



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 15, 2008**

May 15 Board Meeting Highlights

Board rejects Region Wide Mutual Aid; Private Windmill Bylaw Developed; Corporate Climate Change Action Plan Proposed

Board rejects Region Wide Mutual Aid

The notion of a region-wide mutual aid program for fire services within the Regional District of Fraser Fort George has been rejected by the Board of Directors.

At the April and May board meetings, directors had discussed formalizing an agreement which would see fire departments within the region assist each other with manpower and equipment when the situation called for additional help. However a number of Directors cited concerns about depleting one department to serve another, as well as issues with liability, damage to equipment and how the agreement would be administered as reasons for not supporting the initiative.

Private Windmill Bylaw Developed

Following a public hearing at the Board meeting, third reading was given to a bylaw that would regulate the placement and height for power generating windmills on private lands within the Regional District. The bylaw was created out of a need to support homeowners in the search for alternative environmentally friendly energy generation. The bylaw is intended for private windmills and does not deal with commercialized or industrial wind farms. The main focus of the bylaw relates to safety issues, particularly the possibility of toppling or ice throw from the rotor. The bylaw regulates the placement and height of windmills on private lands within the Regional District of Fraser Fort George.

Corporate Climate Change Action Plan Proposed

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is looking at ways to reduce carbon emissions with \$40,000 in funding from the Community Works fund. The Board approved to take \$40,000 from the Fund to prepare a Corporate Climate Change Action Plan project. The project is a result of the Regional District signing on to the BC Climate Action Charter to become an active participant in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The project will look at current sources of carbon emissions from the Regional District including the corporate office, arenas, community halls, fire department halls, water and sewage works and the RD's vehicle fleet, and identify opportunities for emission reductions.

Building Permit Activity Holding Steady

A total of 113 permits have been issued so far this year; 9 more than were issued for the same period last year. 17 single-family dwelling permits valued at \$3,775,000 have been issued.

Community Grants

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

- Lakes Cemetery Society for workshop costs (\$400)
- Nukko Lake Recreation Commission for hall repairs (\$2000)
- Miworth Community Association for an engineering costs (\$21,500)
- Pineview Oldtimers Pitch League for ball diamond project costs (\$100,000)
- Hixon Community Association for Fall Fair, park benches, Hixon Falls bridge, the aquatic program and playground expenses (\$7000)
- Penny Community Historical Society for propane heating system in the hall and insurance and maintenance costs (\$6000)
- Robson Valley Trappers Association operating expenses, (\$1000) and
- Valemount Saddle & Wagon Club for horsemanship clinic costs. (\$500)

For further information, please contact
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