



STAFF REPORT TO COMMITTEE

DATE OF REPORT January 5, 2021
MEETING TYPE & DATE Regional Services Committee Meeting of January 27, 2021
FROM: Environmental Services Division
Engineering Services Department
SUBJECT: Climate Change Adaptation and Risk Management Strategy
FILE: 0540-20-RS

PURPOSE/INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to seek adoption of the Climate Change and Risk Management Strategy and seek the Boards direction on the development of Operational Implementation Plans.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION

That it be recommended to the Board:

1. That the CVRD Climate Change Adaptation and Risk Management Strategy be adopted.
2. That staff form an interdisciplinary team to develop operational implementation plans to support the Climate Change Adaptation and Risk Management Strategy for committee review in 2021.

BACKGROUND

In the 2014 to 2018 Strategic Plan, the Board prioritized the establishment of a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy to identify actions for responding to the impacts of Climate Change. Recent weather events in the Cowichan Valley have highlighted the need to adapt.

Upon adoption of the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) Strategic Plan, the CVRD began a four-phase process to establish a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy under the Cowichan new normal communications program including:

1. Climate Projections and Impacts Analysis (**complete 2017**)
 - clear identification of local effects and impacts at CVRD scale
2. Vulnerability and Risk Assessments (**ongoing**)
 - clear identification of what this means to CVRD residents (flooding, fire, drought, sea level rise, continuity of service and asset management)
3. Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy (**current document**)
 - development of strategies to meet plan goals
4. Implementation of the Strategy
 - development of implementation workplans and supporting budgets
 - implementation

Phase 3 – the Development of a Climate Change Adaptation and Risk Management Strategy is complete and the Implementation Plan is expected to be complete by end of 2021. This process currently in stream pulls together the various technical studies as well as input from other local government staff, politicians and the public to identify other emerging issues and suggested recommendations going forward.

ANALYSIS

The Climate Change Adaptation and Risk Management Strategy has been developed as an overarching strategy that can be used as a framework to document previous efforts and to guide future action by various entities. The purpose of this Strategy is to coalesce, contextualize, and celebrate previous and ongoing initiatives, while serving as a framework for the development of supporting tools, process and new strategic programs going forward. The strategy can also guide land use planning, provisions of services, and infrastructure decisions, to the extent that these are under CVRD jurisdiction.

Working with regional partners and relevant community groups the CVRD has prepared a draft Climate Change Adaption and Risk Management Strategy (see attachment A) as a key milestone in the establishment of the CVRD New Normal Climate Adaptation Program. The draft Strategy includes one primary vision, six goals, clustered around six types of impact areas and defined objectives for each of the impact areas. Specific actions to achieve those objectives were established with a wide variety of stakeholders as it will require multiple partnerships to achieve those objectives within the plans' time horizon.

Next steps for implementing the Strategy proposed for 2021

- Development of internal working group (Engineering, Planning, Community Services etc.) to identify and develop more detailed implementation strategies for immediate, short and long-term actions as well as identifying required resources.
- Workshops with partnering organizations.
- Draft Implementation Plan for Board review
- Present Implementation Plan

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial considerations at this time but will require staff time.

COMMUNICATION CONSIDERATIONS

Input from municipal partners, provincial agencies, community groups and First Nations will be necessary to complete the development of the Strategy.

STRATEGIC/BUSINESS PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

Development of this Strategy is a key milestone towards completing the Board approved strategic priority to establish a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

Not Applicable

Referred to (upon completion):

- Communications & Engagement
- Community Services (*Cowichan Community Centre, Cowichan Lake Recreation, South Cowichan Recreation, Arts & Culture, Emergency Management, Facilities & Transit*)
- Corporate Services (*Finance, Human Resources, Legislative Services, Information Technology, Procurement*)
- Engineering Services (*Environmental Services, Recycling & Waste Management, Water Management*)
- Land Use Services (*Community Planning, Development Services, Inspection & Enforcement, Economic Development, Parks & Trails*)

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Reviewed for form and content and approved for submission to the Committee:

Resolution:

Manager, Legislative Services

Financial Considerations:

Manager, Finance

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Climate Change Adaptation and Risk Management Strategy