



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 22, 2008

September 18 Board Meeting Highlights

Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Approved; Telus Speaks to Service Concerns; Mackenzie Northern BC Winter Games Sponsorship; Mutual Aid Agreements Considered; Flood Protection Applications Turned Down

Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Approved

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George Board of Directors gave final approval to the draft of the 2008 Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. Over the past year, the Regional District has been meeting with stakeholders and consulting with the public regarding a new solid waste management plan. The plan is a comprehensive document that outlines how we will handle our garbage, recycling and other solid waste in the Regional District over the next 10 years. Under the new plan, there would be an approximate 50% reduction in the amount of garbage going to landfill. This will be achieved through increased recycling and composting activities. Highlights of the plan include a curbside recycling program for Prince George, reduction in the amount of transfer stations, and seasonal curbside collection of yard waste for Mackenzie residents. Implementation of the plan should see a 50%

The Regional District will continue to meet with stakeholders, including the City of Prince George to determine the specifics of the implementation of the plan, and the financial impact of the implementation of the plan. The plan will also be forwarded to the Ministry of Environment.

Telus Speaks to Service Concerns

Representatives from Telus were on hand to provide directors an update of their activities and services and speak to concerns regarding the loss of analog service, spotty cell phone coverage and expanding high speed internet availability. Information was provided to directors about the government regulations around expanding service to outlying areas as well as the market conditions Telus requires to invest in new services. Telus extended an invitation to the Regional District to work together to identify residents in the region who are affected by the cancellation of the analog service and find workable solutions for those residents.

Mackenzie 2009 Northern BC Winter Games Sponsorship

The Regional District will be referring \$15,000 from its 2009 Regional Grant in Aid budget for a sponsorship of the 2009 Northern BC Winter Games in Mackenzie. Additionally, Electoral Areas A, C, E, F and H each contributed \$1000 through a Community Grant in Aid. Area D contributed \$1000 from a Recreation Grant. At the August 2008 meeting, Area G provided a \$5000 Community Grant in Aid in support of the Games.

Mutual Aid Agreements Considered

Volunteer fire departments in Beverly, Salmon Valley, Ness Lake and Pilot Mountain are moving forward with mutual aid agreements. Mutual aid agreements lay out the process and requirements for other departments to respond and assist a department in responding to an incident when needed. The Board has approved new or revised mutual aid agreements be prepared between the departments.

Flood protection applications turned down

The Board was advised that its three applications to the Flood Protection Funding program have been turned down. The Regional District requested nearly \$4.5 million for flood protection work in Shelley and Miworth. The Board was advised that other projects that were deemed to be of a higher priority, and that projects were prioritized in accordance with project type, risk, costs, benefits and availability of funding under the Flood Protection Program Guidelines.

Community Grants in Aid

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

- Cariboo-Ferndale Community Association for insurance, hall maintenance, program and newsletter
- Lakes Cemetery Society for insurance and site clearing
- Reid Lake Community Association for swimming program and insurance
- Save-the-Cedar League for ecotourism guides
- Valemount Historical Society for archives renovation
- McBride District Volunteer Firefighters Association for annual fireworks display
- Hixon Community Association for removal of dangerous trees and hall roof repairs
- Fraser Basin Council for rehabilitation and mitigation work on Naver Creek
- District of Mackenzie for services and facilities available to Area G residents
- McLeod Lake's Post Historical Society for building relationships workshop
- McLeod Lake's Post Historical Society for materials to repair, restore and revitalize the church
- McLeod Lake's Centennial Club for unrecoverable GST for hall renovations
- 2009 Northern BC Winter Games for support of Games.
- Prince George Community Foundation to establish community endowment funds
- Prince George Bee Keepers Association for conference expenses

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