Highlights of the Inaugural and Regular Regional Board Meetings – December 7, 2015

2015-2016 Regional Board and Central Okanagan Hospital District

At the Inaugural meeting of the Regional District Board and Central Okanagan Regional Hospital District Board, Kelowna Councillor Gail Given was acclaimed as Chair. West Kelowna Councillor Duane Ophus was acclaimed as Vice-Chair of both boards. The Regional District Board consists of 12 voting members representing the Central Okanagan East and Central Okanagan West Electoral Areas, the City of Kelowna, District of Lake Country, District of Peachland and the City of West Kelowna. The Westbank First Nation is represented with a non-voting member.

Regional Board Members
Chair Gail Given
Vice-Chair Duane Ophus
Wayne Carson
Patty Hanson
Colin Basran
Maxine DeHart
Tracy Gray
Brad Sieben
Luke Stack
James Baker
Cindy Fortin
Doug Findlater
Chris Derickson
Councillor, City of Kelowna
Councillor, City of West Kelowna
Central Okanagan West Electoral Area
Central Okanagan East Electoral Area
Mayor, City of Kelowna
Councillor, City of Kelowna
Councillor, City of Kelowna
Councillor, City of Kelowna
Mayor, District of Lake Country
Mayor, District of Peachland
Mayor, City of West Kelowna
Councillor, Westbank First Nation
(Non-Voting Member)

Wildfire Prevention Fuel Treatment Grants

The Regional Board has received letters from the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) which has approved two grants under the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative program, providing 90% of the eligible costs of operational wildfire hazard reduction and fuel treatments. The program is providing up to $64,638 to reduce the fire hazard on just over 7.5-hectares in Mill Creek Regional Park. As well, a grant of up to $73,305 has been approved for fuel modification on just over five hectares in Black Mountain / sntsk’il’l’inent Regional Park. Since the inception of the funding program, the Regional District has received more than one million dollars for a variety of fuel modification projects including creation of a region-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan and Operational Wildfire Protection Plan for Regional Parks.

New False Alarm Reduction Program Bylaw

The Regional Board has adopted a new Security Alarm Systems Bylaw, replacing the bylaw created ten years ago for the False Alarm Reduction program. The new bylaw is more user-friendly and readable and simplifies definitions in order to improve compliance and registration of business and residential alarm systems. Annual fees for renewing or registering a new alarm system remain $10 for residential systems and $15 for commercial alarms although some penalties are increasing for unregistered alarm systems. All alarm systems in the Central Okanagan including non-monitored, must be registered.

Community to Community Forum Funding

The Regional District has received a Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) grant to host a Community to Community Forum next March. The UBCM program is providing 50% of the estimated $7,900 cost of holding the half day Sylx Cultural Sites Protection Forum with the Westbank First Nation. It’s hoped with the participation of both the Westbank First Nation Council and Regional Board in the Forum there will be an understanding of options for a joint management strategy to protect Sylx or Okanagan cultural features/sites within RDCO Regional Parks.

Regional Board Meetings

Regional District office – 1450 KLO Road, Kelowna (Woodhaven Board Room). Residents are welcome to attend.

- Tuesday, December 15th – Special Meeting – 10:00 am (Consideration of censure/sanctions – Regional Board Director)
- Thursday, January 14th – following 8:30 am Governance & Services Committee meeting
- Monday, January 25th – 7:00 pm

The Board Report is published monthly after each regular meeting of the Board of the Regional District of Central Okanagan.
The Regional Board meets once a month in regular session in the Woodhaven Board Room at the Regional District office, 1450 KLO Road. The public is welcome to attend.

For copies of this publication or more information contact

Bruce Smith, Communications and Intergovernmental Affairs
250-469-6339
The Board Report is published monthly after each regular meeting of the Board of the Regional District of Central Okanagan. The Regional Board meets once a month in regular session in the Woodhaven Board Room at the Regional District office, 1450 KLO Road. The public is welcome to attend.

Christmas-New Year’s Office Closure
Regional District offices will be closed from Friday, December 25th to Sunday, January 3rd. Offices will reopen at 8:00 am on Monday, January 4th, 2016. During the closure payments may be made online at https://www.regionaldistrict.com. Emergencies involving RDCO water systems should be directed to 250-868-5299 during the holiday closure.

Are You Harbouring A Fugitive?
The Choice Is Yours!
$300 fine for an unlicensed dog
or
$20 - $80 for cost of a license
ZERO TOLERANCE for dogs without a license
Purchase online anytime at www.regionaldistrict.com/dogs or at local government offices, SPCA and Dog Pound.
Licensed dog owners receive benefits of the My Dog Matters Rewards program.

EECO Story Time
A fun, free, interactive story time at the EECO family-themed stories, songs, and crafts for the whole family, ages 3-6

For copies of this publication or more information contact 
Bruce Smith, Communications and Intergovernmental Affairs
250-469-6339