



**DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS  
MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023 @ 7:00 PM  
COMMUNITY HALL, 729 FINLAYSON ARM ROAD**

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**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mayor Ken Williams  
Councillor Leslie Anderson  
Councillor Ann Baird  
Councillor Gord Baird  
Councillor Marcie McLean  
Councillor Karel Roessingh  
Councillor Rose Stanton

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Corporate Officer Melisa Miles  
Municipal Planner Laura Beckett  
Administrative Assistant Liz Condon

Public Observation: 9

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**1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

MOTION: 136-2023

*Moved Councillor Roessingh, Seconded Councillor Stanton*  
That the agenda be approved with the addition of Sally Gose and Diana McMinn wishing to speak under Petitions and Delegations.

CARRIED

**2. PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

2.1

Sally Gose, resident, updated Council on the increased aggressive traffic and excessive speed on Millstream Lake and Ross Durrance Roads.

2.2

Diana McMinn, applicant of item 7.1, requested to provide her comments when the item is up for discussion.

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

3.1

MOTION: 137-2023

Council – June 19, 2023

*Moved Councillor Roessingh, Seconded Councillor Gord Baird*  
That the minutes of the June 19, 2023 Council meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

3.2

MOTION: 138-2023

Special Council – June 28, 2023

*Moved Councillor Roessingh, Seconded Councillor Stanton*  
That the minutes of the June 28, 2023 Special Council meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

3.3

MOTION: 139-2023

Social Sustainability Select Committee – November 19, 2019

*Moved Councillor Stanton, Seconded Councillor Roessingh*  
That the minutes of the November 19, 2019 Social Sustainability Select Committee be received.

CARRIED

3.4

MOTION: 140-2023

Social Sustainability Select Committee – May 9, 2023

*Moved Councillor Stanton, Seconded Councillor Roessingh*  
That the minutes of the May 9, 2023 Social Sustainability Select Committee be received.

CARRIED

3.5

Heritage Select Committee – March 22, 2023

MOTION: 141-2023

*Moved Councillor Anderson, Seconded Councillor Roessingh*  
That the minutes of the March 22, 2023 Heritage Select Committee be received.

CARRIED

**4. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS**

4.1

Councillor Leslie Anderson  
West Shore Parks and Recreation Society, South Island Reconciliation Advisory Committee and Heritage Select Committee

4.2

Councillor Ann Baird  
CRD Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force and CRD Housing Trust Fund Commission

June 26, 2023 – CRD Climate Action Workshop – Climate & Carbon Budgeting

- Well attended hybrid meeting including municipal staff and elected officials.
- Please refer to the [CRD PDF notes](#) from the half day event.
- Newly emerging definition of a Climate Budget and a Carbon Budget.
  - Carbon budget comes from science. (IPCC)
  - Climate budget is a governance system. (Arbitrarily determined based on what GHG's are to be counted, what targets are used, and integrated into the financial budget)
  - [See PDF](#) for full descriptions.
- I handed out a 1-page document to every table with the latest IPCC Carbon Budgets.
  - Note that the latest science says that to have a 50% chance of staying below 1.5C we all must reduce GHG's by 10.7% every year starting Jan 1, 2023.
  - I highlighted this number as virtually all CRD local governments declared a climate emergency and committed to this target to do our part to stay below 1.5.
  - This budget also requires future Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) with technology that doesn't exist. This is what the term **net zero** means. Net zero is very different than real zero. One is magic, the other is reality.
  - This graph comes from this recent Cambridge Climate Lecture with Climate Scientist, Professor Kevin.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wT6NCbFr7c>
- One topic that emerged was the need to be leaders and tell the truth in our communities.
- Cost/Benefit was the biggest topic.
- CRD staff will present the meeting summary to CRD ESC to make a recommendation to the board.

4.3

Councillor Gord Baird  
CRD Regional Water Supply Commission & CRD JDF Water Distribution Commission and Sustainable Land Use Select Committee

## CRD Carbon Budget Workshop - June 26, 2023

Council has received an update from the CRD's Nikki Elliot on the workshop. It was an excellent meeting that re-iterated what council has heard from Councillor Ann Baird about carbon budgets, and that we have failed (developed nations/communities) to reduce carbon emissions. The takeaway that I heard from colleagues was that despite the admission of failure there is value to express this to our residents – reality sucks, but it does not mean they should not be informed. My additional takeaway is that Highlands has fallen behind our neighbouring municipalities in connecting our decision-making processes to climate change. All municipal colleagues I spoke to have sections within staff reports that speak to implications of climate change in the reports they receive.

## CRD Regional Water Supply - June 28, 2023

I had the honour to co-host a private tour for the Federal Environment Minister Guilbeault and his counter parts from Mexico and the USA with CRD CAO Ted Robbins, Senior Manager of Watershed Protection Annette Constabel, and CRD Board Chair Colin Plant. The CRD is seen as one of the best drinking water systems in North America, and the international delegation asked many questions about protections, impacts from climate change, as well as the governance and protections around groundwater.

## June 16, 2023

I hosted a 5 hr tour of the CRD Water Treatment Plant, IWS Mobile Emergency Response Filtration Stations and Sooke Lake Dam for all the water commissions and associated committees that play a role in the governance of the water services. Arising from this, the CRD will be requested to investigate partnering with municipalities and develop a strategy to co-fund Mobile Emergency Water Drop Kits – ideally suited to provide water during emergency at key points in communities by staff and First Responders. I would recommend that Highlands Emergency Coordinator connect with CRD IWS in September and report back on options so that we can consider the budget implications for the 2024 year, and council consider if they wish to jointly purchase these kits.

## June 19 2023 - coming

The RWSC will be meeting and will be discussing the topics of the CRD Agricultural Water Rate Subsidy study phase 2, be receiving a report on the mid-year update for operations, and pre-approving acceptance of any grants related to the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Funding program.

## JDF Water Distribution Commission - July 4, 2023

The Commission received a mid-year update on the operations tied to the programs for emergency response, flushing, VGH blue hydrant installation, DCC's and a variety of large scale capital projects. The report can be found at [https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/crd-document-library/committeedocuments/juandefucawaterdistributioncommission/20230704/jwdc2023-07-04agendapkg.pdf?sfvrsn=15ef39ce\\_4](https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/crd-document-library/committeedocuments/juandefucawaterdistributioncommission/20230704/jwdc2023-07-04agendapkg.pdf?sfvrsn=15ef39ce_4)

- 4.4 Councillor Marcie McLean  
Coexisting with Carnivores Alliance and Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee
- 4.5 Councillor Karel Roessingh  
Capital Region Emergency Services Telecommunications (CREST),  
CRD Arts and Greater Victoria Public Library Board
- 4.6 Councillor Rose Stanton  
Emergency Planning Committee, Inter-Municipal Advisory Committee on Disability Issues, Western Communities Policing Advisory Committee and Social Sustainability Select Committee

July 17, 2023 attended West Shore RCMP's media release regarding the West Shore RCMP Mental Health Unit.

On June 22 and 23, 2023, I attended Gathering Hope: Positive Impacts in Community Overdose Response, a follow up to the Harm Reduction and Local Government workshop I attended in April.

Dr. Bonnie Henry delivered the keynote address. One takeaway from her speech that has stayed with me was her comment that we don't have a drug problem, we have a pain problem.

We heard many stories about how municipalities are responding to the "Unregulated Drug Poisoning Crisis and Community Overdose Response in BC". Two stories that stood out were the changing approach and building of relationships by Bylaw Services in some municipalities and the Second Responder Program initiated by the Surrey Fire Department. Surrey FD responded to 200 fatal responses in a year. In the majority of fatality call outs, there had been previous contact.

The Second Responder Program includes a firefighter, a clinician and a peer. They follow up with a visit to residences where the FD responded to a recent overdose call out for Post-Overdose Follow-up and Linkage to Care that exists in other jurisdictions.

For information in the Highlands on toxic drug alerts and support, please see the flyer on your local bulletin board.

- 4.7 Mayor's Report

### **Wed. June 21st, 2023 CRD Planning and Protective Services**

The PPS Committee recommended that the Board approve a grant application to UBCM that supports the Climate Action Program by funding a regional growth and mobility study:

<https://crd.ca.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=33175&GUID=0F36A746-9F82-4BC1-A927-FC6A4700FE1A>

We heard an update on the Foodlands Access Service that included a proposal for a trial site at Bear Hill Regional Park

<https://crd.ca.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=33177&GUID=F8C9961B-BD04-438F-AF1B-08D6CA9CCA47>

### **Wed. June 28th, CRD Regional Parks Committee**

The CRD Regional Parks recommended that after the inclusion of First Nations Feedback, the Parks and Trails Strategic Plan 2022-2032 be approved:

<https://crd.ca.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=33200&GUID=3BC4F7D6-B494-4DF2-BCB7-17CA4D621BE1>

There was unanimous support that the CRD Board give conditional approval of Bear Hill Regional Park's land for use in the trial of the Foodlands Access Program's new farmer incubator.

<https://crd.ca.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=33198&GUID=09E5B0F1-1DA8-45E9-96F7-5AD4955277F6>

The Committee also recommended to the Board, that the camping season for Island View Beach be extended to Thanksgiving day this year.

### **Wed. July 5th, 2023 CRD Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee heard an update of External Grants. Close to \$100,000.00 dollars in new grant money has been awarded and applications have been submitted for a half dozen new grants.

<https://crd.ca.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=33235&GUID=19B1761F-E7C0-47D5-96FA-519B928AEB31>

Along with many housekeeping items, recreational facility fees were approved.

The Finance Committee also recommended that the Board approve that the CAO enter into a further revised Service Agreement with CREST.

### **Wed. July 6th, 2023 Salt Spring Island Facility Tour**

The CRD Directors and Executive Staff embarked on a tour of public facilities located on Salt Spring Island, graciously hosted by the newly elected Local Community Commission (LLC). The LLC is composed of commissioners Gayle Baker, Brian Webster, Earl Rook and Benjamin Corno, with SSI CRD Director Gary Holman serving as the Chair. Salt Spring Island, the largest and most populous among the Southern Gulf Islands in the CRD, has a population of approximately 12,000. The island has a rich history as it was originally inhabited by the Salishan First Nations.

During the tour, we had the opportunity to visit various noteworthy locations. We started at the Rainbow Road Pool, which unfortunately suffers from moisture damage in its upper area and basement. However, the facility boasts an excellent daycare and activity space. The itinerary then took us to the sewage treatment plant in Ganges, a vital

infrastructure for the island. One of the highlights of the tour was the Salt Spring Island Multi-Space, a unique facility that was formerly a middle school but has been repurposed as a vibrant hub of diverse community activities for people of all ages. The Multi-Space offers various activities, including martial arts, music, dance, looms, and a printing/graphics arts room. Lastly, we visited the recently installed giant cylinder composter near the community gardens, which, when fully up and running, will contribute to environmentally friendly waste management practices.

### **Wed. July 12th, 2023 Capital Region Housing Corporation**

The CRHC received an operational update:

<https://crd.ca.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=33233&GUID=65E3B1E9-F925-4C18-A4E8-1E952FF5C1A6>

We also received a Major Capital Plan status report:

<https://crd.ca.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=33227&GUID=E0A133EE-95E0-4502-BDE5-E3F2DA1D6A01>

### **Wed. July 12th, 2023 CRD Board Meeting**

Robert Lewis-Manning (CEO) and Christine Willow (Chair), of the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority gave their annual presentation:

<https://crd.ca.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=33264&GUID=604CC76E-6325-4CC0-8AE6-FF5978A1CB82>

The approved consent agenda contained a large number of items including those mentioned above. Of interest was a grant application for the Zero Emissions Infrastructure Program.

We heard the CAO Quarterly Progress report:

<https://crd.ca.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=33288&GUID=7A76E7B2-EE37-4846-A142-86052A6BAB08>

We also accepted the City of Victoria Regional Context Statement.

The Board passed Bylaw No. 4564 Amendment bylaw No. 6 2023, regarding the Zero Carbon step code. We chose the Level EL-3 option: Primary heating system and water heating system to be electrified in most cases:

<https://crd.ca.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=33284&GUID=FB112AE9-6191-42BB-B0FA-F2D10A2AD35B>

Then an extremely lengthy debate ensued over Biosolids Land Application that took up the rest of the meeting and moved items such as CREST to our next meeting in August. What happened is that after the original Environmental Committee recommendation of maintaining the current short term contingency plans failed a motion was put forward to allow land application of biosolids on nonagricultural lands within the CRD. The final weighted vote was by the mostly core participants of the service and was narrowly defeated.

<https://crd.ca.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=33180&GUID=7C0C7C03-F6AE-48C5-9564-8F1A2BB2BBE5>

**5. RATIFICATION OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**6. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

7.1

Report, Municipal Planner, June 26, 2023 (RZ-01-21)

**RE: APPLICATION RZ-01-21 – 499 MILLSTREAM LAKE ROAD**

Diana McMinn, applicant, asked Council if they are able to allow the review of any legal information that may have been provided to the District in relation to rezoning applications.

MOTION: 142-2023

Moved Councillor Roessingh, Seconded Councillor McLean That Application RZ-01-21 [499 Millstream Lake Road] be referred back to the applicants for consideration of Council's discussion regarding the application at the July 17, 2023 Regular Council meeting.

CARRIED

**8. CORRESPONDENCE**

8.1

Correspondence, District of Metchosin, June 12, 2023 (5040.01)

**RE: HOMES FOR PEOPLE ACTION PLAN**

MOTION: 143-2023

*Moved Councillor Gord Baird, Seconded Councillor Stanton*  
That Council direct staff to write a letter, similar to the District of Metchosin, to the Minister of Housing regarding the Homes for People Action Plan.

CARRIED

8.2

Correspondence, Town of View Royal, June 12, 2023 (0110.20)

**RE: SUE BIG OIL CAMPAIGN**

MOTION: 144-2023

*Moved Councillor Ann Baird, Seconded Councillor Anderson*  
That Council direct staff to write a letter to West Coast Environmental Law inviting them to give a presentation regarding their Sue Big Oil Campaign at a future Council meeting.

CARRIED

8.3

Correspondence, District of Saanich, June 16, 2023 (0110.20)

**RE: PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

MOTION: 145-2023

*Moved Councillor Gord Baird, Seconded Councillor Ann Baird*  
That the correspondence from the District of Saanich dated June 16, 2023 be received for information.

CARRIED

- 8.4 Correspondence, Township of Esquimalt, June 22, 2023 (0400.60)  
**RE: RESPONSE LETTER FROM MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE REGARDING MUNICIPAL SPEED LIMITS**
- MOTION: 146-2023 *Moved Councillor Gord Baird, Seconded Councillor Roessingh*  
That Council direct staff to invite Supt. Todd Preston, West Shore RCMP to a future Council meeting to discuss the issue of speed limits throughout the District of Highlands. CARRIED
- 8.5 Correspondence, Town of View Royal, June 22, 2023 (0400.60)  
**RE: SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAMS IN VIEW ROYAL SCHOOLS**
- MOTION: 147-2023 *Moved Councillor McLean, Seconded Councillor Gord Baird*  
That Council direct staff to send a letter to Supt. Todd Preston, West Shore RCMP along the lines of the handwritten submission by Councillor McLean, attached to and forming part of these minutes as 'Appendix A', regarding the School Police Liaison Officer Program. With copies sent to the Greater Victoria School District 61, 62 and 63, Songhees First Nation, Esquimalt First Nation, City of Victoria Police Chief, District of Saanich Police Chief, District of Central Saanich Police Chief, Ian Lawson, City of Colwood, City of Langford, City of Victoria, District of Metchosin, District of Oak Bay, District of Saanich, District of Central Saanich, District of Sooke and Township of Esquimalt. CARRIED
- 8.6 Correspondence, R. Sutcliffe, June 28, 2023 (0110.20)  
**RE: COMMUNITY HALL BIKE RACK**
- MOTION: 148-2023 *Moved Councillor Gord Baird, Seconded Councillor Ann Baird*  
That Council direct staff to expedite the installation of bike racks for the the District of Highlands. CARRIED
- 9. BYLAWS**
- 9.1 **RE: ROAD CLOSURE BYLAW NO. 449, 2023 (BUKIN DRIVE EAST AND BUKIN DRIVE WEST)** (3900.449 / 5400.20)
- MOTION: 149-2023 *Moved Councillor Roessingh, Seconded Councillor Gord Baird*  
That "Road Closure Bylaw No. 449, 2023 (Bukin Drive East And Bukin Drive West)" be adopted. CARRIED
- 10. NEW BUSINESS**
- 10.1 Correspondence, City of Victoria, June 22, 2023 (0110.20)  
**RE: SUPPORT FOR THE 2023 TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION DAY CEREMONIAL EVENT**
- MOTION: 150-2023 *Moved Councillor Stanton, Seconded Councillor Gord Baird*  
That staff be authorized to provide Bronze Sponsorship of \$2500 towards the 2023 Truth and Reconciliation Day Ceremonial Event. CARRIED



10.2

Report, Corporate Officer, June 27, 2023 (8100.20)

**RE: RYDER HESJEDAL'S TOUR DE VICTORIA – SATURDAY,  
AUGUST 19, 2023**

MOTION: 151-2023

*Moved Councillor Roessingh, Seconded Councillor Gord Baird*

That Council approve the 2023 Tour de Victoria event on District of Highlands roads subject to the Event Organizer entering into a Public Property Occupancy Agreement, substantially as shown attached to the report from the Corporate Officer dated June 27, 2023; and further that the Corporate Officer be authorized to execute such an agreement on behalf of the District of Highlands.

CARRIED

**11. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**12. MOTION TO MOVE IN CAMERA**

**13. RELEASE OF IN CAMERA  
RESOLUTIONS**

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: 152-2023

*Moved Councillor Gord Baird, Seconded Councillor Roessingh*

That the Regular Council meeting of July 17, 2023 adjourn at 7:40 pm.

CARRIED

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MAYOR

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CORPORATE OFFICER

COUNCILLOR McLEAN FOR JULY 17, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING

RE: CORRESPONDANCE, SCHOOL POLICE LIAISON OFFICERS PROGRAM (SPLOP)

" THAT A LETTER BE SENT TO SUPERINTENDENT TODD PRESTON, WESTSHORE RCMP DETACHMENT AND COPIED TO THE OTHER ORGANIZATIONS LISTED ON LAST PAGE HERE;

THAT DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS COUNCIL SUPPORTS AND ENCOURAGES THE SCHOOL POLICE LIAISON OFFICERS PROGRAM IN GREATER VICTORIA SCHOOL DISTRICTS C01, C02 AND C03, ~~BE~~ INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: CRIME PREVENTION AND PERSONAL SAFETY, POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS BUILDING IN TRUST AND CONFIDENCE WITH STUDENTS, ~~SEA~~ SCHOOL STAFF AND THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

SCHOOL POLICE LIAISON OFFICERS WORKING TO BUILD CONNECTIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS IN SCHOOLS IS A POSITIVE PROGRAM THAT IS EFFECTIVE IN SUPPORTING STUDENT SAFETY THROUGH PERSONAL ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATIONAL BASED CONVERSATIONS WITH STUDENTS ABOUT ISSUES SUCH AS BULLYING, BIKE SAFETY, LOCKDOWNS, ON-LINE SAFETY, DRUG AND ALCOHOL AND SELF-CONFIDENCE ETC.

FURTHERMORE, SUCH COLLABORATIVE SPLO RELATIONSHIPS WITH PRINCIPALS AND SCHOOL TEAMS MAY PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE OPTIONS OUTSIDE OF THE YOUTH CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM TO POSSIBLY DIVERT ANY STUDENTS WHO MAY OTHERWISE COME INTO CONTACT WITH THE YOUTH CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

~~PUBLIC~~

~~CURRENTLY, THE ONLY LOCAL EVIDENCE IS THE~~  
THE NOV. 2021 SCHOOL POLICE LIAISON OFFICER  
PROGRAM SURVEY FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT 61,  
(TOTAL SURVEY RESPONDENTS 3,815) PROVIDES  
SUPPORT AS FOLLOWS:

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS (IN ~~THE~~ <sup>ITS</sup> SUMMARY):

- 45% OF RESPONDENTS REPORTED THAT THEIR PREVIOUS INTERACTIONS WITH SPLD HAD BEEN POSITIVE OR VERY POSITIVE.
- 40% REPORTED NOT HAVING ANY INTERACTIONS
- 5% " THAT THEIR PREVIOUS INTERACTIONS HAD BEEN NEGATIVE OR VERY NEGATIVE
- 66% REPORTED THAT THEY WERE COMFORTABLE OR VERY COMFORTABLE WITH SPLD <sup>IN</sup> SCHOOLS
- 16% REPORTED THAT THEY WERE UNCOMFORTABLE OR VERY UNCOMFORTABLE WITH SPLD IN SCHOOLS
- 60% OF RESPONDENTS WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE SPLD CONTINUE IN SCHOOL DISTRICT 61 AND, AN ADDITIONAL 12% WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT CONTINUE IF CHANGES ARE MADE TO ADDRESS CONCERNS.
- 15% WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE SPLD END.

THANK YOU  
SINCERELY,

(2) →

TO: SUPERINTENDENT TODD PRESTON.

RE: SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICERS PROGRAMS IN

→ SCHOOL DISTRICT 61 SCHOOLS

CC: CHAIR AND BOARD OF EDUCATION TRUSTEES OF  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 61

SONGHEES FIRST NATION, CHIEF AND COUNCIL

ESQUIMALT FIRST NATION, CHIEF AND COUNCIL

VIA ~~OF~~ VICTORIA AND ~~ES~~ ESQUIMALT POLICE CHIEF

DEL MANAK

CITY OF SAANICH POLICE CHIEF DEAN DUTHIE

DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH POLICE CHIEF

~~COUNCILS OF CITY OF LANGFORD AND COLWOOD~~

CITY OF VICTORIA

TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

CITY OF SAANICH

CITY OF COLWOOD

CITY OF LANGFORD

DISTRICT OF OAK BAY

DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN

DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH

DISTRICT OF SOOKE