



October 10, 2006

NOTICE TO THE GVRD SUSTAINABLE REGION INITIATIVE TASK FORCE

You are requested to attend a Regular Meeting of the GVRD Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force to be held at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, October 11, 2006, in the 2nd Floor Boardroom at 4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, British Columbia.

REVISED AGENDA

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 October 11, 2006 Regular Meeting Agenda

Staff Recommendation:

That the Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force adopt the agenda for the Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force regular meeting scheduled for October 11, 2006 as circulated.

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

2.1 September 20, 2006 Regular Meeting Minutes

Staff Recommendation:

That the Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force adopt the minutes of the Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force regular meeting held September 20, 2006 as circulated.

3. DELEGATIONS

3.1 Invited Presentation: Green Infrastructure Partnership (GIP) - Changing the Way We Develop Land: Design and Nature

Designated Speakers:

Pamela Goldsmith-Jones - Mayor, West Vancouver; GVRD Liaison to GIP

Paul Ham - Chair, GIP; General Manager of Engineering, City of Surrey

Dale Wall – Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Community Services; and member GIP Steering Committee

Kim Stephens - Program Coordinator, GIP; BC Water Sustainability Action Plan

Ray Fung - Chair, Water Sustainability BC Water and Wastewater Association; Manager of Utilities West Vancouver

4. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF

4.1 2007 Program Plan and Strategic Priorities for SRI Task Force

Designated Speaker: Johnny Carline, Chief Administrative Officer, GVRD

Recommendation:

That the Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force endorse the proposed programs and priorities, as outlined in the report dated September 29, 2006, titles "Sustainable Region Initiative Committee 2007 Programs", as the basis for the budget to be considered at the GVRD Board budget workshop on October 20, 2006.

4.2 Funding to External Organizations

Designated Speaker: Johnny Carline, CAO, GVRD

Recommendation:

That the GVRD Board approve the inclusion of the external contributions as outlined in this report, in the 2007 Budget

4.3 GVRD and Regional Economic Initiatives

Designated Speakers: Delia Laglagaron, Deputy CAO, GVRD

Recommendation:

That the GVRD Board:

- a) Request the Chair to appoint a Standing Committee on the Economy as a forum to discuss issues on the region's economy and define the role of GVRD and partners.
- b) Provide the Greater Vancouver Economic Council (GVEC) formal support including GVRD's support in their request for Federal and Provincial financial assistance.
- c) Direct staff to identify projects that may be done in collaboration with GVEC; and

Develop Terms of Reference for the development of a Regional Economic Strategy using the paper entitled "*PROSPERITY, LIVABILITY, SUSTAINABILITY: Seeking a Strategy for the Future of Greater Vancouver's Economy*", as a starting point

4.4 International Association of Business Communicators Award presented to GVRD television program *The Sustainable Region*

Designated Speakers: Bill Morrell, Media Relations Division Manager, GVRD

Recommendation:

That the Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force forward this report, *International Association of Business Communicators Award presented to GVRD television program The Sustainable Region*, dated October 4, 2006, to the Board for information

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

No items presented.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

No items presented.

7. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING

No items presented.

8. ADJOURNMENT

**GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
SUSTAINABLE REGION INITIATIVE TASK FORCE**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force held at 1:08 p.m. on Wednesday, September 20, 2006 in the 2nd Floor Café East Meeting Room, 4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, British Columbia.

PRESENT:

Chair, Director Lois Jackson, Corporation of Delta
Vice Chair, Director Peter Ladner, City of Vancouver
Director Derek Corrigan, City of Burnaby
Director Ralph Drew, Village of Belcarra (arrived at 1:15 p.m.)
Director Marvin Hunt, City of Surrey
Director Wayne Wright, City of New Westminster
Director Max Wyman, Village of Lions Bay

ABSENT:

Mayor Dianne Watts, City of Surrey
Director Maxine Wilson, City of Coquitlam

STAFF:

Johnny Carline, Chief Administrative Officer
Delia Laglagaron, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Marjorie Whalen, Assistant to Regional Committees, Corporate Secretary's Department

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 September 20, 2006 Regular Meeting Agenda

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force adopt the agenda for the Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force regular meeting scheduled for September 20, 2006 as circulated.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

2.1 July 11, 2006 Regular Meeting Minutes

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force adopt the minutes of the Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force regular meeting held July 11, 2006 as circulated.

CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS

3.1 **Invited Presentation: Bob Purdy, Director, Corporate Development and Management, Fraser Basin Council – Livability, Prosperity, Sustainability: Discussion Paper**

Bob Purdy, Director, Corporate Development and Management, Fraser Basin Council, briefed members on a discussion paper that looks at the regional economy with a sustainably-inspired strategy. The paper provides an overview on the regional economy; trends and opportunities; challenges; and how sustainability contributes to a prosperous, resilient regional economy.

1:15 p.m.

Director Drew arrived at the meeting.

Members were advised that the purpose of the presentation was to inform that the paper exists and examine the role the GVRD sees for itself in participating in the next steps. Discussion ensued relative to the need to incorporate culture in the plan; the efficiencies of deregulation and competition; the fiscal imbalance arising from provincial and federal government downloading; reinvesting at the municipal level; and implications of changing the taxation and assessment base.

There was discussion of the unsustainability of the current social situation (issues such as homelessness and drug abuse) which create an unfriendly business environment.

Recess

The Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force recessed at 2:00 p.m. and reconvened at 2:05 p.m.

3.2 **Invited Presentation: Colin Hartwell, Vice Chair, Greater Vancouver Economic Council (GVEC) and Mark Betteridge, Chief Executive Officer, Discovery Parks Trust; and GVEC Committee – Partnership for Regional Prosperity – Five-Year Business Plan**

Colin Hartwell, Vice Chair, Greater Vancouver Economic Council and Mark Betteridge, Chief Executive Officer, Discovery Parks Trust; and GVEC Committee, briefed members on the need for a regional economic initiative because, although the current economy is strong, key trends show a risk of future declines in the absence of action. Members were advised of the need for the GVEC to formalize broad-based support; initiate regional activities; and establish financial sustainability.

Bob Williams, Chair, VanCity Capital Corporation, advised that the GVEC is seeking formal support and endorsement for the proposal; to actively support their request of the federal government for funding; and to assist their efforts to attract regional business leaders. Consideration for areas of investment and collaboration include culture, the industrial land base; and English as a second language (ESL). Discussion ensued relative to incorporation of other sectors such as tourism; agriculture; and fisheries.

Members were requested to match existing funds from the private sector in the amount of \$60,000 to support the program.

Discussion ensued relative to endorsement of the GVEC proposal in principle; the lack of time to reflect on the information; and clarification of the deliverables the GVRD would receive. Concern was expressed that there remains a number of questions with serious considerations with the GVEC proposal and the need for more information.

Request of Staff

Staff was directed to arrange a special meeting of the Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force before the October 12, 2006 workshop to discuss the program planning budget for 2007.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force direct staff to prepare a summary of both economic development presentations to the September 20, 2006 Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force meeting for a report back to the next scheduled meeting of the Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force.

CARRIED

Deferral Motion

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force defer endorsement in-principle of the Greater Vancouver Economic Council initiative until after the October 12-13, 2006 GVRD Board workshop.

CARRIED

Presentation material was provided by the delegation and is retained with the September 20, 2006 Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force agenda package.

4. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF

No items presented.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

No items presented.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 “Future of the Region”

Members were invited to a “Future of the Region” forum on September 25, 2006 at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue. The focus of the forum is Regional Economy and speakers will address succeeding in the global economy while ensuring long-term regional prosperity, social well-being, and environmental health.

On-table presentation material was provided and is retained with the September 20, 2006 Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force agenda package.

7. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING

No items presented.

8. ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the meeting now conclude.

CARRIED

(Time: 3:29 p.m.)

Marjorie Whalen,
Assistant to Regional Committees

Lois E. Jackson, Chair



Green Infrastructure Partnership

Changing the Way We Develop Land: Design with Nature

Presentation to Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force
On October 11, 2006

By

Mayor Pam Goldsmith-Jones, District of West Vancouver
Paul Ham, Chair, Green Infrastructure Partnership
Dale Wall, Assistant Deputy-Minister, Ministry of Community Services
Raymond Fung, Chair, BCWWA Water Sustainability Committee
Kim Stephens, Program Coordinator, Water Sustainability Action Plan

Build a Vision, Create a Legacy

- **Issue:** How Will We Accommodate Settlement Pressures?
- **Impact:** The Landscape is Being Transformed
- **Sustainability:** *Means Design with Nature*
- **Built Environment:** We Can Improve It
- **Natural Environment:** We Can Protect It
- **Cumulative Benefits:** Accrue Over Time
- **Desired Outcome:** Sustain Community Livability

The Way We Develop Land Determines How Water is Used and How Water Runs Off the Land

In the Greater Vancouver region and on Vancouver Island, green infrastructure is associated with control of water that runs off the land and sustainability of aquatic habitat.

Whereas in the Okanagan, green infrastructure is associated with the use of water and sustainability of supply;

Water Sustainability

BCWWA partners with the province to deliver the Water Sustainability Action Plan.

BY KIM STEPHENS

THE WATER Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia provides a partnership umbrella for an array of on-the-ground initiatives that promote a ‘water-centric’ approach to community planning. (Water-centric means planning with a view to water — whether for a single site or the entire province.) The Action Plan comprises inter-connected program elements that give local governments and practitioners the tools and experience to do things differently. The over-arching goal is to advance a water balance way-of-thinking and acting.

To achieve the goal, a water-centric approach puts water stewardship and sustainability front and centre on the agenda of comprehensive land use, development or resource planning initiatives. Water-centric planning considers the amount of water available, the amount of water needed, innovative efficiency strategies, the quality of water leaving an area, how rain and snow water are managed, and the impact on the natural environment. Implementation of integrated strategies and solutions ultimately requires integration of missions, mandates and accountabilities of participating agencies.

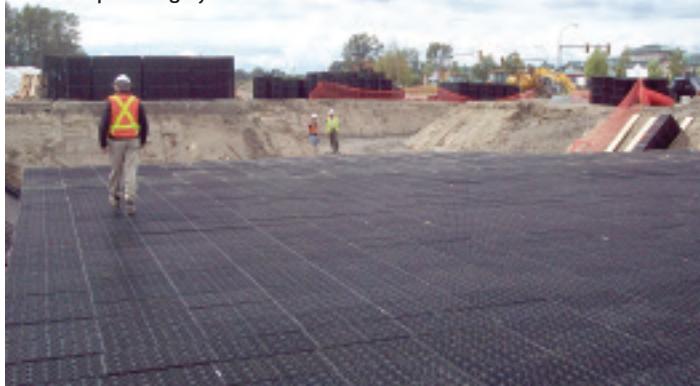
Through a partnership with the Ministry of Environment, program delivery for the Water Sustainability Action Plan is being carried out by the Water Sustainability Committee (WSC) of the British Columbia Water & Waste Association (BCWWA). The WSC is providing the leadership, facilitation and organizational services necessary for successful program implementation. According to Raymond Fung, WSC chair, “The Water Sustainability Action Plan is aimed at building capacity by improving awareness about effective approaches to the sustainable use of water resources and demonstrating how to integrate these approaches into land and resource planning, development and management decisions at the regional, community through to site levels.”

The Action Plan builds on the foundation provided by A Water Conservation Strategy for British Columbia, also developed and implemented by the province in partnership with BCWWA from 1997 to 2001.

Within the BCWWA framework, WSC is a broadly based roundtable of organizations that have a specific interest or mission in implementing the Action Plan. The roundtable encompasses government organizations, non-government associations, the private sector, and universities. “By drawing its members from a diverse range of disciplines and organizations, the WSC functions across the boundaries and beyond the historical limits or constraints of the mandates, knowledge and expertise found in specific organizations. One of the criteria for membership is that individuals will feed back the WSC outcomes into their organizations,” says Fung.

The Water Balance Model for British Columbia was the first of the six elements to be implemented. This web-based decision support and scenario modeling tool quantifies the benefits — in terms of reducing rainwater runoff volume — of installing source controls such as green roofs, rain gardens and infiltration facilities under different combinations of land use, soil and climate conditions. The outreach and continuing education program for the Water Balance Model was launched at the 2003 Annual Conference of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities with

Implementing a natural systems approach to rainwater management means capture rain where it falls and minimize surface runoff volumes. Detention storage volume is being provided under a parking lot in the Township of Langley.



a session for elected officials. Key partners for delivery of hands-on training workshops for practitioners are the Real Estate Foundation of B.C., the UDI, and the Association of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of BC. Training workshops in computer lab settings have been hosted by UBC, University of Victoria, BCIT, North Island College in Courtenay, and the University of British Columbia Okanagan.

“The early success of the Water Balance Model in British Columbia generated interest in expanding the focus of the tool to reach a national audience. This led to the decision in 2004



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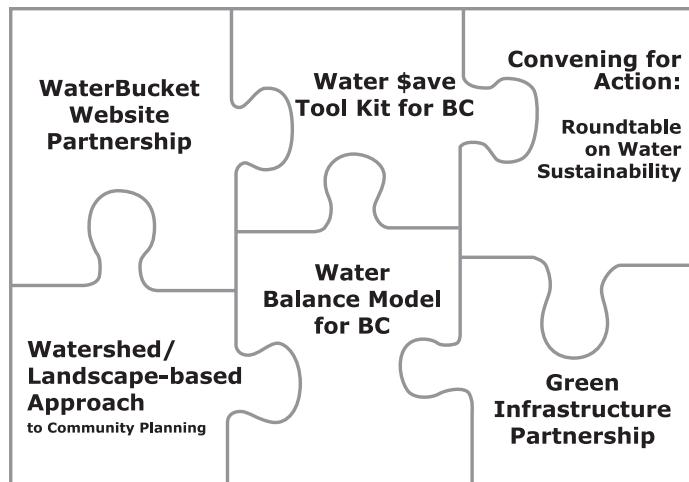
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by Environment Canada, Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation, and the Province of British Columbia to join forces to create a truly national Water Balance Model for Canada at www.waterbalance.ca and foster the formation of inter-provincial partnerships as a means to pool resources”, reports Ted van der Gulik, chair of the Inter-Governmental Partnership that is responsible for model development.

“The success of the Water Balance Model website helped create momentum for development of the WaterBucket website at www.waterbucket.ca”, adds Michael Tanner, WaterBucket chair. “Launched in 2005, the WaterBucket is the primary communication vehicle for the Action Plan. Our vision is to provide a resource-rich, highly interactive ‘destination location’ for timely and provocative information about water sustainability in British Columbia.”

Over the past year, WaterBucket has expanded from one to six communities-of-interest, namely: Water-Centric Planning; Water Use and Conservation; Rainwater Management; Green Infrastructure; Agriculture and Water; and Convening for Action.

The Water Balance Model and the WaterBucket are stand-alone initiatives under the Action Plan umbrella, yet are fully integrated with the Green Infrastructure Partnership. Formed in 2003, the mission of the Green Infrastructure Partnership is to provide leadership and encourage others to implement ‘green infrastructure’ design practices and regulation province-wide. According to Paul Ham, chair of the Partnership, “Consultation workshops in May 2004 and May 2005 resulted in successive reconfigurations of our work plan, with the emphasis now on educating stakeholders regarding the benefits of a design with nature approach to community planning and land development, and facilitating adoption of this approach. This means build



and/or rebuild communities in harmony with the natural environment. Water-centric green infrastructure and ‘water balance management’ can be viewed as one and the same, in that both start at the site level and both revolve around how we develop the landscape.”

In 2006, the WSC is playing a leadership role in implementing the Convening for Action initiative through regional partnerships, with an initial emphasis on the South Okanagan. Through an outreach and continuing education program that is outcome-oriented, this key element of the Water Sustainability Action Plan is promoting water stewardship provincially by demonstrating what the water balance way-thinking and acting means on-the-ground.

According to Erik Karlsen, co-lead for the Convening for Action initiative, “We are building on the successful precedent that the former Ministry of Water, Land & Air Protection established in 2002 when the Ministry published *Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia*. The guidebook set in motion a chain of outcomes that has resulted in British Columbia being recognized internationally as a leader in implementing a natural systems approach to rainwater management in the urban environment. The Convening for Action initiative creates an opportunity to move beyond rainwater management to embrace all components of the water cycle through integrated water management. It will turn ideas into action.”

The Convening for Action initiative is designed to ‘turn ideas into action’ through a three-step process that builds capacity by:

- Challenging practitioners and others to step back from their existing paradigms (e.g. big pipe solutions, whether for water supply or drainage conveyance);
- Informing them regarding alternatives (e.g. rainwater harvesting to augment water supply and/or reduce rainwater runoff volume); and
- Giving them the tools and the experience to do things differently (e.g. the Water Balance Model).

The Minister of Environment, Barry Penner, recently said: “I am pleased with the continuing success of the ministry’s partnership with the BCWWA’s Water Sustainability Committee in providing program delivery for the Water Sustainability Action Plan... I value the important role this partnership is playing in promoting awareness and supporting communities to integrate water management practices with local land use planning and development programs. The ministry continues to provide core funding to support implementation of this Action Plan.” **CB**

Kim A Stephens, M.Eng., P.Eng., is program coordinator for the Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia. He can be reached at kimastephens@shaw.ca.

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Water - Choosing Sustainability for Life & Livelihoods: Convening for Action in British Columbia

FOREWORD

IN RECENT DECADES, THE HIGH GROWTH REGIONS of British Columbia have been experiencing *cumulative impacts* as a result of pressures on land and water resources. The desire to mitigate environmental and social impacts has provided a driver for the 'green infrastructure' movement across North America, and especially in British Columbia. Looking ahead, the challenge for high growth communities is to make informed choices that will produce *cumulative benefits* over time, and thereby ensure long-term community livability.

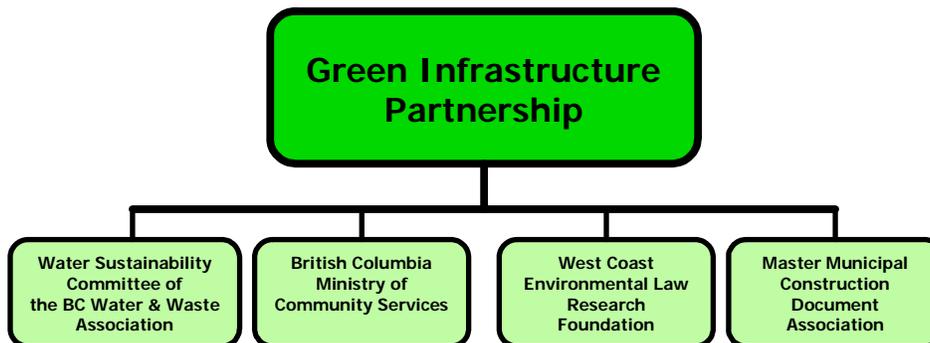
CONVENING FOR ACTION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA is an element of the Water Sustainability Action Plan, and is outcome-oriented. It is being implemented through collaboration and regional partnerships. The desired outcome is to bring the vision for *Communities in Balance with Water* to fruition. Conversations with elected officials are an essential ingredient in developing a shared understanding of what the vision looks like on the ground. The goal is to implement changes in the way we develop land and use water.

The Water Sustainability Action Plan for BC....



... provides a partnership umbrella for an array of *on-the-ground* initiatives that promote a 'water-centric' approach to community planning

THE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIP was formed in 2003 and is a consortium of four organizations. Under the Action Plan framework, its mission is to facilitate implementation of *design with nature* infrastructure practices and regulation province-wide. If we design with nature, then the *water balance* can be maintained or even restored over time.



Water - Choosing Sustainability for Life & Livelihoods: Convening for Action in British Columbia

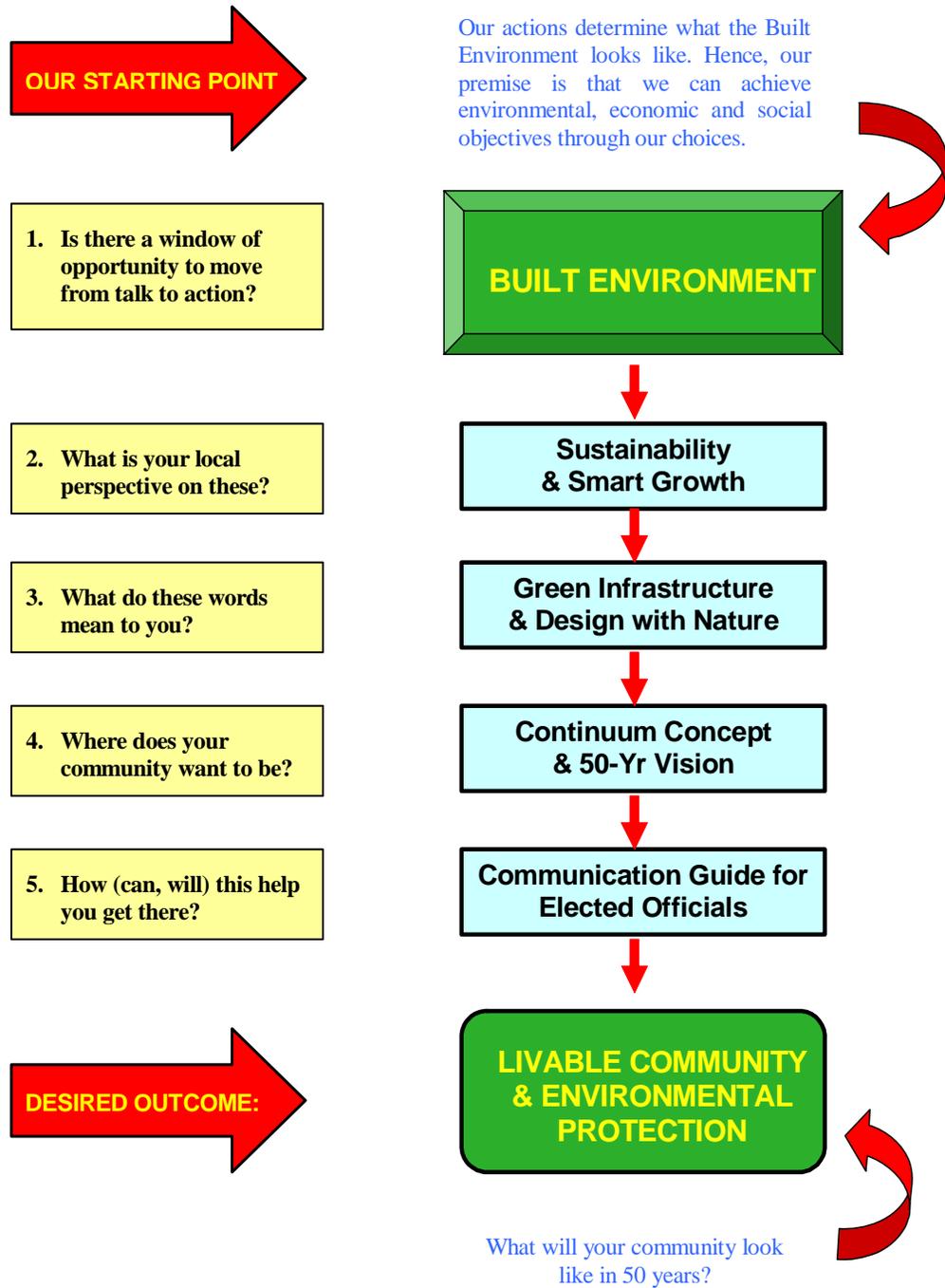


Figure 1 – Conversation Template

Water - Choosing Sustainability for Life & Livelihoods: Convening for Action in British Columbia

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AN OVERVIEW: *Convening for Action in British Columbia* brings together people who have knowledge and expertise...with those who seek ways to meet present and future sustainability challenges in their communities.

The purpose in Convening for Action is to deliver a highly transparent process where everyone gets a voice, everyone sees their interests recorded and considered, and everyone is proactively engaged to focus on results.

The ultimate objective in Convening for Action is to build an informed ‘community of interest’ so that over time it will evolve into a ‘community of practice’.

It Starts with a Conversation: In May 2005, the Green Infrastructure Partnership organized a Consultation Workshop with local governments in the Greater Vancouver region. The workshop solicited feedback and input on the development of Communication Guides for elected officials and senior managers, respectively.

The workshop set in motion a chain of events. One outcome was a decision to have one-on-one conversations with an ‘ad hoc mayors focus group’ that has representation from three regions. By listening to what elected officials have to say, we provide an informed basis for moving forward with changes in the way we develop land and use water.

The report that follows is a prelude to developing a *Green Infrastructure Communication Guide for Elected Officials*. The Guide will fill a gap because what has been lacking is this – written information on green infrastructure from the perspective of elected officials, for elected officials.

The Storyline: This report summarizes the progress to date in meeting with elected officials and implementing pilot programs in three regions:

- **Section 1** introduces the *Context for Conversations* with elected officials.
- **Section 2** distils what we learned through our conversations with elected officials, and is titled *Views on Settlement, Economic Growth and Designing with Nature*.
- **Section 3** describes how *Convening for Action Regional Pilot Programs* are being delivered in the South Okanagan and Greater Vancouver regions, and on Vancouver Island.
- **Section 4** identifies deliverables and next steps in *Moving Forward with the Action Plan*, in particular for the Communication Guide.

The conversations with elected officials have been invaluable in providing focus for the pilots.

Water - Choosing Sustainability for Life & Livelihoods: Convening for Action in British Columbia

Key Messages:

This progress report is designed to accomplish three communication objectives:

1. Tell the story of Convening for Action.
2. Report out on meetings with elected officials.
3. Provide funding agencies with a roadmap.

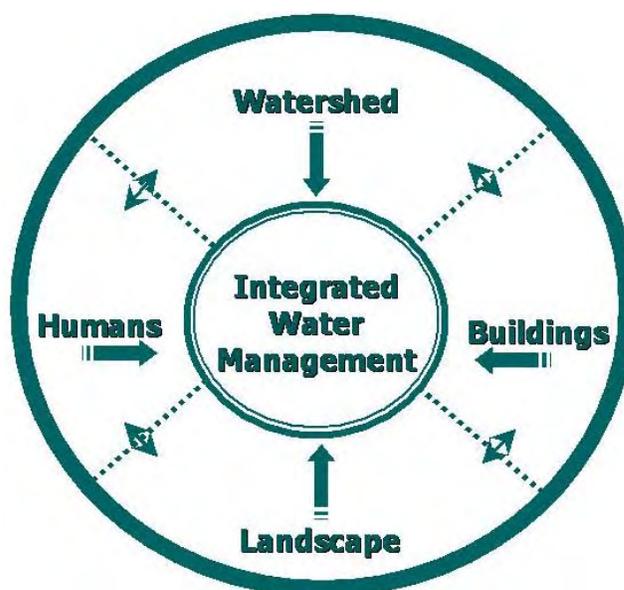
What You Need to Know:

The essence of this progress report is distilled down to a set of eight Key Messages which can also be viewed as Guiding Principles:

- **Growth and Settlement:** Doubling the population will require changes in the way we develop land and how we use water.
- **Water for Life and Livelihoods:** In a fully integrated landscape, water is the unifying element. If we get the water part right, then other parts will be more likely to follow.
- **Settlement in Balance with Ecology:** Settlement and ecology are equal values, and they must be as much in balance as possible for the wellbeing of human and natural systems.
- **Communities in Balance with Water:** *Water OUT = Water IN* is a 'mind map' for dealing with uncertainty and managing risk related to water supply, water use and runoff.
- **Design with Nature:** We can improve the built environment. We can protect the natural environment. We can sustain community livability.
- **Leadership:** Alignment at a regional scale will help individual mayors lead the move from talk (interest) to local action (practice) on-the-ground.
- **Communication:** Seek to understand and 'connect the dots' by having conversations.
- **Implementing Change:** Inform, inspire and enable people to work together through partnerships to act now.

Integrated Water Management:

The 'integration' process that is at the heart of a design with nature approach to land development involves consideration of land, water, air and living organisms – including humans – as well as the interactions among them.



'Greener' communities will enhance the quality of life, and will achieve higher levels of ecological and water protection in the Built Environment. But creating this outcome depends on connecting the dots between regional growth strategies and on-the-ground infrastructure. Looking ahead, federal / provincial infrastructure programs will ultimately drive implementation of green infrastructure policies, plans, standards and practices.



Committee Meeting Date: October 11, 2006

TO: Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force

FROM: Johnny Carline, CAO

DATE: October 5, 2006

RE: **2007 Programs and Strategic Priorities of the Sustainable Region Initiative Committee**

Recommendation:

That the Sustainable Region Initiative (SRI) Task Force endorse the proposed programs and priorities, as outlined in the report dated September 29, 2006 titled "*Sustainable Region Initiative Committee 2007 Programs*", as the basis for the budget to be considered at the GVRD Board budget workshop on October 20, 2006.

1. Purpose

The intent of this report is to allow each committee to consider the proposed 2007 programs and priorities under their purview and to recommend amendments to the Board to be considered at the Board budget workshop.

2. Context

The current phase of the Program Planning and Budget Process focuses on determining programs to be undertaken in 2007, subject to final budget considerations. Deliberations on all GVRD budgets will be the subject of the Finance Committee meeting and the Board Workshop both scheduled in October.

The 2007 overall budget as it stands is within the levels of projected spending. However, there is a significant increase in staffing. The key drivers for this proposed staffing increase are: the introductory operations of the Seymour/Capilano Filtration Plant; the approved implementation phasing of the Parks and Greenways Plan; the overall pressures of the current state of the economy and labour market on the GVRD workforce and the longer term need to adjust to changing demographics; the relocation of utilities due to provincial projects; and overall workload, plus the Boards' introduction of additional programs and activities to address GVRD's responsibilities on the sustainability of the region.

This increase in staffing is compatible with the budget coming in within projected levels partly because much of it was anticipated by the Board's decisions on the filtration plant and Parks Plan financial projections, and partly through corresponding reductions in contracted positions, consulting and other economies made in the budget process.

This report outlines the proposed strategic priorities which will be the subject matter of a staff presentation at the Committee meeting. Financial implications of these programs and priorities will be presented and are being finalized at the time of writing.

3. Discussion

3.1 Strategic Priorities

The strategic role of the Committee is the Sustainable Region Initiative, the framework of all GVRD activities, both as a regional governance body and as a corporate entity. As such, there is no one program or set of programs that captures this initiative. The Sustainable Region Initiative encompasses three levels of effort: corporate sustainability, regional mandates, and partnership initiatives with organizations that have responsibility for issues that are outside the scope of regional mandates but within its interest. The nature of the Task Force role is strategic and therefore the priorities and tasks are presented at that level. 2007 implementation will include:

- a) Develop communication and education actions to demonstrate and promote behaviour in accordance with sustainability principles
 - Continuation of the Future of the Region Sustainability Dialogue Series, and expansion of the series to include a number of dialogues hosted in communities outside Vancouver.
 - Refocus of the Sustainability Community Breakfasts - arising from the post World Urban Forum discussions, recognition of the 2010 Olympics as a catalytic event to focus attention on sustainability, for example, the poverty/crime/housing issues of downtown East Hastings and elsewhere.
 - Coordinate a major conference in the fall of 2007 that will serve to pull together the many streams of input, contribute to the development of a Vision for Greater Vancouver, and identify objectives to be achieved by 2010 (e.g. actions to address issues associated with the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver).
 - Refine content of GVRD-produced television programming – The Sustainable Region – and sustainability-focused web content to ensure alignment with strategic objectives.
 - Enhance media understanding of sustainability and the GVRD's role as a leader in innovative sustainable practices through more active engagement of community and business press; further engage elected officials in the delivery of strategic messaging.
 - Capitalize on existing processes and seek out new opportunities to engage key audiences in support of sustainability (e.g. Regional Growth Strategy, SRI Partners Committee).
 - Deliver professional development workshops to GVRD teachers.
 - Create a "Sustainability Audit Tool Kit" by supplementing GVRD's eco-efficiency tool with existing self assessment and auditor tools.
 - Reduce business demand for GVRD services and infrastructure through the delivery of targeted technical assistance and education programs.
- b) As supplier and consumer of services adopt and promote innovative sustainable technologies
 - Identify and promote sustainability based specifications through the implementation of sustainability purchasing policy.
- c) Develop partnerships to integrate initiatives and avoid fragmentation
 - Establish a Task Force, based on themes arising from discussion at the Sustainability Dialogues and the Breakfasts, that will report out to the community on how sustainability has been advanced in the region, and also explore additional means of increasing community awareness.
 - Form intra-organizational task force to implement sustainability ideas from Sustainability Challenge.

- d) Use financial measures to achieve sustainable outcome
 - Develop pricing mechanisms as part of the Solid Waste Management Plan.
- e) Use plans and policies to achieve sustainable outcome
 - In 2007 the following plans will be developed: Growth Management, Solid Waste Management Plan; Liquid Waste Management Plan and Regional Housing Strategy.

The specifics of several of these plans will be considered by the committees responsible for those functions and just as important are the critical relationships between these plans. The SRI Committee has the broader responsibility of overseeing the entire program and ensuring that the critical connection is made between the various elements, the long term urban planning needed to integrate all urban systems as a fundamental requirement of the sustainability of cities.

- Review corporate policies to incorporate sustainability principles.

3.2 Other Strategic Priorities

Strategic priorities also under purview of the SRI Committee are initiatives that are outside the scope of regional mandates but are within its interest and are important elements to the sustainability of the region. The extent of GVRD's involvement – participant, facilitator, convenor, or part of a GVRD program, is subject to this Committee's discussion and recommendation and Board decision.

In addition, the Committee oversees region-wide programs that the Board has established and are not reported to any other Committee. They are:

- Regional Emergency Management
- Regional Culture Strategy
- West Nile Virus Regional Prevention
- 911 Emergency Telephone

4. Conclusion

The programs proposed for 2007 are here presented for the Committee's consideration, amendment, or adjustment to program scope and priorities. Modifications to the program statements might be considered separately as a direction to staff.



SRI Task Force Meeting Date: October 11, 2006
Finance Committee Meeting Date: October 12, 2006

TO: Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force
Finance Committee

FROM: Johnny Carline, CAO

DATE: September 28, 2006

SUBJECT: Funding to External Organizations

Recommendation:

That the GVRD Board approve the inclusion of the external contributions as outlined in this report, in the 2007 Budget.

1. PURPOSE

For the GVRD Board to review the contributions provided to external organizations and provide amendments if required as part of the budget process.

2. CONTEXT

For the last several years the GVRD has included in its budget, contributions to external organizations whose work provides a level of benefit to the community or to GVRD related responsibilities. The organizations and 2007 proposed funding levels are noted below as well as a short summary of the function they provide. If there is an increase/decrease from previous years a comparison is shown.

External Contributions through General Government function:

Cultural Grants	Annual Contribution \$100,000 (2006 \$117,000)
------------------------	--

This contribution is shown separately within this function. Each year annual grants are made to a variety of cultural organizations within the region. The funding for this function comes from the annual interest income earned on the Cultural Grant Reserve. Given the low interest rates of recent years the annual contribution has been reduced as we are not able to generate the same returns as in the past.

Fraser Basin Council

Annual Contribution \$310,000

The Fraser Basin Council (FBC) is an organization that is focused on advancing sustainability throughout the entire Fraser River Basin. The long-term vision of the FBC is to ensure that the Fraser Basin is a place where social well-being is supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment. Since it was established in 1997, the FBC has played a leadership role in helping to resolve conflicts, educate the public about sustainability and take advantage of opportunities to advance sustainability throughout the Fraser River Basin. The FBC and its partners have tackled a wide range of sustainability issues. Today, the FBC is actively involved in resolving issues that affect the well-being of people who live in the Basin.

The contribution amount is based on a per capita formula, but the GVRD is reduced as we also provide some funding to both the Burrard Inlet Environmental Action Program and Fraser River Estuary Management Program (see below). Note that this amount does not reflect any contribution to the debris trap program supported by FBC.

BIEAP:FREMP

Annual Contribution \$22,500 each

The Burrard Inlet Environmental Action Program (BIEAP) and Fraser River Estuary Management Program (FREMP) are inter-governmental partnerships established to coordinate the environmental management of these two significant aquatic ecosystems in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia. The FBC has a Memorandum of Understanding with BIEAP/FREMP that provides a framework for complementary actions in support of the sustainability of these ecosystems.

Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee

Annual Contribution \$285,829
(2006: \$262,228)

The Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee (LMTAC) coordinates and represents the collective interests of local governments, in defining and building relationships between First Nations and other orders of government.

LMTAC has established the following priority roles. To:

1. Communicate the collective interests of local government in area treaty processes to Provincial, Federal, and First Nations governments.
2. Advise and update LMTAC members regarding local government interests in Aboriginal issues and in treaty negotiations.
3. Monitor and, where necessary, respond to non-treaty aboriginal issues that may impact the collective local government interest.
4. Facilitate the development of effective working relationships between local governments and First Nations.

LMTAC has requested an increase in funding for the 2007 fiscal year largely to adequately fund their direct participation at the four increasingly active Lower Mainland Treaty Tables.

30+ Plus Network

Annual Contribution \$4,000

30+ is a network of cities and communities sharing learning on integrated long-term planning for sustainability. The purpose of the 30+ Network is to catalyze action on urban sustainability through integrated long-term planning and demonstration projects in cities around the world.

External Contributions through Parks function:

Parks Partnerships

Annual Contribution \$68,500

(2006 contribution \$25,000)

These are groups dedicated to preserving, protecting and enhancing GVRD Parks' natural environment, while advocating an appreciation and enjoyment of the Park's natural attributes and recreational resources. In 2006 application for this funding exceeded the annual commitment. An increase is requested in the 2007 budget in anticipation of similar requests this year and in recognition of the value received from these partnerships in enhancing the educational opportunities, stewardship and use of the parks system.

Pacific Parklands Foundation

Annual Contribution \$175,000

(2006 \$75,000)

The Foundation raises funds to improve and expand the GVRD park system. The Foundation helps fund special projects in GVRD Regional Parks, and fosters public awareness of our park system. In May the Board endorsed increased annual funding (or value of service-in kind) to be included in the 2007 Budget. The extra funding will allow the Foundation to maximize opportunities with regard to securing bequests, raising funds and promoting donations of lands for the parks systems.

3. ALTERNATIVES

- a) As part of the 2007 Budget the Board may include the funding as proposed;
- b) Individual funding may be reduced or increased as the Board feels is appropriate.

4. CONCLUSION

Under the Local Government Act section 176(1)(c) the District can provide a grant to organizations who provide a benefit to the community as a whole. Though we provide a grant, we generally do not have a role as to the direction or the work done by these organizations.

The current draft 2007 budget reflects the amounts noted above. The can be amended as required during our budget process.



Committee Meeting Date: October 11, 2006

To: Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force

From: Delia Laglagaron, Deputy CAO

Date: October 5, 2006

Subject: **GVRD and Regional Economy Initiatives**

Recommendation:

That the GVRD Board

- a) Request the Chair to appoint a Standing Committee on the Economy as a forum to discuss issues on the region's economy and to define the role of GVRD and partners;
 - b) Provide the Greater Vancouver Economic Council (GVEC) formal support including GVRD's support in their request for Federal and Provincial financial assistance;
 - c) Direct staff to identify projects that may be done in collaboration with GVEC; and
 - d) Develop Terms of Reference for the development of a Regional Economic Strategy using the paper entitled "*PROSPERITY, LIVABILITY, SUSTAINABILITY: Seeking a Strategy for the Future of Greater Vancouver's Economy*", as a starting point.
-

1. PURPOSE

To present a summary of GVRD's participation on initiatives related to the region's economy and seek direction on next steps

2. CONTEXT

The region's economy as well as the social and environmental dimensions of the region has been identified as key considerations towards achieving the livability and sustainability of the region. The need for an economic development strategy has been widely touted as one of the shortcomings of the region. In the delivery of the region's key infrastructure and the growth management functions, the future of the economy of the region has been treated as implicit direction. One of the criticisms of the Livable Region Strategic Plan (LRSP) was its silence on the assumptions of the region's economy; the design of some of the regulatory functions requires an assumption on industries and activities; and the delivery of key regional functions requires an understanding of the regional economy to effectively and efficiently deliver these services.

Economic development has been an area where the Board has been reluctant to see the region get involved. The business community, however, saw the need for a regional approach and so in the past, the GVRD facilitated the creation of the Greater Vancouver Economic Partnership – a business-driven organization with some GVRD and Provincial support and participation. This approach did not work. The business community emphasized promotion and avoided contentious policy issues. It developed little profile and did not deliver services to local municipalities, so political support quickly waned. At that time, there was also a perceived inability to engage the private sector itself.

The Sustainable Region Initiative – identified the economy of the region as a role intended to be undertaken and lead by other agency/agencies. The two initiatives that GVRD has participated were presented to the SRI Task Force at its March 2006 Committee meeting:

- Identified as one of the projects of the SRI Partnership, GVRD staff participated in the development of *PROSPERITY, LIVABILITY, SUSTAINABILITY: Seeking a Strategy for the Future of Greater Vancouver's Economy*, a paper that begins to develop what sustainability means to the economy of the region. The author(s) describes the paper as “a call to action to government, business and civil society opinion leaders to voice their support for a “sustainability-inspired” regional economic strategy for Greater Vancouver and commit to participate in its development and implementation. An underlying premise of this call for collaborative action is that *people will support a vision if they see themselves in it*. A series of regional dialogues with key interests is proposed as a means to inform and garner support for the regional initiative”.
- GVRD Director and staff are members of the GVEC. GVEC represents the culmination of a major collaborative effort across a broad spectrum of business, academic, labour and civic leadership. GVEC’s presentation outlined their business case: to stimulate investment and new employment in the region, all within a sustainable context; and expand industrial clusters, attracting international investment, and benchmarking against competitors.
- GVEC is seeking:
 - formal support of initiatives, including funding
 - active support of GVEC’s request to the Federal government for support
 - assistance on efforts to attract regional business leaders
 - collaboration on joint projects, such as: Arts and Culture, Industrial land base studies, regional data analysis, and external economic initiatives.

See Attachment 1

In addition to these two initiatives, other GVRD initiatives that are related to the economy are:

- The GVRD’s Agriculture Advisory Committee has developed an Economic Strategy for Agriculture in the Lower Mainland. “The strategy fulfills or advances the original project objectives to:
 - identify trends and emerging economic issues and opportunities, and to analyze how these will shape Lower Mainland agriculture in the future;
 - develop an economic action plan for agriculture in the Lower Mainland that identifies short term action items and articulates a long term strategy;
 - build new and/or strengthened partnerships between agricultural stakeholders in the Lower Mainland; and
 - draw commitments from agricultural stakeholders, including commodity groups, local processors and distributors, farmers and local and provincial governments, to implement the action plans.”
- The GVRD through a subcommittee of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Regional Economic Subcommittee, provides a forum for municipal economic development officers to exchange information.

- The most recent dialogue on September 25, 2006, on the Future of the Region discussed the Regional Economy specifically on how to succeed in this global economy while ensuring long-term regional prosperity, social well-being and environmental health. More than 150 participants intensely discussed the region's economy and its future.

3. ALTERNATIVES

The *PROSPERITY, LIVABILITY, SUSTAINABILITY: Seeking a Strategy for the Future of Greater Vancouver's Economy* paper is an interesting discussion paper but lacks clarity as to the vehicle to carry ideas into action and therefore may not get the support of key players. The establishment of the Greater Vancouver Economic Council on the other hand, is the mirror image of that, in that a collective effort to build a vehicle to do something to advance regional economic strategy, without being clear at this stage on what actions the institution will undertake. There is merit to both approaches and therefore our external partners have strong preferences for each approach - build the strategy first and then the vehicle to deliver it; and develop the institutional framework first and then allow that to develop the strategy.

In view of past lack of success, staff recommends that we support both initiatives and encourage integration of the approaches.

The Board may

- a) Appoint a Standing Committee on the Economy as a forum to discuss issues on the region's economy and to define the role of GVRD and partners;
- b) Provide GVEC a formal support including GVRD's support in their request for Federal and Provincial financial assistance;
- c) Direct staff to identify projects that may be done in collaboration with GVEC; and
- d) Develop Terms of Reference for the development of a Regional Economic Strategy using the paper on *PROSPERITY, LIVABILITY, SUSTAINABILITY: Seeking a Strategy for the Future of Greater Vancouver's Economy*, as a starting point.

These are possible recommendation options for the Committee to consider. The Committee may also forward this report and its recommendations to the Board Workshop scheduled on October 12-13, 2006.

4. CONCLUSION

As a key component of the Sustainable Region Initiative, the GVRD, in partnership with other organizations, has been a participant, facilitator, and convener of activities that provided understanding and assistance in addressing regional economic issues. This report outlines GVRD's initiatives to provide background for Committee discussion and recommendations.

Attachments: 1. Greater Vancouver Economic Council presentation



Committee Meeting Date: October 11, 2006

To: Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force

From: Bill Morrell, Corporate Communications and Media Relations Division Manager,
Corporate Relations Department

Date: October 4, 2006

Subject: **International Association of Business Communicators Award presented to
GVRD television program *The Sustainable Region***

Recommendation:

That the Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force forward this report, *International Association of Business Communicators Award presented to GVRD television program The Sustainable Region*, dated October 4, 2006, to the Board for information.

1. PURPOSE

To inform the Task Force of an award for excellence in communications recently presented to the Greater Vancouver Regional District's television program *The Sustainable Region*.

2. CONTEXT

Corporate Communications and Outreach activities give voice to the GVRD's strategic and operational programs. Activities engage stakeholders, both internal and external, as a means of advancing corporate objectives.

Communications and Outreach brings to bear a wide range of communication, consultation and relationship-building tools that provide the GVRD's diverse audiences with a better understanding of, and opportunities for participation in, the achievement of regional priorities; in particular, building a livable and sustainable region.

One arrow in the quiver of the GVRD's communications and outreach activities is the production and airing of television programming, typified by *The Sustainable Region*.

The Sustainable Region is a unique, half-hour TV show that illustrates the challenges and choices of sustainability; demonstrates actions individuals can take, and; provides context for the importance of sustainability to the residents of the Lower Mainland. Each show examines a theme that is viewed through the lens of environmental, economic and social sustainability.

Conceived in 2003 and launched in April of 2004, the show is produced monthly. Each half-hour episode consists of a set of five-minute stories reflecting the program theme and is presented in a newsmagazine format. Themes explore issues of importance to the region, such as agriculture, energy, building green, homelessness, water, wastewater and air quality management, transportation, and regional planning.

The Sustainable Region is broadcast on Shaw Cable, and is licensed for rebroadcast to The Knowledge Network, Science World Theatre, Delta Cable and Novus Entertainment Inc. Compilations of the shows are distributed to teachers for use in the classroom as well as to GVRD Parks and LSCR education and interpretation programs, and are available on-line at www.gvrd.bc.ca/TVgvtv.ca

In addition, programming developed for *The Sustainable Region* is often repurposed for other communications uses – an example is production of a regional overview DVD that was distributed at this year's World Urban Forum.

On September 20, 2006, *The Sustainable Region* received a Blue Wave Award of Excellence from the International Association of Business Communicators, BC Chapter, in the category of multimedia communications tactics. An award of excellence is judged to be 5.25 out of a total score of 7. *The Sustainable Region* received a scoring of 6.42 from the judging panel.

IABC comprises a global network of more than 13,000 business communicators in some 60 countries. Its awards program recognizes the achievements of communications professionals, and celebrates best practices that advance the profession.

It is noteworthy that this award is the second received for *The Sustainable Region* in 2006. Last February, the show was also honoured with an award for excellence in broadcast journalism in agriculture from the Agriculture Council of BC.

4. CONCLUSION

The Blue Wave Award reinforces the value of GVRD television programming and recognizes the region's leadership in advancing sustainability.