

QUARTERLY UPDATE

January - March 2021



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

ADMINISTRATION

Workplace safety continues to be our top priority through compliance with the orders of the Provincial Health Officer, WorkSafeBC and other public health directives. We are committed to reducing the risk of exposure and transmission of COVID-19 as we deliver services to our citizens.

- » Our corporate offices are open to the public by appointment and on a limited walk-in basis.
- » Board and committee meetings are being webcast via Zoom until further notice. [Meetings dates and agendas](#) are available online.
- » Public Hearings continue to be conducted virtually rather than in-person. Visit the [Virtual Public Hearings](#) page to learn how to participate.
- » Local government bylaw officers are assisting with the enforcement of public health orders. Read our [FAQ's](#) to learn more.

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.
- » Efforts continue to support the Board in its work of enhancing meaningful relationship building, collaboration and engagement with Indigenous leadership and communities in the region. This includes on-going participation at the Katzie and SXTA Treaty Tables as a member of the provincial negotiating team.

- » In the area of healthcare and public health, staff are supporting the joint efforts of the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Board and the Fraser Health Authority to ensure the replacement and renewal of designated long term care facilities in the region.
- » We are expanding organizational capacity in the area of effective public participation and engagement through targeted course work and certification.

CORPORATE SERVICES

Human Resources

- » A number of recruitments were completed in the first quarter, including positions in Regional Services to assist with the seasonal opening of the Vedder River Campground.

Information Technology

- » New challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic have led the IT Team to adapt and update security layers. Recently they enabled Bitlocker encryption on all FVRD mobile/desktop computing devices; deployed Apex One anti-virus server to increase malware protection for staff working remotely and in-office; and installed Fortitoken two-factor authentication to make it more difficult for attackers to gain access to FVRD network resources. The IT team also completed an asset inventory of all SCADA IT-related network equipment. Office phone system upgrades also began this quarter.

GIS

- » In the GIS division, maps were completed for Cultus Lake (100m Lakeshore Buffer for recreational buoys, Cultus Lake Park Cabin Rentals, and Cultus Lake Integrated Water Supply). Updates were made to the Hope Master Zoning map, Bylaw 1324 and Hope Airpark Lease map. Staff assisted the Planning Department with zoning realignments and produced new Hazard DPA maps for Hemlock Valley and Electoral Area D OCP.

- » In addition, staff provided design support for the Boston Bar Station House renovation project; assisted Finance with cheque signatures and the creation of a new utility billing service; and completed new Tempest modules for revenue systems (MyCity, Dog eApply, and Prospero eInspections).

Fire Dispatch Management

- » Staff finalized Radio Over IP (ROIP) coverage testing with the assistance of the electoral areas and municipal fire halls. Next steps include validating the test results and review the feasibility to enable the Cheam ROIP communication equipment as a backup communication channel.

FINANCE

- » Financial closing activities were underway throughout the first quarter, followed by the annual external audit, which is required to finalize the 2020 year-end Financial Statements. At the end of January, the 2021-2025 Financial Plan was approved by the Board. In March, the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Board approved its 2021 Annual Budget.

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

- » A garbage disposal realignment project was undertaken to change historical service area boundaries in Electoral Areas C, F and G; a legacy from when the FVRD was three separate regional districts. New service area bylaws were adopted to update the boundaries to the current FVRD boundaries, helping to create clarity for residents on which disposal facilities they should use, and making costs more equitable throughout our electoral areas.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

- » In January 2021, an Official Community Plan for Popkum-Bridal Falls Bylaw No. 1501 was adopted by the Board. An Official Community Plan Amendment for Electoral Areas E and H was adopted at the same time. This amendment implemented the findings of two recent reports in the Chilliwack River Valley in regards to the Erosion Setback Line in the Wilson Road to Baker Trails area and Slesse Park area.
- » In March 2021, the Planning Team completed the Housing Needs Reports. In the same month, the Zoning Bylaw Amendment for Hemlock Valley was adopted. This amendment reduced the

number of properties where Temporary Tourist Accommodation Use was restricted from 19 entire parcels to eight entire parcels plus parts of nine others.

- » The Planning Team also completed two rezoning applications related to an infill subdivision in Popkum and cemetery use in Deroche and processed 10 Development Variance Permits, three ALR applications, several covenants and various referrals. A public hearing for Popkum-Bridal Falls (Area D) Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1501 was held on December 15, 2020.
- » The Bylaw Enforcement Team initiated a process to develop a bylaw enforcement policy/procedure.

Emergency Management

- » A UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) grant for the EOC was submitted.
- » An update to the Sleepy Hollow Route Protocol was pursued to provide more decision-making power and respect for the Soowahlie First Nation who partner with the FVRD as a good neighbour, offering this route as a catastrophic evacuation route in the Cultus Lake area.
- » Early in this quarter, emergency response was coordinated remotely to three isolated land slide/slippage events impacting private properties. Emergency Support Services was provided to four evacuees impacted by two emergency events.

ENGINEERING & UTILITIES

- » Work continued on the Nicomen Island Improvement District Flood Protection Project in Electoral Area G. Efforts in the first quarter were mainly focused on the development of the Zaits Slough Habitat Offsetting Plan.
- » Collaborated with the Planning Department on the issuance of an RFP for the Harrison Mills neighbourhood plan and local servicing plan.
- » Completed a review of the Area C garbage tipping fee rate structure. A draft bylaw containing the recommended new rate structure was sent to the April 2021 EASC meeting.
- » Drafting began on the new Consolidated Water Bylaw.
- » Interim Utilities Crossing Agreements between FVRD and TMX were finalized.
- » The Cultus Lake Water System watermain upgrade in parking lot B was completed.
- » The Cultus Lake Sewer System upgrade was completed which included bypassing effluent flow

from Sanitary Lift Station SL4 to Sanitary Lift Station SL3. The project eliminated the use of the effluent field at the waterslides ground as the existing one was not able to handle effluent properly. With this bypass, the effluent field could have failed anytime causing a serious problem for the operation. Other upgrades included eliminating both septic tanks and pump stations at Sanitary Lift Station SL4 and proper adjustment of the existing site.

REGIONAL SERVICES

Animal Control

- » In the first quarter, Animal Control impounded 92 dogs. Since 16% of the dogs were licenced at the time of impound they received a free ride home!
- » Animal Control Officers responded to 782 calls in the first quarter and conducted an additional 146 park patrols to educate dog owners on licencing and leash requirements.
- » In late January, Animal Control Officers impounded a dog that caused serious injury to a person. An application to the Provincial Court for humane euthanasia of this dangerous dog was submitted in February and the next hearing date is expected to take place late in the second quarter of 2021. Animal Control is still awaiting a decision on the case that was heard in December 2020 where the Judge reserved a decision and adjourned the Court.

Environmental Services

- » Efforts continue to raise awareness of our region's waste sorting requirements with apartment, townhouse, and condo managers. Recently, we updated the Waste Wise website with resources specific to multi-family housing complexes, sent informational letters to stratas inviting them to engage with us via Zoom, and worked with the Condominium Home Owners Association of BC to reach their members.
- » Preparations are underway for the upcoming floodwater mosquito control and invasive weed control seasons. Experienced contractors (Morrow BioScience and Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society, respectively) have already started monitoring environmental conditions and are ready to begin treatments as soon as necessary. COVID-19 safety precautions and social distancing requirements will be followed again this year, limiting opportunities for in-person community engagement. FVRD staff and contractors remain available to answer questions and provide additional information to residents.

- » As part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability, we will soon undertake an [energy retrofit](#) at the Hope & Area Recreation Centre that will reduce the facility's greenhouse gas emissions by as much as 90%. We were recently awarded \$2 million from the Canada Infrastructure - CleanBC Communities Fund Program for designing and installing a system that will capture waste heat generated from the ice making process at the arena and divert it towards the pool and buildings. The project will also upgrade aging infrastructure and replace the use of ammonia gas. Project design is expected to begin later this year, with project completion anticipated by 2025.



Hemlock Valley fire department's new truck.

Fire Services

- » In the first quarter, volunteer fire departments attended 207 calls in the region with North Fraser firehalls leading with 98 calls. Out of the total calls received, 151 were related to fires, 27 medical emergencies, 10 motor vehicle accidents, 18 alarms, one hazmat, and one mutual aid.
- » On March 10, volunteers at the Hemlock Valley fire department greeted the arrival of a new and long-awaited fire truck.

Parks & Outdoor Recreation Planning

- » As proof of the growing popularity of Regional Parks, visits doubled in the first quarter of this year when compared to the same period in 2020. A number of improvements and openings took place this quarter to prepare for another busy season.
- » Project highlights include trail improvements to address wet areas at East Sector Lands; a waterline repair at Neilson Regional Park to allow washrooms to reopen; paving to washrooms at Cascade Falls Regional Park to make them more accessible; and pruning of 600 street trees in Popkum (Electoral Area D). In addition, we conducted a community survey for the Lake Errock Community Park (Electoral Area C).

- » At Island 22 Regional Park, improvements were made to the boat launch staging area thanks to funding from a Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC grant.
- » The Village of Harrison Hot Springs boat launch opened for the new season at the end of March.
- » The Vedder River Campground opened on March 26, 2021 at approximately half capacity. The group campsites remain closed until COVID-19 restrictions are further lifted.



The Island 22 Boat Launch resloping project.

Hope & Area Recreation Centre

- » In January, the leisure pool reopened under COVID-19 protocols.
- » During February's cold snap, an emergency warming centre was opened for two weeks with 89 visits by 18 individuals during that time.
- » Work was completed on the Mezzanine elevator to provide access to the renovated space when programs return.
- » Ice was removed from the arena in mid-March.

Hope Regional Airpark

- » Preparations are underway for another busy season and we are happy to announce that Shawn Dearden will continue as Airpark Operator. Mr. Dearden has provided excellent service for the past five years and we look forward to continue working with him in the future.

Regional Strategic Planning & Initiatives

- » The 2020 Draft Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) is an update to the FVRD's Choices for our Future plan, adopted in 2004. The 2020 draft RGS includes three new policy areas: Collaboration, Living Well, and Energy & Climate Change. During the first quarter, we incorporated input and updates from member municipalities to reflect changes in their respective communities since the first draft was reviewed in 2014.

An updated consultation plan was presented to Board in January, reflecting new legislation and COVID-19 protocols restricting in-person engagement. 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 2021.

- » The final Rural Internet Connectivity report was approved at the February 2021 Board meeting and made available on our website. Staff are implementing the report's recommendations, including submitting a resolution to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association to encourage senior governments to streamline funding application processes through improved mapping and ensuring that local government priorities are taken into consideration during the funding approval process.

The Rural Internet Connectivity project was initiated to address long-standing concerns about internet and cell phone coverage in the region's electoral areas. The study determined what services are located in the region and how any identified gaps may be addressed by pursuing federal and provincial funding opportunities as they become available. COVID-19 further highlighted the need for reliable high-speed internet as many residents are working from home, taking advantage of online schooling or operating online businesses.

- » The Affordable and Social Housing Inventories were completed in February 2021, allowing the region to track change in housing supply over time (the first inventory was in 2009 with updates in 2014 and 2017). This information, in combination with the 2020 Homelessness Report, provides a foundation on which to discuss broader housing challenges in the region. The inventories have been posted on our website.
- » The FVRD is participating in the Province's recently announced Fraser Valley Transportation and Land Use Plan. We are in contact with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and Ministry of Municipal Affairs to determine the project's status and terms of reference. At the same time, we are monitoring 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.