

Meeting Minutes

Environmental Services Committee

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

9:30 AM

Electronic

Electronic Meeting

PRESENT

Directors: B. Desjardins (Chair), S. Tobias (Vice Chair), J. Bateman (for M. Tait), J. Brownoff, J. Caradonna, G. Holman, D. Kobayashi, C. Plant, D. Thompson, C. McNeil-Smith (Board Chair, ex-officio)

Staff: T. Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer; N. Chan, Chief Financial Officer; G. Harris, Acting General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Environmental Services; R. Tooke, Senior Manager, Environmental Innovation; P. Enright, Manager, Climate Action; P. Kickham, Manager, Environmental Regulations; M. Miklea, Manager, Legislative Services/Deputy Corporate Officer; J. Rennie, Committee Clerk (Recorder)

Regrets: M. Tait, A. Wickheim

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Vice Chair Tobias provided the Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Director Kobayashi, **SECONDED** by Director Tobias,
That the agenda of the Environmental Services Committee meeting of July 15,
2026 be approved.
CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

- 3.1. [26-0820](#) Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting of May 20, 2026

MOVED by Director Kobayashi, **SECONDED** by Director Tobias,
That the minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting of May 20,
2026 be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED

4. Chair's Remarks

Chair Desjardins spoke about the honour of being the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee and the accomplishments of the committee. Thanks was given to the committee members and staff for all their work towards achieving the aspirational goals of the committee.

5. Presentations/Delegations

There were no presentations or delegations.

6. Committee Business

6.1. [26-0693](#) Climate Action Strategy 2026-2030

R. Tooke and P. Enright spoke to Item 6.1.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- cumulative yearly and net savings
- intergenerational climate change programming
- annual reporting and long term planning
- hazard mapping and climate risks to infrastructure
- renewal strategies and living document additions
- electrification and future funding for EV chargers
- low carbon infrastructure and investment opportunities
- GHG modelling for biosolids and railway mapping
- heatpump rebates and programming
- EV charger revenue, usage and data collection
- municipality energy mapping and collaboration
- carbon credits and consumer carbon tax
- revenue direction, limitations, service and granting authority
- future new initiatives, policy efficiency and target reductions
- generating renewable energy from existing CRD infrastructure and land

MOVED by Director Caradonna, SECONDED by Director Kobayashi,
The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

- 1) That the Board adopt the renewed Climate Action Strategy attached as Appendix A to guide the Capital Regional District (CRD) Climate Action and Adaptation Service through to 2030;**
- 2) That staff be directed to review and report back on regional greenhouse gas reduction target alternatives for inclusion in the next update to the Regional Growth Strategy;**
- 3) That the Chair on behalf of the Board send a letter to the Premier of BC and relevant ministers advocating for the full implementation of the recommendations of the CleanBC Independent Review, including continued funding for the Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP);**
- 4) That staff establish all necessary processes and systems to direct all revenues from the sale of carbon credits - such as those generated under the federal Clean Fuel Regulation and provincial Low Carbon Fuel Standard - into CRD programs and projects aligned with the renewed Climate Action Strategy;**
- 5) That staff establish continuous internal processes to seek opportunities that generate carbon credit and renewable energy revenues; and,**
- 6) That staff report back on how these carbon credit revenues will be used to accelerate climate action, for the Board's consideration and approval.**

CARRIED

Motion Arising 1:

MOVED by Director Thompson, SECONDED by Director Plant,
The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That staff be directed to include the CRD Climate Emergency Declaration in the Climate Action Strategy.

CARRIED

Motion Arising 2:

**MOVED by Director Caradonna, SECONDED by Director Thompson,
The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional
District Board:**

**7. That staff be directed to continue to research, in an effort to potentially
strengthen the Strategy;**

**a. Explore tax break opportunities for retrofits in areas where the CRD holds land
use authority,**

b. Potential rebate programs for heat pump installation, and

**c. Additional information providing context on why member municipality
emissions are increasing or decreasing.**

CARRIED

6.2. [26-0768](#)

Harbours Environmental Action Service Summary

P. Kickham presented Item 6.2. for information.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- dead boat disposal society for derelict boats
- level of commitment from the core municipalities
- prevention tactics and Transport Canada legislative changes

6.3. [26-0707](#)

Bowker Creek Blueprint | 2026 Update: A 100-Year Action Plan to Restore
the Bowker Creek Watershed

P. Kickham presented Item 6.3. for information.

6.4. [26-0771](#)

Previous Minutes of Other CRD Committees and Commissions for
Information

There is no recommendation. The following minutes are for information only.

a) Climate Action Inter-municipal Task Force - March 13, 2026

b) Solid Waste Advisory Committee - April 10, 2026

7. Notice(s) of Motion

7.1. [26-0805](#)

Motion with Notice: AI Data Centres (Director Caradonna)

J. Caradonna spoke to Item 7.1.

Discussion ensued on known projects or analysis of data centres in the capital
region, department collaboration on assessment and municipal notification for
future projects.

**MOVED by Director Caradonna, SECONDED by Director Tobias,
The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional
District Board:**

**In light of the Federal AI Strategy announcement, that staff report back on AI
data centres, their potential environmental, utility, and land use impacts in this
region, and potential policy options for regulating data centres within the CRD.**

CARRIED

8. New Business

There is no new business.

9. Motion to Close the Meeting**9.1. [26-0821](#) Motion to Close the Meeting**

MOVED by Director Caradonna, **SECONDED** by Director McNeil-Smith,

1. That the meeting be closed for contract negotiations in accordance with Section 90(1)(k) of the Community Charter.

2. That the meeting be closed for proposed municipal service in accordance with Section 90(1)(k) of the Community Charter.

CARRIED

The Environmental Services Committee went into closed session at 11:09 am.

The Environmental Services Committee rose from the closed session at 12:00 pm without report.

10. Adjournment

MOVED by Director Caradonna, **SECONDED** by Director Tobias,

That the Environmental Services Committee meeting of July 15, 2026 be adjourned at 12:00 pm.

CARRIED

CHAIR

RECORDER