

Highlights from the CRD Board meeting on September 11, 2024.



## CRD Board Highlights: September 11, 2024

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CRD Board Highlights provides a brief summary of items from each monthly regional Board meeting. The summary is not inclusive of all agenda items. Please refer to the [CRD website](#) for the full agenda, minutes and webcast.

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### **Bylaw No. 4602: Foodlands Access Service**

Local farming and overall food security has long been a concern in the capital region, as the cost of farmland and an aging farmer population have continued to rise. Bylaw No. 4602, “Foodlands Access Service Establishing Bylaw No. 1, 2024”, was prepared to address this by establishing a service focused on facilitating affordable access to productive farmland for new and expanding farmers. The service will start with a test site to establish viability on a portion of Bear Hill Regional Park, with the goal of expanding to additional sites in the future. The Capital Regional District (CRD) Board introduced the bylaw, read it a first, second and third time and directed staff to forward it to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval. In addition, the Board endorsed the Planning and Protective Services Committee recommendation that the CRD expedite farming in 2025 through this service. Participating area approval will be obtained by a regional alternative approval process.

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### **Reporting Back on Collaborative Action Regional Boats Workshop**

The CRD Board received a report on what was heard at the April 30, 2024 Regional Workshop: Collaborative Action to Resolve Boat-Related Issues in the Capital Region. The Board directed staff to bring back a report that considers expanding the core area harbours service to a regional service, including costs and resourcing requirements. The ‘What We Heard’ Summary Report will be shared with local governments and First Nations in the capital region for consideration and the CRD Board will continue to advocate to the provincial and federal governments to take a leadership role in developing a coast-wide solution that will support local governments.

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### **Royal Oak Golf Course Lands - Interim Management Guidelines**

The CRD Board adopted the Royal Oak Golf Course Lands Interim Management Guidelines (IMG) which will guide the operation of the Royal Oak Golf Course Lands property while conversations with First Nations are ongoing and in the absence of a park management plan. The IMG supports Strategic Plan direction and prioritizes building relationships and gathering information needed to inform the development of a new park management plan. It further guides the securement of the property and establishes how it is to be utilized on an interim basis. The IMG will be used to manage the property until First Nations interests have been addressed and land from the property is included in an approved park management plan.

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### **Establishment of Electoral Area Services Department**

The CRD governs three electoral areas in the capital region. The CRD Board directed the CRD Chief Administrative Officer to establish a new department for Electoral Area Services and combine most services to the electoral areas under a new General Manager to oversee administration and service delivery and work directly with the Electoral Area Directors for Salt Spring Island, Southern Gulf Islands, and Juan de Fuca Electoral Areas. These changes will be reflected in the 2025 provisional budget and service plans. Staff have also been directed to bring back proposed amendments to the Officers', General Managers' and Management Staff's Bylaw to incorporate this new General Manager position.

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### **Bylaw No. 4630: Regional Transportation Service**

Transportation is a priority for residents and the CRD Board. Creating this service will align transportation with growth planning, advance the CRD's priority of supporting residents' access to convenient, green and affordable multi-modal transportation systems, and improve regional connectivity and integrated mobility. CRD's existing transportation functions are focused on a coordinating and monitoring role, limited to planning, data collection and analysis, and policy support, as well as collaboratively working with local governments, the province, and partner agencies. A new transportation service would consolidate existing CRD transportation functions, with additional scope to develop new programs in approved service categories. The CRD Board introduced the Regional Transportation Service Establishment Bylaw, read it for the first, second, and third time, and directed staff to forward it to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval. Participating area approval will be obtained by a regional alternative approval process.

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**The next Board meeting will be held on October 9, 2024**

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