



## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Thursday, February 8, 2024

TO BE HELD

IN THE BOARDROOM OF THE  
SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT OFFICES  
AT 1975 FIELD ROAD, SECHELT, B.C.

### AGENDA

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**CALL TO ORDER**      9:30 a.m.

#### AGENDA

1. Adoption of Agenda Pages 1-3

#### PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

#### REPORTS

2. Water System Fire Flow Update – Results Part 1 Annex A  
pp. 4-8  
*General Manager, Infrastructure Services*  
*Assistant Manager, Utility Services*  
**(Voting – All Directors)**
3. Automatic Aid Agreement with Sechelt Fire Protection District and  
Pender Harbour Fire Protection District Annex B  
pp. 9-11  
*Chief – Roberts Creek Volunteer Fire Department*  
*Manager, Protective Services*  
**(Voting – All Directors)**
4. Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Grant Application – Annex C  
pp. 12-14  
Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Equipment and Training  
*Emergency Management Coordinator*  
**(Voting – All Directors)**
5. Water Supply Advisory Committee (WASAC) Minutes of January Annex D  
pp. 15-17  
8, 2024  
**(Voting – A, B, D, E, F, Sechelt)**

#### COMMUNICATIONS

6. Doug Young, President, Sunshine Coast Seniors Hockey Club, Annex E  
pp. 18-21  
dated January 17, 2024  
Regarding: Request for Amendment to Bylaw 599 to  
Include Ice Rental Rates for Seniors  
**(Voting – B, D, E, F, Sechelt, sNGD, Gibsons)**

## MOTIONS

### 7. MOTION FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

Climate Emergency Declaration (Director Gabias)

WHEREAS, as per section 185 (d) of the *Local Government Act*, the purposes of a Regional District include “fostering the current and future economic, social and environmental well-being of its community”;

AND WHEREAS each decade since the 1980s has been warmer than the previous one, with 2023 deemed the hottest year on record, showing a clear trajectory of increase in global warming;

AND WHEREAS the impacts of a warming climate on the Sunshine Coast -- including drought, sea level rise, wildfire risk, severe storms and extreme precipitation -- are significant and increasing in frequency, and affect the financial, physical and mental health of our residents;

AND WHEREAS the March 2023 report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) finds that it is necessary to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius to secure a livable future for all, and that, to do so, GHG emissions need to be cut by 43% below 2019 levels by 2030, 60% below 2019 levels by 2035, and reach a zero CO2 emissions target by 2050;

AND WHEREAS urgent, meaningful and just climate action is needed from all levels of government in order to foster a healthy, equitable and livable future for current residents and the next seven generations;

AND WHEREAS the SCRD’s draft Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) was presented to the Board in 2023 but has yet to be adopted;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Sunshine Coast Regional District officially declare a climate emergency for the purpose of formalizing and deepening our commitment to protecting our community, ecosystems and economy from global warming;

AND THAT the board continue to develop policy and demonstrate leadership that directs meaningful action on this Climate Emergency Declaration;

AND THAT staff bring the Community Climate Action Plan back for review and consideration of adoption at a future Special Board Meeting, and provide the board with a list of actions that can be started in 2024;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Special Meeting be scheduled no later than end of Q2 2024.

**(Voting – All Directors)**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **IN CAMERA**

That the public be excluded from attendance at the meeting in accordance with Section 90 (1) (a) and (e) of the *Community Charter* – “personal information about an identifiable individual” and “the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality.”

## **ADJOURNMENT**

## SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT STAFF REPORT

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**TO:** Committee of the Whole – February 8, 2024

**AUTHOR:** Remko Rosenboom, General Manager, Infrastructure Services  
Matt O'Rourke, Assistant Manager, Utility Services

**SUBJECT:** WATER SYSTEM FIRE FLOW UPDATE – RESULTS PART 1

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### RECOMMENDATION(S)

**THAT the report titled Water System Fire Flow Update - Results Part 1 be received for information.**

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### BACKGROUND

A staff report was presented to the January 11, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting to provide information on preliminary water system modelling results. These water system models suggested that in some areas, Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) water systems do not meet current Fire Flow Standards.

The purpose of this report is to present the current fire flows available in the SCRD's water systems.

### DISCUSSION

The following description of how fire flow is defined was included in the above mentioned January 11, 2024 report:

"Required Fire Flow is defined as the water flow, commonly expressed in litres per second (L/s), that should be available for firefighting purposes at a given point in a water system (usually a fire hydrant) on a day that the maximum amount of water is being produced to support the community. This Maximum Daily Demand (MDD) includes the actual consumption by the community and any loss of water resulting from, for example, leaks. For the SCRD, the MDD is reached on a day with very high temperatures when Water Conservation Regulations are in Stage 1 when there are only limited water use restrictions in place."

The standards for the design of municipal water infrastructure calls for a minimum of 60 L/s to be available at single residential zoned property. Higher Fire Flow Standards are being used for all other zoned properties:

- Single-residential 60 L/s
- Multi-residential 90 L/s
- Institutional 150 L/s
- Commercial 150 L/s
- Industrial 225 L/s

### *Current Fire Flows*

Staff indicated at the January 25, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting that the final report for the Water Modelling Study is still being finalized. Staff are aiming to present the full results of this study at the February 22, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting.

One of the results of this study that is finalized is the assessment of the fire flows currently available in the SCRD water systems. Therefore, this report presents only these results.

The map included as Attachment A presents the modelled fire flow for each existing fire hydrant based on:

- The existing land use in 2021;
- The actual water distribution and demand data for 2021; and,
- The water infrastructure as in place in 2021.

While reviewing this map it can be concluded that in the majority of all the areas serviced by SCRD water systems the fire flows are meeting the current standards. In all water systems there are areas where the above listed Fire Flow Standards are currently not being met. The scale and magnitude of the deficiencies varies between these areas.

The results of the fire flow modeling are based on the “worst case” scenario event of a fire in the summer during peak water usage. The results will be used to help fire departments plan appropriately with additional resources for areas that have insufficient fire flow from hydrants. During a fire event where a firetruck needs additional water to fight fires, the firetruck can activate its pump to pull water from hydrants instead of relying on the static pressure. Actively pulling water from hydrants impacts the water pressure in the wider vicinity and could result in other users experiencing a drop in water pressure. Alternatively, Fire Departments can request mutual aid or deploy tanker trucks that shuttle water from other locations. These alternatives require time and labour.

These findings will be discussed in more detail with all the Fire Departments to allow them to incorporate them into their firefighting approaches.

### *Fire Flow Outlook*

At the February 22, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting staff will present the results of modelling completed to forecast the fire flow outlook to the mid 2040s based on currently approved zoning and population growth projections. This data will be used to assess the water infrastructure upgrades required to support developments and to provide direction on how to correct currently identified deficient fire flows.

### *Fire Flow Action Plan*

At 2024 Budget Round 2 the Board considered a Budget Proposal for a Fire Flow Action Plan (FFAP). This plan outlines the actions to address the identified fire flow concerns. The plan will be aligned with the development of Official Community Plans (OCPs) for the SCRD and the District of Sechelt. It will also outline the financial implications for the areas where infrastructure upgrades are the recommended approach, and how the costs of installing new infrastructure can be shared equitably with developers in servicing future population growth.

The FFAP is required for staff to correctly identify water system improvements required for the approval of water applications associated with developments. The FFAP will also consider any implications to the Fire Departments on the Coast.

The development of the FFAP would have three parts to it:

Part 1: Detailed water modelling analyses for the identified areas of concern and associated fire flow deficiencies.

Part 2: Analyses to identify the potential servicing options for the areas of concern to support currently approved zoning. These areas will also be explored in collaboration with the development community and the Fire Departments.

Part 1 and 2 would be undertaken in parallel.

Part 3: Develop Fire Flow Action Plan. This plan will outline the actions being proposed to address the identified fire flow concerns. This plan will be aligned with the OCP update processes for the SCRD and the District of Sechelt and will also outline the financial implications.

The FFAP and water modelling will be updated in 2025 following the adoption of updated OCPs for the SCRD and the District of Sechelt.

#### *Communications Strategy*

The results as presented in this report will be discussed with Fire Departments on the Coast.

The SCRD will issue information to the public in the coming days to reiterate that there is no immediate concern in the SCRD's ability to provide water for fire prevention.

The ongoing bylaw reviews will engage relevant stakeholders, including members of the development community, to facilitate a mutual understanding of any impacts that proposed changes may have.

#### **STRATEGIC PLAN AND RELATED POLICIES**

This is aligned with the strategic delivery focus area of Water Stewardship. In addition, the SCRD has adopted policies to facilitate the delivery of sustainable services, including the SCRD Asset Management and Financial Sustainability policies.

#### **CONCLUSION**

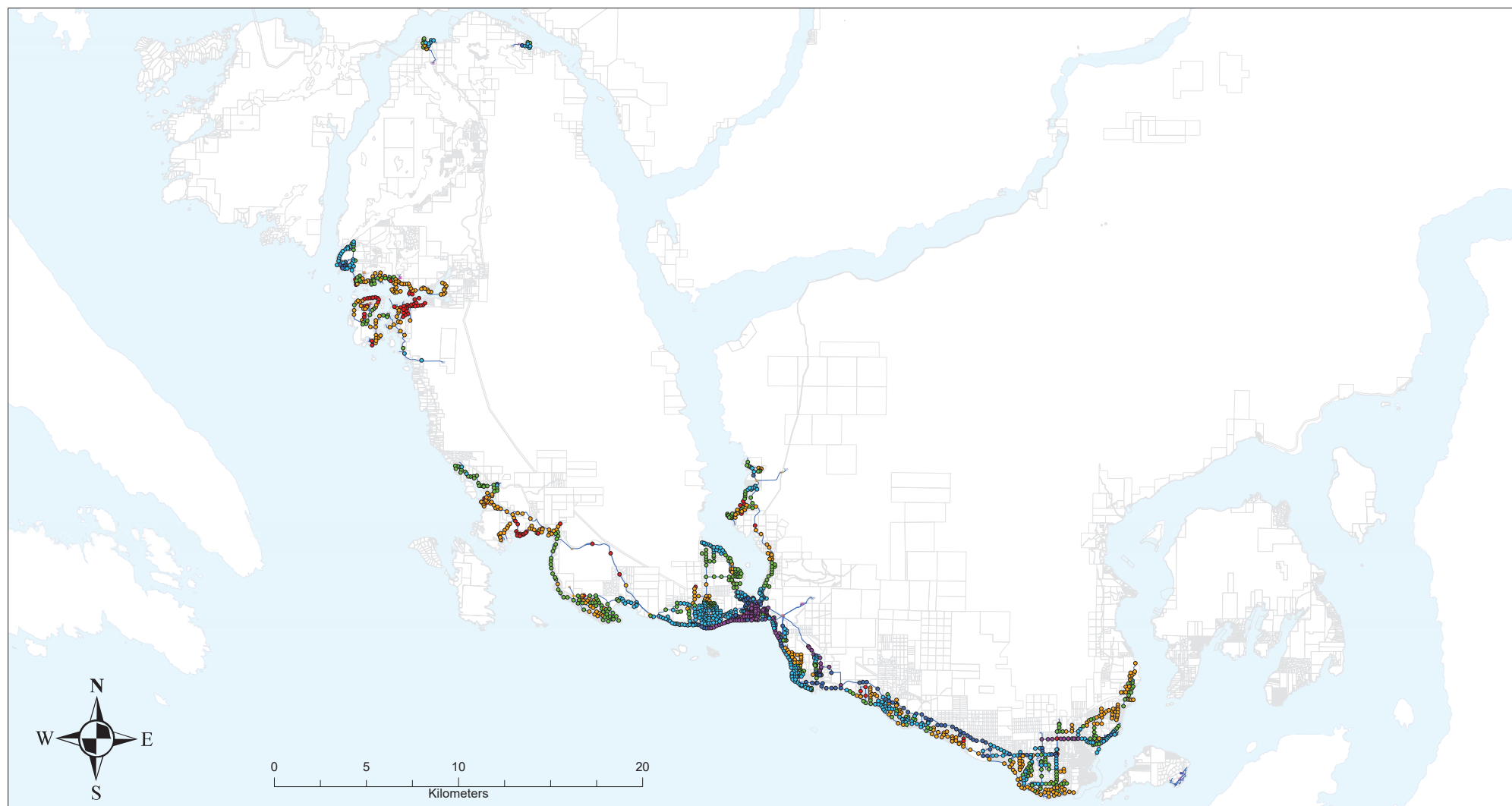
The Fire Flow Analyses concludes that areas within SCRD water systems are currently not meeting the Fire Flow Standards. To address these concerns a Fire Flow Action Plan will be developed in 2024. Such a plan will also address any fire flow deficiencies based on recent rezonings of properties and population growth. The Water Master Plans that will be developed in 2025 will, amongst other information, be informed by this FFAP and the then updated OCPs.

The findings as presented in this report will be shared and discussed with the fire departments to allow to them to incorporate them in their firefighting approaches.

**ATTACHMENT**

Attachment A: Map with water modelling results for 2021 fire flows

Reviewed by:			
Manager	X - S. Walkey	Finance	
GM		Legislative	
CAO	X - D. McKinley	Other	



## LEGEND

### Available Fire Flow

- < 30 L/s
- 30 L/s - 60 L/s
- 60 L/s - 90 L/s
- 90 L/s - 150 L/s
- 150 L/s - 225 L/s
- > 225 L/s

- Storage Reservoir
- Water Source
- Water Valve
- Pump Station
- Water Main
- Parcel



Sunshine Coast  
Regional District

**Project:** Water System Hydraulic  
Capacity Analysis  
**Project ID:** 2022-090-SUN  
**Client:** Sunshine Coast Regional District  
**Date:** January 2024  
**Created by:** AKd  
**Reviewed by:** WdS

**Figure N.1**

**2021 Available Fire Flow  
@ 22 psi**

\*This map was extracted from the draft water modeling report. The fire flows presented in this map are not expected to change upon issue of the final report, however both the SCRD and Geoadvice disclaim any responsibility for the information presented before issuance of final water modeling report.



## SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT STAFF REPORT

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**TO:** Committee of the Whole – February 8, 2024

**AUTHOR:** Patrick Higgins, Chief, Roberts Creek Volunteer Fire Department  
Matt Treit, Manager, Protective Services

**SUBJECT:** **AUTOMATIC AID AGREEMENT WITH SECHELT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AND  
PENDER HARBOUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

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### RECOMMENDATION(S)

- (1) THAT the report titled Automatic Aid Agreement with Sechelt Fire Protection District and Pender Harbour Fire Protection District be received for information;**
- (2) AND THAT the Automatic Aid Agreement with Sechelt Fire Protection District and Pender Harbour Fire Protection District be approved as amended;**
- (3) AND THAT the 2008 Automatic Aid Agreement between the Sunshine Coast Regional District (on behalf of the Egmont and District Fire Department) and the Pender Harbour Fire Protection District be rescinded.**

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### BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to seek Board decision on actions to strengthen Sunshine Coast fire department automatic aid agreements.

Two actions are recommended:

1. Update some content of the 2017 automatic aid agreement between Sunshine Coast Regional District and the District of Sechelt Fire Department
2. Expand that agreement to also address automatic aid between SCRD (representing the Egmont and District Volunteer Fire Department) and the Pender Harbour Fire Protection District (and rescind the prior stand-alone agreement from 2008)

Automatic aid is the procedure involved when an assisting fire department is paged immediately after the fire department having jurisdiction (where the incident occurs) is paged, rather than waiting for an aid request (as with a mutual aid agreement) from the fire department having jurisdiction, thereby reducing response times.

This automatic aid procedure is facilitated by pre-arranging with the dispatcher (Ecomm-911) which types of calls and/or which times of calls would necessitate the need for automatic aid. Generally, these are calls that require significant personnel and/or occur at times when there are fewer volunteers available.

Sunshine Coast Fire Departments have utilized mutual and automatic aid agreements since 1982.

### DISCUSSION

Staff recommend that the 2017 Automatic Aid Agreement between SCRD and Sechelt Fire Protection District be updated to modernize or clarify language and to expand the number of fire departments providing and receiving aid.

Specific changes to aid are:

- Sechelt Fire Dept aid into the western portion of the Roberts Creek Fire Protection Area
- Roberts Creek Volunteer Fire Department aid into the eastern portion of Sechelt,
- Aid provided by both the Gibsons & District Volunteer Fire Dept and the Sechelt Fire Dept into the Roberts Creek Fire Protection Area above the Sunshine Coast Highway

The revised agreement thus increases the overall level of fire and rescue services being provided to residents.

Staff also recommend that the scope of the agreement be expanded to include automatic aid arrangements between SCRD and the Pender Harbour Fire Protection District. The prior stand-alone agreement dated 2008 can then be rescinded, and one regional agreement will be in place for all fire departments.

#### *Organizational and Intergovernmental Implications*

These amendments have been discussed with all Sunshine Coast Fire Chiefs. SCRD fire department members have been informed that agreement review is being undertaken and amendments proposed.

These amendments to the agreement have the potential to increase the call volume experienced by Sunshine Coast Fire Departments but will provide SCRD fire departments with additional resources to respond more effectively to calls within their jurisdictions.

#### *Financial Implications*

Departments providing automatic aid will not be reimbursed for services provided to the requesting department.

For reference, assisting departments usually send an engine with a crew of four members. Historically, this has been for up to five events per year.

#### *Timeline for next steps or estimated completion date*

The agreement will have to be signed by the SCRD, the Pender Harbour Fire Protection District, and the Sechelt Fire Protection District.

#### *Communications Strategy*

If the amendments are approved, an update to all fire department members will be provided. Changes to the agreement will be communicated as part of regular updates provided to the Fire Underwriters' Survey.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN AND RELATED POLICIES**

Although the changes recommended are primarily operational, the recommended amendments were considered through service excellence and climate change lenses.

**CONCLUSION**

This revised automatic aid agreement will increase the level of fire protection for residents of, and visitors to, the Sunshine Coast by ensuring the efficient and timely delivery of fire and rescue services.

Reviewed by:			
Manager	X – M. Treit	Finance	
GM	X – I. Hall	Legislative	X – S. Reid
CAO	X – D. McKinley	Risk	X – V. Cropp

## SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT STAFF REPORT

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**TO:** Committee of the Whole – February 8, 2024

**AUTHOR:** Nancy Hughes, Emergency Management Coordinator

**SUBJECT:** COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUND GRANT APPLICATION –  
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE (EOC) EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING

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### RECOMMENDATION(S)

- (1) THAT the report titled Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Grant Application – Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Equipment and Training be received;**
  - (2) AND THAT the grant application of up to \$30,000 for the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Equipment and Training be submitted to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities on behalf of the Sunshine Coast Regional District;**
  - (3) AND FURTHER THAT the Sunshine Coast Regional District supports the current proposed activities identified in the application and is willing to provide overall grant management.**
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### BACKGROUND

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) is a suite of funding streams intended to support First Nation and local governments to better prepare for disasters and reduce risks from natural hazards in a changing climate. Funding is provided by the Province of BC and is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).

Staff are preparing a grant application for the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Equipment and Training funding stream to increase local capacity through the purchase of equipment and supplies required to maintain and improve an EOC and to enhance EOC capacity through training and exercises.

### DISCUSSION

The main focus areas of the EOC Equipment and Training grant project will be Evacuation Training, EOC courses with the Justice Institute of BC, Emergency Communications capacity increase, and emergency meal kits for 72 hours.

#### *Evacuation and Justice Institute of BC (JIBC) Training*

The Sunshine Coast Emergency Program continues to focus their efforts on evacuation training. Grant support will be used to provide training for employees and emergency responders to increase our ability to respond to emergencies, including evacuations in a coordinated and effective manner.

If the grant application is successful, The Justice Institute of BC (JIBC) will teach the following courses locally on the Sunshine Coast: a 2-Day “Emergency Operations Centre Essentials” course that will be delivered to employees from all local governments and community partners. It will provide participants with a solid foundation of how different agencies and stakeholders will work together during an emergency. A 1-Day “Community Evacuations” course will also be provided to solidify EOC training and learn best practices during a community evacuation. Community evacuation training also enhances our efforts to educate the residents on evacuating the Coast and complements the requests for additional funding for community evacuation planning.

#### *Emergency Communications*

Our Emergency Communication Team (ECT) is very proactive on the Coast, and we want to continue to enhance their capability as a reliable back up communication alternative to losing conventional communications. The Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (AREDN) allows instant send, wi-fi style data transfer speeds, and voice over internet phone (VOIP).

AREDN has become established on Vancouver Island and has proven to be a reliable and easy mode of communication. During a recent storm on Gabriola Island all phone, fiber optics and power were knocked out. The Gabriola Fire Department was able to use AREDN to reach the Nanaimo Emergency Program. Nanaimo has recently installed equipment that is bringing AREDN capability to some parts of the Sunshine Coast.

With this grant funding we will purchase and install the equipment so our team will not only be able to communicate and enjoy the benefits of what is currently established on Vancouver Island but will also serve a wider community across the Sunshine Coast, Vancouver Island and some areas of the lower mainland with emergency communications.

#### *Emergency Meal Kits for 72 hours*

We will use grant funding to purchase emergency meal kits for 72 hours for staff and volunteers during EOC situations.

#### *Financial Implications*

This grant is expected to cover 100% of the eligible costs of the proposed project to a maximum amount of \$30,000. If the application is successful, a future Financial Plan Bylaw amendment will be required to accept the grant.

#### *Timeline for next steps or estimated completion date*

The application deadline is February 23, 2024. Upon approval of the SCRD Board direction to apply for the grant, staff will complete an application. If approved, the project will be carried out and completed between the months of April – November 2024.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN AND RELATED POLICIES**

This request aligns with the SCRD's Emergency Preparedness Plan.

**CONCLUSION**

An application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Emergency Operations Centre Equipment and Training grant is being prepared by staff. The deadline to submit the application is February 23, 2024. A resolution of support from the Board is required for the application to be considered.

Reviewed by:			
Manager	X – M. Treit	CFO/Finance	X – T. Perreault
GM	X – I. Hall	Legislative	
CAO	X –D. McKinley	Other	X – V. Cropp

**SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT  
WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**January 8, 2024**

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT AT 1975 FIELD ROAD, SECHELT, BC.

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Chair	V. Macfarlane
	Vice-Chair	J. Bell
	Members	B. Fielding
		S. Fitchell
		M. Hennessy
		B. Thicke
		S. Leech

Regrets:	K. Freemantle
	G. Moore
	L. Chivers

**ALSO PRESENT:**

(Non-voting)	Manager, Strategic Initiatives	M. Edbrooke
	Water Sustainability Coordinator	G. Starsage
	Strategic Planning Coordinator	S. Rempel (recorder)
	Manager, Communications and Engagement	A. Buckley
	Director, Area A	L. Lee
	Director, District of Sechelt	A. Toth
	Director, Area E	D. McMahon

**CALL TO ORDER**                      3:30 p.m.

**AGENDA**                              The agenda was adopted as amended.

**MINUTES**

**Recommendation No. 1**      *Water Supply Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of November 6, 2023*

The Water Supply Advisory Committee recommended that the Water Supply Advisory Committee meeting minutes of November 6, 2023, be received.

**REPORTS**

*Water Sustainability Coordinator opened the floor to discussion around Water Communications.*

Discussion included the following:

- The Water Sustainability Coordinator provided an overview of the Sunshine Coast Regional District's (SCRD's) approach to 2024 water conservation communications. The floor was opened for discussion and input.
- The Committee agreed on the current approach of the following phases of communication: year-round, pre-summer, summer, and drought water communications.
- Staff noted that not all water systems have the same supply considerations, requiring system specific messaging, e.g., South Pender Harbour versus Chapman Water System.
- The Committee provided the following feedback:
  - Target permanent and seasonal residents, high use properties.
  - Keep a positive tone about how people can use water responsibly, as opposed to leading with enforcement or scarcity. Thank residents who follow regulations.
  - When possible, personalize messaging to reduce the “us versus them” mentality creating an inclusive community where SCR D Board, staff, and residents work together for water stewardship. Celebrate the wins.
  - Provide greater clarity on how user fees and parcel taxes fund projects and operations. Communication showing the forward motion that the SCR D is taking.
  - Provide visualized data on community water use during the summer in addition to the Chapman Lake level.
  - Connect directly with newly metered properties in Sechelt and encourage subscription to receive their water data.
  - Increase resident water literacy by:
    - connecting people to their water systems and water sources
    - educating when water can be used without impacting storage
    - providing details on water budgeting (water use per activity both indoor and outdoor) and goals for water use targets
    - raising awareness of rainwater harvesting rebates
- The Water Sustainability Coordinator asked about preferred communication methods. The Committee provided the following feedback:
  - Use Coast Reporter and Harbour Spiel as key channels.
  - Update website with more information on water sources and community consumption.
  - Connect and share resources with community groups such as, Sunshine Coast Elder College, Natural History Society, garden centres, and garden clubs.
  - Present at community association meetings, attending public events.
  - Consider education opportunities like facility tours, information materials for schools.

*The Water Sustainability Coordinator provided the presentation “Water Efficiency Targets”.*

Discussion included the following:

- Staff shared that it is common for regional governments to set targets to support performance measurement, forecasting, system design, and demand management. For example, the SCR D has targets for solid waste and greenhouse gas emissions. There are



water demand targets in the 2013 Comprehensive Regional Water Plan. However, these existing water targets are only for the Regional Water Service Area and now a decade old.

- The Committee provided feedback that targets would be helpful for residents who want to monitor and improve their water efficiency by comparing their use to domestic averages.
- Consensus that the most useful targets would be for domestic consumption, the water used as measured by the meter at an individual property, as it aligns with a personal context.
- If domestic targets are developed, consider the BC average. When communicated, demonstrate the reasoning for decision-making, such as jurisdictional comparisons.
- Any targets or goals should be easy to visualize and rationalize.
- Summer vs winter targets are not helpful, but having winter data as a comparison is helpful.
- Some members expressed the SCRD should first have targets for itself before asking residents to meet a target.
- Target setting is looking towards the future.
- Short discussion on volumetric billing and targets, noting the SCRD Board has not made decisions about a new water rate structure beyond including an action to implement volumetric billing in the Board Strategic Plan.

**NEXT MEETING**

March 4, 2024, 3:30 p.m. 1975 Field Rd / Online via Teams

**ADJOURNMENT**

5:31 p.m.

**From:** Doug Young [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 11:02 AM  
**To:** SCRD General Inquiries <SCRDGeneral.Inquiries@scrd.ca>  
**Subject:** Attention: SCRD Board Chair

To: The SCRD Board of Directors  
Re: Request for amendment to Bylaw 599 to include ice rental rates for seniors  
17-Jan-2024

My name is Doug Young, I live in Langdale, and I am a representative of the Sunshine Coast Seniors Hockey Club (commonly known as the "Rusty Cranks"), a non-profit society formed in 2019 to provide a recreational hockey club environment for residents of the Sunshine Coast over the age of 60. We currently have 66 members, all residents of the Sunshine Coast from Langdale to Pender Harbour. We rent ice 4 mornings a week during non-prime time, Monday to Thursday from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., 2 days in Gibsons and 2 days in Sechelt.

The purpose of the letter is to request an amendment to Bylaw 599, to add a seniors rate for ice rentals.

## Background

The reason our group went through the process of becoming a non-profit society was our belief that this would grant us a reduced rate for non-prime time ice rental, and in fact since 2019 we have been paying \$70/hour for ice, equivalent to the non-prime time youth rate in the bylaw.

In August of 2023, we were informed by the SCRD that, beginning with the 2024 ice season, we would need to begin paying the non-prime adult rate, \$150/hour, increasing to \$210/hour on SD46 non-instructional days, which would include all school holidays as well as professional development days. This will more than double the cost of ice rental for our members, most of whom live on fixed incomes.

This development has prompted us to look at Bylaw 599 more closely, and also to gather a bit of information on what other towns and districts do in this regard. As well, we followed with interest the changes adopted on behalf of the Tsunami, the new junior team which will begin play later this year, who will be paying \$90/hour as their non-prime rate.

We note that there is in fact no non-profit rate listed in the bylaw, and we understand that we need to be charged based on the bylaw. We also see that other recreational activities operated by the SCRD (swimming, skating, dry-land,

scrub dropin hockey, squash, racketball, Dakota Ridge) offer rates for seniors that are 10%-15% less than adult rates. Ice rental appears to be the lone exception.

I have exchanged a number of emails related to this with Ms. Shelley Gagnon, General Manager of Community Services with the SCRD, and in her last email she instructed me to direct our request to the SCRD Board of Directors, hence our request to the board.

#### Summary

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We sincerely believe that a reduced rate for non-prime time ice rental will help us to retain existing members and to attract new ones. I am including with this request a letter of support from Mary Caros, Manager, Sunshine Coast Seniors Planning Table.

Sincerely,  
Doug Young  
Sunshine Coast Seniors Hockey Club

Mary Caros  
107A – 5710 Teredo Street  
PO Box 1443  
Sechelt, BC V0N 3A0  
mary@resourcecentre.ca  
604-802-7781

December 6, 2023  
Doug Young  
President  
Sunshine Coast Seniors Hockey Club  
Sechelt, BC

Subject: Endorsement and Advocacy for Seniors Rate Policy

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing as a passionate advocate for the well-being and recognition of seniors within our community, and I wish to extend my wholehearted support for the proposed policy change introducing a Seniors rate for facility rentals at SCRD facilities.

Our senior population plays a vital role in shaping the fabric of our society, and it is heartening to see initiatives that acknowledge and facilitate their contributions. The Sunshine Coast Seniors Hockey Club, being a large and active sports and social club, is a cornerstone of our community, and has an opportunity to set a commendable example by championing accessibility for all older adult sports activities

As a Seniors Advocate, I firmly believe that introducing a Seniors discount promotes seniors' continued participation in physical and social activities, contributing to their overall well-being and reducing the probability of the critical health challenges associated with social isolation and the loss of physical activity. According to a 2014 Government of Canada report, the social isolation of seniors poses significant risks to both individuals *and* communities. Seniors who are socially isolated face challenges such as reduced social skills, negative health behaviors, an increased risk of elder abuse, and heightened vulnerability to mental health issues, including depression and suicide. Moreover, the loss of seniors' contributions to community engagement results in a depletion of social capital. Socially isolated seniors are more likely to experience a decline in cognitive health, with studies linking isolation to a higher risk of dementia and cognitive decline.

The National Seniors Council highlights several approaches to reducing social isolation in seniors, such as outreach programs, community partnerships, and age-friendly community initiatives. By developing accessible program policies, fostering collaboration, and supporting

healthy aging programs, it is possible to prevent and reduce social isolation among seniors, ultimately enhancing their overall well-being and quality of life.

The proposed seniors rate aligns with the principles of inclusivity and accessibility and recognizes that many seniors live with limited financial resources and that a rate accommodation is vital to their continued active participation. Moreover, a Seniors discount can serve as an attractive incentive for potential new members to join the Seniors Hockey Club and other SCRD activities, enriching the diversity and vibrancy of our community.

I urge the board to embrace this initiative and recognize the positive impact it can have on the lives of our senior community. It supports the dedication and passion that these seniors have invested in the sport of hockey over the years, and the development that they've made in fostering a strong sense of community and camaraderie that extends beyond the rink. Together, let us continue to foster a Healthy Aging community and an environment that promotes both physical activity and social connections and celebrates the richness of experience and enduring spirit of our senior members.

Thank you for your consideration and dedication to enhancing the active lives of the Sunshine Coast Seniors Hockey Club and of all Sunshine Coast seniors .

Sincerely,

Mary Caros  
Manager  
Sunshine Coast Seniors Planning Table