in early July. Work recently completed includes safety repairs in the building, new pool mechanical, and gutter grates.

Hope & Area Recreation Centre

- » During this quarter, pre-registration continued for lane swim, public swims, and the fitness centre with enhanced COVID-19 protocols. Preparations are underway to increase services as provincial health restrictions are eased over the summer.
- » Several virtual community programs and events were held including a Go by Bike Challenge to encourage active transportation. From May 31-June 6, six teams with 25 riders logged over 500 km. The annual Participation Challenge also encouraged communities to get active and log their activities. As of June 17, Hope was in eighth place. A Virtual Canada Day was planned including “Tree of Hope” planting at the recreation centre, free activity boxes for families, and a community scavenger hunt challenge with prizes. We recently released a new family-friendly fitness video which demonstrated a virtual mountain adventure activity: <https://youtu.be/tZK9VYjweSo>

FVRD Regional Airpark

- » Spring is always a busy time at the airpark as staff prepare for the flying season. A large focus for the second quarter was improving the function of the fueling system.



Training exercise on trail braiding led by BC Wildfire Service.

Regional Strategic Planning & Initiatives

- » During the first quarter we began receiving input on the updated draft Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) presented to the Board in late 2020. This input will be incorporated in the final draft of the plan to be finalized later this year. This summer we will use the FVRD’s new online consultation website Have Your Say FVRD to facilitate the public engagement process. Next steps include expanding engagement with Indigenous communities and agencies, reinstatement of the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee, public engagement, and legal review. It is hoped that the Board will begin the adoption process for the Fraser Valley Future 2050 RGS in late 2021.
- » The long anticipated Fraser Valley Express (FVX) expansion to Burnaby received provincial funding to proceed. The original FVX expansion to Lougheed Town Centre was scheduled for January 2021 but with COVID-19, BC Transit delayed expansion plans for one year. With provincial budget support for the expansion, work is beginning to implement the service in January 2022.
- » The FVRD is participating in the Province’s Fraser Valley Transportation and Land Use Plan. We are in contact with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) and Ministry of Municipal Affairs to determine the project’s status and terms of reference. MOTI is also undertaking planning work on the latest Highway 1 expansion project that will widen Highway 1 from 232 Street in the Township of Langley to the Whatcom interchange in Abbotsford. The FVRD’s interest lies in maintaining and expanding connections to the interregional Fraser Valley Express service.
- » The FVRD continues to participate in and monitor TransLink’s Transport 2050 plan and Metro Vancouver’s Metro 2050 Regional Growth Strategy update, as growth in the Lower Mainland as a whole will impact this region.