



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 17, 2009

December 17 Board Meeting Highlights

Regional District Board elects Chair and Vice Chair; Corporate Climate Change Action Plan Approved; Parks Plan Survey Results; RDFFG Looking for Proposals for Robson-Canoe Economic Resiliency Study

Art Kaehn and Terry Burgess Returned as Chair and Vice Chair of the Regional District Board

Directors with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George elected two familiar faces to the positions of Chair and Vice-chair. Art Kaehn, Director for Area E (Hixon-Woodpecker) was re-elected as Chair of the Regional District of Fraser Fort George for 2010. Terry Burgess, Director for Area G (Crooked River-Parsnip) was returned as Vice-Chair. Following the re-election, Directors Kaehn and Burgess thanked the Board for their confidence and said they looked forward to a good year ahead.

Corporate Climate Change Action Plan Approved

The Regional District of Fraser Fort-George has adopted a Corporate Climate Change Action Plan that will result in reduced energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions from its operations as it moves toward being carbon neutral by 2012. The plan also supports the Province's goal of achieving a 33% reduction in emissions by 2020.

"The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George prides itself on our commitment to the environment, so this plan represents an important step in fulfilling our commitment to preserving and protecting the environment around us," says RDFFG Administrator Jim Martin. We've done an extensive review of our operations and determined a number of measures we can implement which will result in a significant reduction in emissions.

The plan analyzed all Regional District facilities and determined that in 2007, the total energy consumption was 28,690 gigajoules, and just over 1000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. The plan lays out 18 different actions that calls on the Regional District to do everything from develop a Civic Green Building Policy and develop a monitoring program for fleet fuel consumption to reducing unnecessary staff travel.

Parks Plan Survey Results

Recently, the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George invited the public to provide feedback on Regional Parks as part of a review and updating of the Regional Parks Plan. 202 surveys were received, and close to 70 people came out to Open Houses in McBride, Valemount, Mackenzie and Prince George. The survey asked respondents about their park use, ideas for park expansion in the future and how parks and trails can be improved in the region. The public input will be incorporated into a draft plan which will be presented to the Board in spring. The public have another opportunity to have their say when the Regional District asks for input on the draft plan next spring.

RDFFG Looking for Proposals for Robson-Canoe Economic Resiliency Study

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George will be inviting proposals to write the Robson-Canoe Economic Resiliency Study. The study will help to promote economic diversity in the Robson and Canoe Valleys including identifying the type of industry that would fit in this area; the needs of industries and potential lands that would be suitable to these needs; and what would have to be done to the identified lands to make them ready to promote.

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George has received some funding from the Western Economic Diversification Canada (CEDI) program and the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition to offset the cost of producing the study.

Community Grants

The Board approved the following requests for Community and Recreation Grants:

- \$25,000 to the Prince George Community Foundation for the Salmon River Lakes Endowment Fund
- \$1000 to the Reid Lake Community Association for a volunteer appreciation dinner
- \$1000 to the Nukko Lake Recreation Commission for a volunteer appreciation dinner
- \$1750 to the Beverly Firefighters Association for Safety Jackets
- \$500 to the Norman Lake Community Association for safety signs and security
- \$750 to the Miworth Community Association for Directors Liability Insurance
- \$25,000 to the Fraser Basin Council for Naver Creek mitigation work
- \$10,000 to the Hixon Community Association for Hall accessibility improvements
- \$25,000 to the Prince George Community Foundation for the Hixon-Woodpecker Community Endowment Fund
- \$20,000 to the Shell-Glen Improvement Society for the Shelley riverbank protection project
- \$3200 to the Giscome Elementary School for recreation expenses
- \$5000 to the Shell-Glen Volunteer Firefighters' Association for the construction of storage rooms and offices
- \$3500 to the Willow River Recreation Association for a recycling centre

For further information, please contact
Reneé McCloskey
Manager of External Relations
Regional District of Fraser Fort George
(250)960-4453