



REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL AGENDA

Monday, April 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Council Chambers

325 Wallace Street, Hope, British Columbia

For those in attendance at District of Hope Open Council Meetings and Public Hearings, please be advised that the Hope Ratepayers Association is recording these meetings and hearings. The District, in no way, has custody or control of the recordings. Therefore, all persons who do not want their presentation or themselves recorded, please approach the Clerk to declare same and the District will relay this to the Association so that you can freely speak.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. RESOLUTION TO PROCEED TO CLOSED MEETING

Recommended Resolution:

THAT the meeting be closed to the public to consider matters pursuant to Sections 90(1)(i) [the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose] of the *Community Charter* re: Gardner Drive, and adopting closed meeting minutes.

3. RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

Mayor to reconvene the Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor to acknowledge that the meeting is being held on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Stó:lō people, particularly the Chawathil, Union Bar and Yale First Nations.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Recommended Resolution:

THAT the April 8, 2024, Regular Council Meeting Agenda be adopted, as presented.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

(a) Regular Council Meeting

(1)

Recommended Resolution:

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held March 25, 2024, be adopted, as presented.

6. DELEGATIONS**(a) Blue Triton (6)**

Dr. Andreanne Simard will be in attendance to present to Council regarding Blue Triton's annual monitoring data from 2023 for the facility in Hope.

7. STAFF REPORTS**(a) Report dated March 26, 2024 from the Chief Administrative Officer
Re: FVRD Macro Health Grant Application – Letter of Support (20)**Recommended Resolution:

THAT Council endorses and fully supports efforts regarding the goals of the proposed Regional Rural Transit Needs Assessment;

AND THAT Council directs staff to forward the endorsed Letter of Support in the earnest hope the Assessment is completed.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There are no Committee Reports.

9. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS**10. PERMITS AND BYLAWS**

There are no Permits and Bylaws.

11. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE**(a) For Information Correspondence (25)**Recommended Resolution:

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated April 8, 2024, be received.

12. OTHER PERTINENT BUSINESS**13. QUESTION PERIOD**

Call for questions from the public for items relevant to the agenda.

14. NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Monday, April 22, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

15. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, March 25, 2024
Council Chambers, District of Hope Municipal Office
325 Wallace Street, Hope, British Columbia

Council Members Present: Mayor Victor Smith
Councillor Pauline Newbigging
Councillor Heather Stewin
Councillor Zachary Wells

Council Members Absent: Councillor Scott Medlock
Councillor Angela Skoglund
Councillor Dusty Smith

Staff Present: John Fortoloczky, Chief Administrative Officer
Donna Bellingham, Director of Corporate Services
Robin Beukens, Director of Community Development
Gurvinder Sodhi, Communications and Network Analysis Advisor

Others Present: 1 members of the Public

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved / Seconded

THAT the March 25, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Agenda be adopted, as presented. **CARRIED.**

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

(a) Regular Council Meeting

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held March 11, 2024, be adopted, as presented. **CARRIED.**

(b) Public Hearing

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Record of a Public Hearing held March 11, 2024, be received. **CARRIED.**

4. DELEGATIONS

There were no Delegations.

5. STAFF REPORTS

There were no Staff Reports.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Smith Reported:

- Mayor Smith noted that he met with the Japanese delegation that come from Vancouver annually to maintain our Japanese garden. They work with some of our local residents to trim the trees and plants in the garden. He thanked them for their years of commitment to our community.
- He is working with AdvantageHOPE on a promotion for remote workers, to entice people to move and live in Hope. We have people currently living here conducting their remote work and we hope to connect with more to work from this beautiful place we call home.
- He attended a breakfast with the business community along with AdvantageHOPE and the Hope & District Chamber of Commerce, they had good dialogue regarding topics they have on the horizon to improve the downtown core, plus concerns businesses are facing with the exiting of the pipeline, plus planning for the future.
- He attended the RCMP Upper Fraser Valley Detachment Awards Night which recognizes RCMP members for exceptional acts of bravery, outstanding performance and leadership. He congratulated our local members Corporal Martin Godar, Constable Evan Inkman, Constable Brad McCay, Constable Stephen Den Boer, Constable Andrew Mclsaac and Constable Jaymi Kuniss for their recognition in the arrest of two armed individuals from a crime spree that started in Kamloops and ended safely in Hope.
- He toured our area with MLA Jackie Tegart, along with four other MLA's; they started the tour with the Othello Tunnels and discussed plans to get the tunnels open again. They also attended a presentation for a plant to handle liquid waste in the Valley as a long term solution is very much needed to this problem. They had a tour of the Mardina Construction precast plant, noting that they not lonely ship to various places in BC, but also in Alberta. The day wrapped up with a round table discussion at the Recreation Centre with people from Hope and area
- Twelve Starbuck managers partnered with Communities in Bloom, to do trash pickup in the areas of 7th Avenue, Old Hope Princeton way, Raab Street, Corbett Street and 5th Avenue; they wanted a project to give back to the community and make a difference.
- He noted that this year the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual General Meeting will be taking place in Calgary Alberta from June 6th – 9th. Staff will obtain costs to see if it is viable for the Mayor and the CAO to attend as it is a great opportunity to make connections at the Federal level to discuss funding opportunities that could benefit our community.

Councillor Wells Reported:

- Khronos Security did the clean-up at the old Station House property, along Old Hope Princeton Way. They removed hazardous material and dismantled the homeless encampments.

Councillor Newbigging Reported:

- She noted that the Accessibility Committee had their second meeting and they identified the top three priorities, with the first one establishing suggestion boxes at the District of Hope Office and the Recreation Centre for people to submit their suggestions to the Accessibility Committee.
- She attended the 50th Anniversary of the Hope Secondary School and commended the organizing committee on all their hard work. She added that the Leadership Class also participated and offer tours around the school for those that attended.

Councillor Stewin had nothing to report:

8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS

- (a) ***Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1571, 2024***
Re: 63010 Flood Hope Road

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No.1571, 2024* be adopted, in order to redesignate the land use designation in the Official Community Plan for the property legally described as Lot B District Lot 53 Group 1 Yale Division Yale District Plan 29463, PID 004-307-542; 63010 Flood Hope Road, from Highway Commercial to Light Service Industry. **CARRIED.**

- (b) ***Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1572, 2024***
Re: 63010 Flood Hope Road

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope Zoning Amendment Bylaw No.1572, 2024* be adopted, in order to rezone the property legally described as Lot B District Lot 53 Group 1 Yale Division Yale District Plan 29463; PID 004-307-542; 63010 Flood Hope Road from Highway Commercial (C-2) to Light/Service Industrial (I-2) to allow for a future Multi-Tenant Industrial Development. **CARRIED.**

- (c) ***District of Hope 2023-2027 Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1577, 2024***

Moved / Seconded

THAT *District of Hope 2023–2027 Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1577, 2024* be adopted this 25th day of March, 2024. **CARRIED.**

- (d) **Report dated March 20, 2024 from the Director of Community Development**
Re: Development Variance Permit - 320 Fort Street

Council inquired if the parking stalls would be in the rear area of the property or on the road and where the caretaker's suite is located. The Director of Community Development confirmed that the parking stalls will be located in the rear and the caretaker's suite will be in an office that is equipped with a bed and kitchen.

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council approve the issuance of a Development Variance Permit in order to:

- vary the required off street parking stalls for the mixed-use building from thirteen (13) parking stalls to eight (8) motorcycle parking stalls;
- vary the size of the parking stalls from 2.7 metres wide and 5.5 metres long to 1.5 metres wide by 2.4 meters long;
- vary the maneuvering aisle width for 90 degree turns from 7 metres to 4.5 metres;
- vary the siting for parking from the rear lot line from 1 metre to 0.4 metres;
- vary the driveway access width from 6 metres to 3 metres;

in order to facilitate the development a café and motor inn for motorcycle enthusiasts for the property legally described as Lot 2 Section 9 TWP 5 RGE 26 W6M YDYD Plan 753; PID 012-083-399; 320 Fort Street; and

FURTHER THAT Director of Community Development be authorized to endorse the Development Variance Permit; and

FURTHER THAT for purposes of Section 504 of the *Local Government Act*, “substantially start” shall mean the completion of the footings or foundations for the mixed-use building development. **CARRIED.**

**(e) Report dated March 15, 2024 from the Director of Community Development
Re: Downtown Hope Revitalization Form and Character Development Permit
444 Trans Canada Highway**

Council inquired if this Development Permit is a renewal of the one from past years and the Director of Community Development confirmed that the prior Development Permit had expired, so this new.

Moved / Seconded

THAT a Downtown Hope Revitalization Form and Character Development Permit for the construction of an apartment building be approved for the property legally described as Lot 1 Section 16 TWP 5 RGE 26 W6M YDYD Plan 9850, PID 009-640-118, 444 Trans Canada Highway; and

FURTHER THAT the Director of Community Development be authorized to approve minor changes to the Downtown Hope Revitalization Form and Character Development Permit; and

FURTHER THAT for purposes of the Development Permit validity period, the conditions of the Development Permit shall expire on March 25, 2026; and

FURTHER THAT for purposes of Section 504 of the *Local Government Act*, “substantially start of construction” shall mean the completion of an approved foundation for the proposed structure as certified safe by a qualified professional. **CARRIED.**

9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE

(a) For Information Correspondence

Moved / Seconded

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated March 25, 2024, be received.
CARRIED.

10. OTHER PERTINENT BUSINESS

There no other Pertinent Business.

11. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

12. NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Monday, April 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

13. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 7:14 p.m. **CARRIED.**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held March 25, 2024 in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.

Mayor

Director of Corporate Services

BTB Annual Review

HOPE



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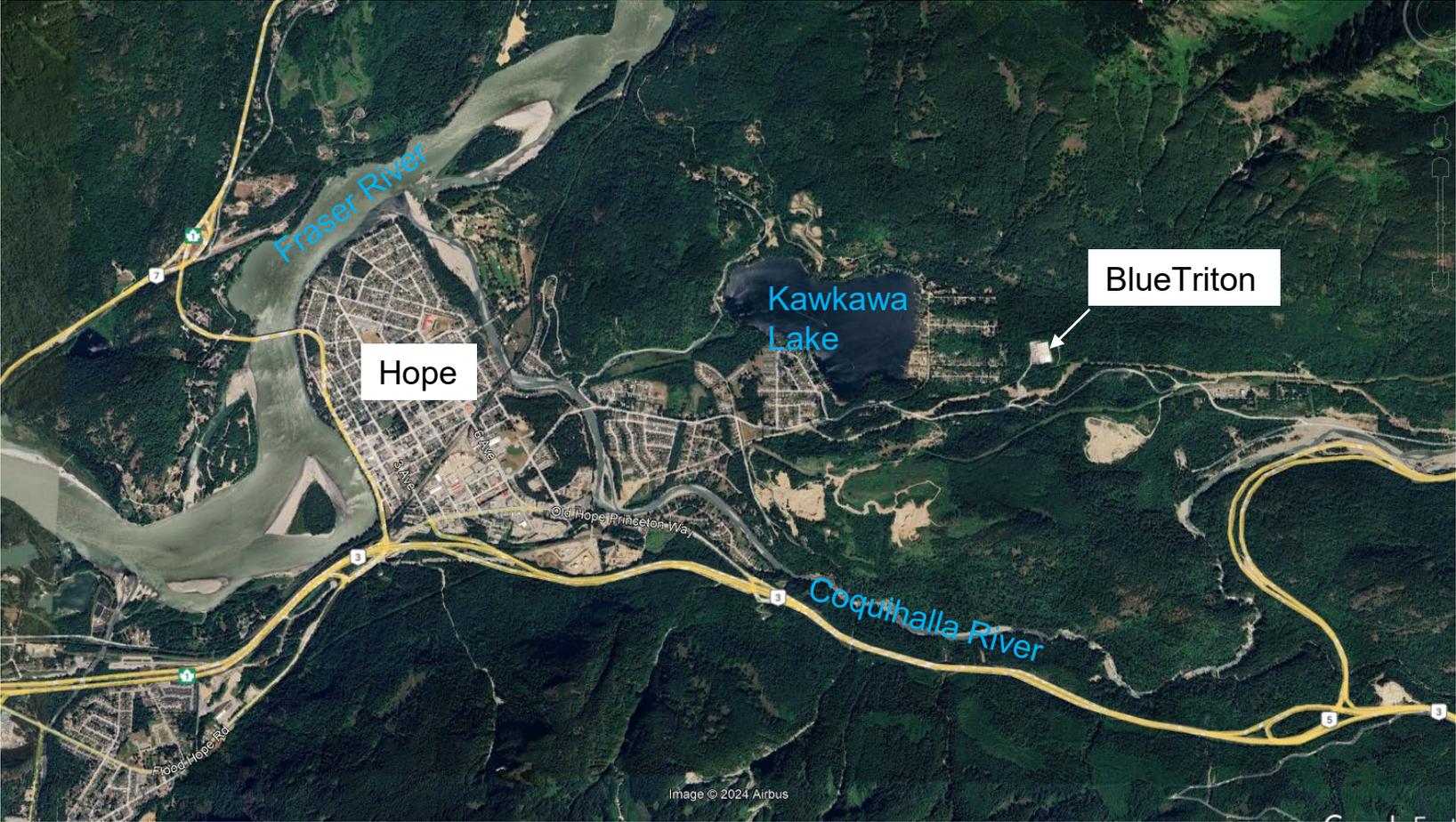
Overview

- BTB has been a proud community partner, environmental steward, and employer in Hope for over 20 years.
- Water supply sustainability is as critical to BTB as it is to the community.
- BTB has been conducting environmental monitoring in Hope for 20 years and shares this data with the municipality and various interested stakeholders.
- Based on 20 years of ongoing long-term monitoring of aquifer levels and spring flow rates, our results show that our groundwater use in Hope continues to be sustainable.

BTB Hope Location Map



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Monitoring Program



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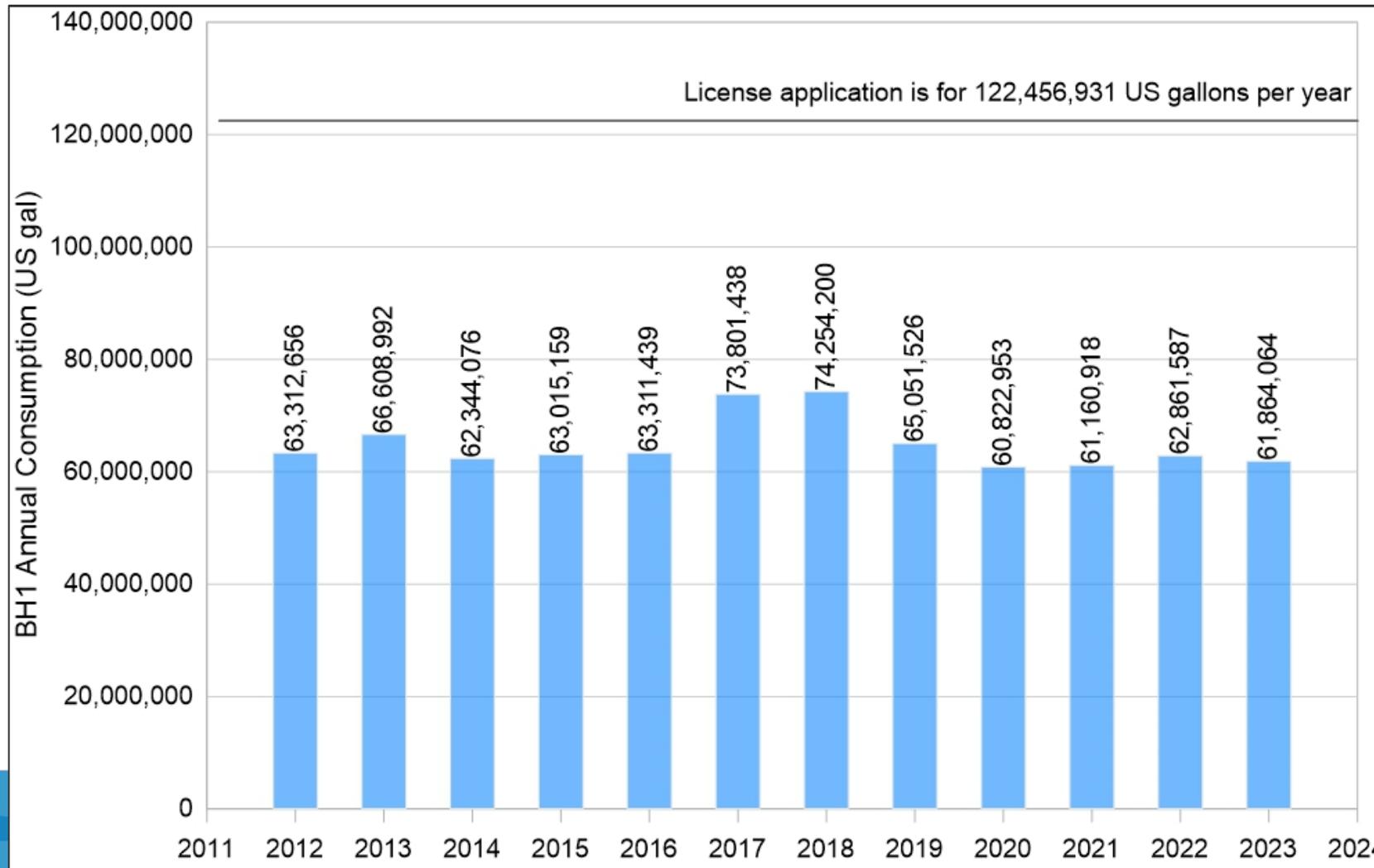
- 1 active production well
- 2 backup production wells
- Monitoring wells
- Surface water flow and temperature monitoring locations
- Biological monitoring
- District of Hope Well 8
- Precipitation, air temperature, snow pack, Coquihalla River flow



Annual Water Use



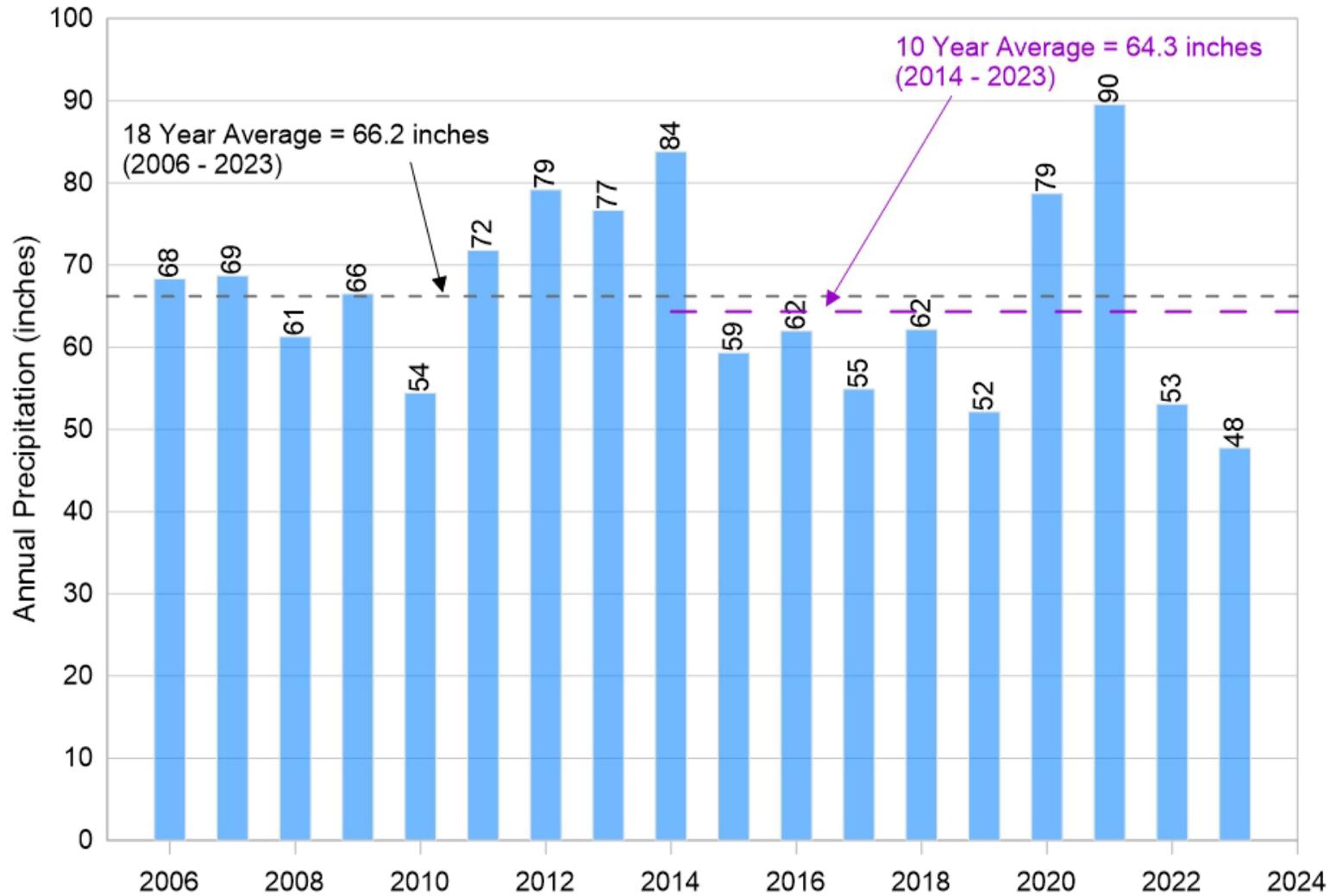
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Historical Annual Precipitation



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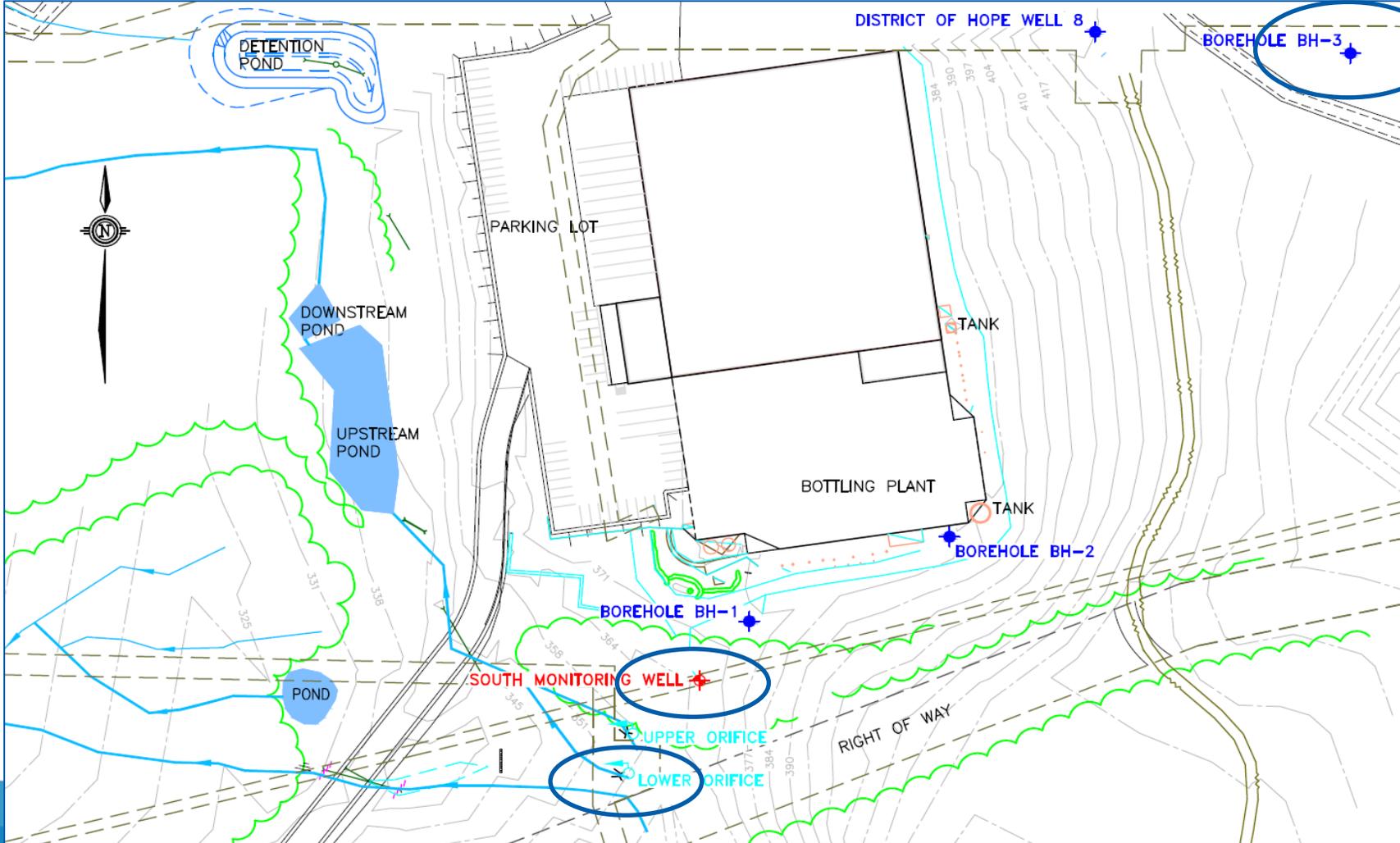
Annual precipitation measured at Environment Canada's Hope (Aut) station from 2006 to 2012, and at Hope A thereafter.

H:\Project\2572\Water Monitoring\Trend Plots\HopeAnnual Precip2006-2023.grf

Long term monitoring results

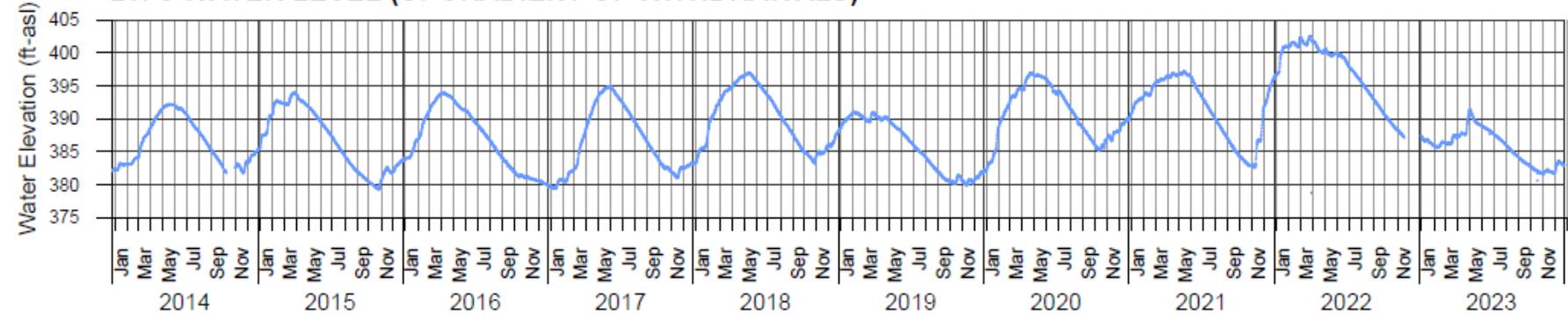


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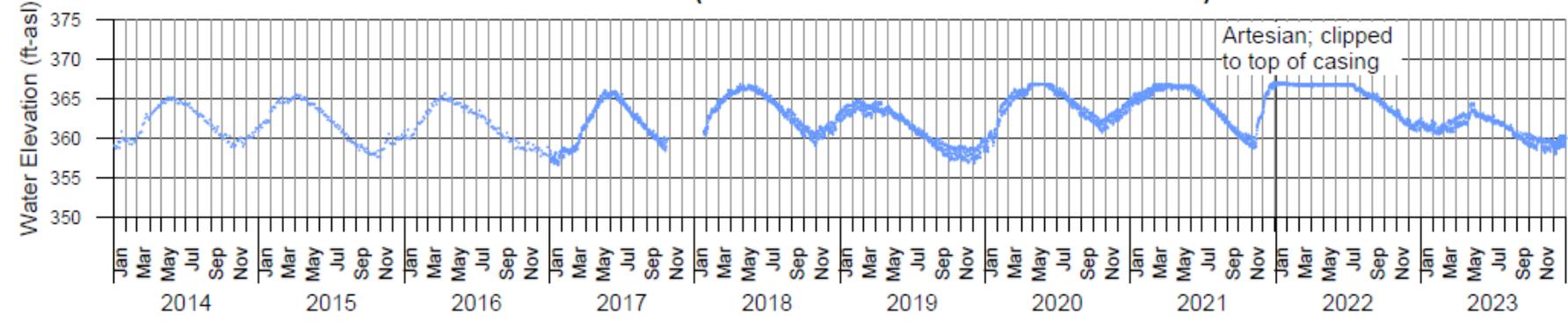




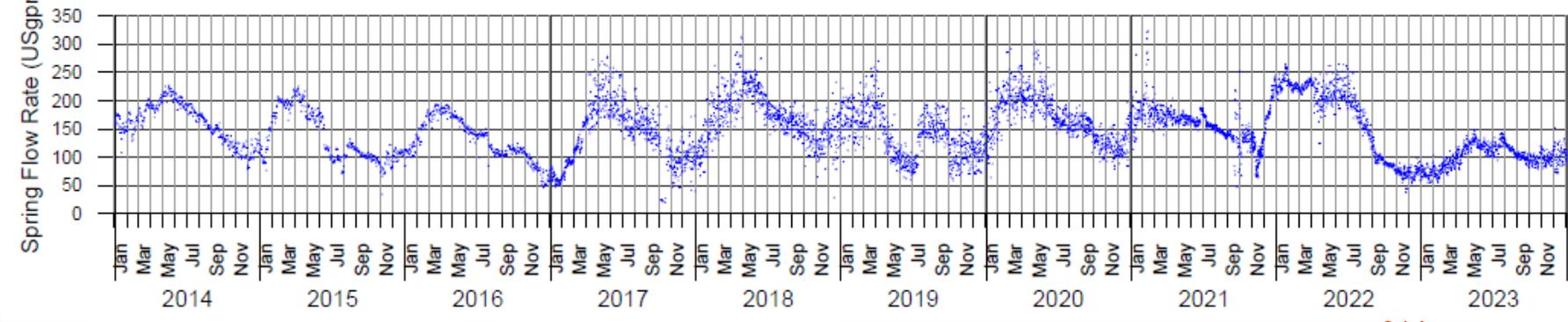
BH-3 WATER LEVEL (UPGRADIENT OF WITHDRAWALS)



SOUTH MONITORING WELL WATER LEVEL (DOWNGRADIENT OF WITHDRAWALS)



LOWER ORIFICE FLOW RATE



Biological Monitoring



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- Routine biological monitoring indicates aquatic habitat remains in good condition
- Water quality, invasive plant, and benthic macroinvertebrate sampling and analysis last completed in 2022, next assessment planned for 2024
- Results indicated all assessed watercourses continue to have optimal conditions to support aquatic flora and fauna
- Other than an increase in species richness at all sampling points between 2019 and 2022, results have been consistent since 2008.
- Fish habitat assessment completed in 2020, and scheduled for 2025



Photograph 1. Juvenile cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii*) caught during electrofishing of Watercourse B. May 5, 2020.



Photograph 2. Adult cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii*) caught during electrofishing of Watercourse B. May 5, 2020.



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BlueTriton Brands in Hope

- BlueTriton Brands currently employs 68 employees in the Hope facility.
- Over 70% of these employees live in Hope. The majority of the remaining live within the Fraser Valley region.
- The Hope facility consistently pays hourly wages above the living wage* (\$20.66) for this area of BC. Our new hire wage is 20% above the BC Living Wage*. Our average hourly wage is over 47% above the BC Living Wage* in this area.
- The Hope factory was the first Canadian BlueTriton factory to be AWS certified.
- In 2023 we renewed our relationship with Hope Secondary School with a career mentoring opportunity.
- We re-started (post covid) our Hope Mountain Centre Grade 4 & 5 student visits and tours of the factory.

2023 BlueTriton Brands Community Support



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We funded \$10,000 to support the “Young Stewards of our Wetlands” and “Young Stewards of our Watersheds” programs with Hope Mountain Centre

We donated \$4000 to Communities in Bloom to support the community garden solar powered watering system and the Bee habitat.

We renewed our sponsorship with the world-famous Hope Chainsaw Carving Festival.

We supported Hope Secondary School with a \$3500 donation to provide their athletics program with a tent for their sports teams.

We renewed our commitment to the Hope Chamber of Commerce.

BTB long term commitments:

BlueTriton Brands has awarded a Hope Secondary School scholarship to a student annually for almost 20 years.*

We have supported Hope Mountain Centre since 2009 with funding for the Wetlands and Watersheds programs.

Since 2018, through staff contributions and employer matching we have donated over \$8K to Hope Community Services, for the food bank. (2023 it was \$2,800).

Provincial and local water donations and support



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BlueTriton Brands donates water to many BC organizations. Some of the major donations include:

- Chilliwack Salvation Army
- City of Vancouver
- Police, Fire and EMS
- Greater Vancouver Foodbank
- Hope Community Services (Foodbank)
- BC Tour De Cure
- Several Indigenous Communities

We have donated almost half a million bottles of water to local community organizations, flood, fire relief and first responders in BC in 2023.

BlueTriton Brands participates in several local community initiative annually through product donations.

- Canada Day 2023 – water giveaway
- Hope local emergency water donation
- Hope Hospital
- Silvercreek Elementary & Hope District High Schools.
- Chainsaw Carving Festival 2023
- Hope Skate Park
- Many local community groups in Hope & Fraser Valley.

Thank you

Contact Andreanne.Simard@bluetriton.com with any questions



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REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

REPORT DATE: 26 March 2024

FILE: 0400-50

SUBMITTED BY: Chief Administrative Officer

MEETING DATE: 8 April 2024

SUBJECT: FVRD's MACRO HEALTH GRANT APPLICATION FOR REGIONAL RURAL TRANSIT NEEDS ASSESSMENT – LETTER OF SUPPORT

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to acquire Council's endorsement of a letter of support for the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) regarding a grant application to the Hope & Area Healthy Communities Macro Grant Funding Program.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommended Resolution:

THAT Council endorses and fully supports efforts regarding the goals of the proposed Regional Rural Transit Needs Assessment;

AND THAT Council directs staff to forward the endorsed Letter of Support in the earnest hope the Assessment is completed.

ALTERNATIVES & IMPLICATIONS:

Council could opt to not endorse and support this grant application. However, this would be seen as counter-productive in that regular needs assessments and community feedback should form part of the District's support of public transit. This could also jeopardize the potential success of the application.

Endorse of, and support for this initiative will be seen as both positive and being actively involved in furthering our partnership with the FVRD in the provision of public transit.

Attachments:

Draft letter of support.

Project Outline – 2024 Macro Health Grant (Hope and Fraser Canyon Communities)

Prepared by:

Original Signed by John Fortoloczky

Chief Administrative Officer

Office of the Mayor

March 21, 2024

Hope & Area Healthy Communities
Fraser Health Authority
444 Park St, Hope, BC V0X 1L0

To whom it may concern,

Re: FVRD's Macro Health Grant Application for a Regional Rural Transit Needs Assessment

On behalf of the District of Hope, I would like to express my support for the Fraser Health Macro Grant application by the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) for the development of a Regional Rural Transit Needs Assessment.

Rural communities face a variety of challenges due to their reduced access to important services and amenities, which has a negative impact to health, well-being, and quality of life. The correlation between transportation and health underscores the initiative's importance, ensuring access to essential healthcare services and laying the foundation for an inclusive healthcare system.

This project provides an opportunity to bridge the gaps between rural communities and regional medical and health services, resulting enhanced health outcomes for individuals, families, and communities throughout the region.

This initiative aligns with the District of Hope's commitment to the well-being of its residents though fostering a healthier and more connected community. I believe this project will help pave the way for the community-specific solutions and increased investments needed to improve access to medical and health services within and outside the District of Hope.

The District of Hope fully endorses the Rural Transit Needs Assessment the collaborative efforts required to ensure the residents of Hope, other rural communities and First Nations, regardless of location, can access the healthcare services they need and deserve.

Sincerely,

Victor Smith, Mayor

Project outline – 2024 Macro Health Grant (Hope and Fraser Canyon Communities)

The FVRD is undertaking a regional Rural Transit Needs Assessment to identify transit and transportation needs, gaps, and potential solutions in rural communities within the FVRD including the District of Hope. The project's total budget is \$75,000, which is based on securing \$50,000 from Infrastructure Canada's Rural Transit Solution's Fund (RTSF) and \$25,000 from the Fraser Health's Macro Health Grant.

The FVRD is requesting \$25,000 in Fraser Health Macro Health Grant funding, equaling about a third of the project's total estimated budget. These monies will support consultation and analysis for the Hope and Fraser Canyon area.

The Findings and recommendations resulting from the regional Rural Transit Needs Assessment will be used to support rural transit and transportation initiatives, projects, funding applications and lobbying efforts needed to improve rural transit and transportation within the region.

Project Background

This project aligns with the various goals and policies within the FVRD's Regional Growth Strategy, and is the result of considerable support for improved rural transit and transportation from the FVRD Board, members of the public, First Nation's communities, Fraser Health, and many others.

In September 2023, the FVRD Board directed staff to submit an application to Infrastructure Canada's Rural Transportation Solutions Fund (RTSF) planning stream to fund a Rural Transit Needs Assessment and Action Plan for the region. The FVRD has also been approached by Fraser Health about the negative impacts that the lack of transportation choice has on community health and well-being, particularly in the Hope and Fraser Canyon region.

Staff is in the process of applying for these funds, which will be used in combination with the Macro Health Grant (if successfully awarded) in an effort to ensure a robust and meaningful process informed generously by the public and various stakeholders.

Project Overview

The intent of this project is to understand the current situation and to find ways of better coordinate existing services (public, private and non-profit) and building upon this foundation with new or improved services.

Both conventional and non-conventional transit options will be explored including handyDART, on-demand and community-transit services, with an emphasis on sustainable and innovative rural transit solutions. Results will include an analysis of issues and opportunities specific to individual communities, vulnerable populations, and specific to accessing medical and health services.

The FVRD intends to hire a consultant to complete the Rural Transit Needs Assessment, whom will be responsible for completing the following tasks and project deliverables associated with the project.

Intended Outcomes:

- Rural Transit Needs Assessment to build internal and external understanding of rural transit and transportation needs of the region.
- Provide the basis for a strong business case to support rural transit initiatives and investments within the FVRD, including Hope and the Fraser Canyon.
- Assessment needed to address transportation gaps worsened by the loss of Greyhound bus services in 2018.
- Identify solutions and priorities to improve access to local and regional health services for populations living in rural communities within the region.

Consultation and Engagement:

- Develop and receive continued input from a project steering committee which will include representatives from First Nations, local government, health (Fraser Health and First Nations Health Authorities), Non-Profits, Service agencies, and BC Transit
- Stakeholder engagement with local governments, First Nations, Fraser Health, First Nations Health Authority, Non-Profits, Service agencies etc.
- Public engagement intended to help identify community specific needs and gaps using the FVRD's Have Your Say online engagement platform (survey, discussion boards, mapping features, etc.) and other methods, as appropriate.

Deliverables:

- Draft Rural Transit Needs Assessment submitted to FVRD for review by project staff and Project Steering Committee
- Final Rural Transit Needs Assessment submitted to the FVRD Board.

1. Letter dated March 6, 2024 from Minister George Heyman, Minister of Environment & Climate Change Strategy re: repairs to Coquihalla Canyon Provincial Park and the Othello Tunnels.
2. News Release dated March 21, 2024 from the Office of the Premier, Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development & Innovation, Ministry of Energy, Mines & Low Carbon Innovation & Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure re: Province, YVR work together to support good jobs, fight pollution.
3. News Release dated March 21, 2024 from the Ministry of Emergency Management & Climate Readiness and Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship re: Province strengthens flood defences, protecting people, communities.
4. News Release dated March 21, 2024 from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation re: engagement results released on proposed legislative amendments to First Nations land ownership.
5. News Release dated March 22, 2024 from the Ministry of Attorney General re: annual awards honour BC anti-racism advocates.
6. News Release dated March 22, 2024 from the Office of the Premier and Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship re: Province supports new weir to keep Cowichan River flowing.
7. News Release dated March 22, 2024 from the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General re: BC supports organizations to strength restorative justice services.
8. News Release dated March 22, 2024 from the Ministry of Housing re: hundreds of affordable homes coming for Interior, norther BC.
9. News Release dated March 22, 2024 from the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General re: model advances public safety, connects people to services in Chilliwack.
10. News Release dated March 22, 2024 from the Ministry of Energy, Mines & Low Carbon Innovation re: budget 2024 prioritizes actions for low-carbon economy.
11. Newsletter dated March 2024 from the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) re: the LMLGA Upcoming May Conference & AGM.
12. News Release dated March 25, 2024 from the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure re: BC builds cleaner communities with active transportation.
13. News Release dated March 25, 2024 from the Ministry of Education & Child Care re: Nanaimo families benefit from new child care centre.
14. News Release dated March 25, 2024 from the Ministry of Housing, Office of the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure & Communities re: new affordable homes open for Upper Nicola Band members.
15. News Release dated March 25, 2024 from the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General and Ministry of Finance, Gender Equity Office re: Province provides violence prevention counsellors to keep kids safe.

16. Information Bulletin dated March 25, 2024 from the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General re: Province approves use of Taser 7.
17. News Release dated March 26, 2024 from the Ministry of Housing re: affordable rental homes open for people in Langley.
18. News Release dated March 27, 2024 from the Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy re: Coquihalla Canyon Park scheduled to partially reopen in July.
19. News Release dated March 27, 2024 from the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture & Sport re: elder-in residence supports cultural knowledge, reconciliation.
20. News Release dated March 27, 2024 from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation & Sumas First Nation (Semá:th) re: land purchase protects sacred Lightning Rock site.
21. Traffic Advisory dated March 27, 2024 from the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure re: land closures, short delays for final touches to Highway 1 in Kicking Horse Canyon.
22. Information Bulletin dated March 27, 2024 from the Ministry of Housing re: Province provides clarity for short-term rentals operating in strata hotels, motels.
23. Statement dated March 27, 2024 from the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General re: Minister's statement on unexplained wealth order related to luxury goods.
24. Information Bulletin dated March 27, 2024 from the Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy re: Tilbury marine jetty project granted environmental assessment certificate.
25. News Release dated March 28, 2024 from the Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy and the Ministry of Energy, Mines & Low Carbon Innovation re: reducing emissions for a cleaner future for British Columbians.
26. News Release dated March 28, 2024 from the Ministry of Housing re: more than 100 affordable homes preserved through Rental Protection Fund.
27. News Release dated March 28, 2024 from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs re: expanding multi-language support, services for newcomers.



Reference: 408205

March 6, 2024

Their Worship Mayor Victor Smith
and Council
District of Hope
Box 609 325 Wallace Street
Hope BC V0X 1L0

Sent via email: vsmith@hope.ca

Dear Mayor Smith and Councillors:

Thank you for your letter of January 18, 2024, addressing the conditions at Coquihalla Canyon Provincial Park following the atmospheric river event of 2021 and requesting repairs to re-promote the Othello Tunnels as a tourist attraction. I apologize for the delay in responding.

I agree that provincial government staff deserve credit for prioritizing road repairs in the immediate aftermath of the heavy rainfall that occurred during that time and the subsequent work done to repair parks and regional areas in the district.

The damage to Coquihalla Canyon Provincial Park from the atmospheric river event was extensive. Park structures that were damaged include bridges, trails, rock structures, tunnels, and safety infrastructure such as safety rails and rockfall protection measures. The extent and complexity of the damage, the significant structures involved, and the risks to public safety, have required careful and thorough assessment. This included having engineers visit the park to identify damage to park infrastructure. These assessments have taken time to complete properly.

Engineers identified approximately 30 unique sites in the park that require repairs. The engineers produced a report which presented and evaluated options for remediating damage. The remediation required is extensive and it has taken time to develop a recovery plan. The plan objectives are to restore the area back to its pre-November 2021 condition, while adding climate resilient design principles wherever possible, as well as to make the park safe again with the same types of use and feel as what existed before the atmospheric river event.

...2

Remediating all the damage within the park will take several years to complete. BC Parks has planned a phased multi-year approach to construction so some portions of the park can be opened while remediation continues in other areas that remain closed. Phase 1 is proposed to include restoration of facilities and access from the park entrance and parking lot to the end of Tunnel 2. BC Parks is currently proposing to initiate Phase 1 in April 2024 and complete repairs in time for a partial reopening in July 2024. Phase 2 construction is proposed during the fall/winter 2024/2025 closure period, with full re-opening of the park by summer 2025.

This proposal and its timelines are subject to change pending the outcome of ongoing engagement with First Nations, and assessment and mitigation of potential cultural heritage impacts. BC Parks will work with First Nations and archaeologists to design Phase 1 works to avoid potential impacts to archaeological and heritage values, so that construction can start this spring.

We recognize that this popular park is important to many interested parties and local communities, in particular the District of Hope and the local business and tourism organizations such as Tourism Hope, Cascades, and Canyons. At the time of receiving your letter, BC Parks was preparing communications regarding the phased approach to the Coquihalla Canyon Park recovery project and park re-opening. BC Parks staff will reach out to you again soon with those additional details.

Thank you again for your letter. I look forward to continuing this conversation in a collaborative effort to make improvements in the future.

Sincerely,



Minister



LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 24
MARCH 2024

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TACKLING THE BIG ISSUES

LOWER MAINLAND LGA CONFERENCE & AGM, MAY 1-3, 2024, WHISTLER

Presidents Message



The Lower Mainland LGA is looking forward to seeing you soon in Whistler for our 2024 Conference & AGM. The theme of this year's conference is "Tackling the Big Issues".

We have a great pre-conference walking tour planned of Whistler's Tourism Facilities including

Whistler/Blackcomb, the Fairmont Chateau Whistler, the Audain Art Museum and the Gibbons Group.

We are so excited to have Khelsilem, Council Chairperson of Squamish Nation as our opening keynote speaker on Wednesday evening. We will be closing off the conference on Friday with the dynamic duo of all things BC politics: Keith Baldrey and Vaughn Palmer.

Other sessions are on topics such as "Public Safety Challenges in Public Spaces", "The Future of Transportation in the Lower Mainland", "UNDRIP Implementation from the Indigenous Perspective" and a Q & A session with our BC political leaders.

We have received a record number of 61 resolutions from our membership that will be debated at our resolution's session on a variety of topics that are timely and relevant to our region.

As usual, we will have several opportunities for networking and socializing including two receptions and our banquet dinner.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

President Patricia Ross

Closing Keynote Speakers:



**Vaughn Palmer:
Hard-Hitting Provincial
Political Columnist**

Vaughn Palmer's hard-hitting columns have seen him cover the feats and follies of B.C.'s premiers for almost 40 years. An award-winning journalist, Palmer is the Vancouver Sun's

provincial political columnist, based in Victoria. Palmer is a regular commentator on radio station CKNW in Vancouver.

Palmer is the recipient of the Bruce Hutchison Lifetime Achievement Award from the Jack Webster foundation, a co-winner of the Jack Webster award for reporting, and a recipient of the Hyman Solomon award for excellence in public policy journalism from the Canadian Public Policy Forum. Since 1984, Palmer has examined an extensive range of issues, personalities and scandals that have come to define B.C.'s political scene.



**Keith Baldrey:
Global BC's Chief
Political Correspondent
& Legislature Bureau
Chief**

Keith Baldrey is highly regarded as one of BC's best known political commentators.

He currently serves as the chief political correspondent and legislative bureau chief for Global BC where he provides insightful coverage and analysis on the latest developments in BC's political landscape. In 2021, Baldrey was named Broadcast Performer of the Year by the BC Association of Broadcasters for his coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Baldrey's work is also seen in his weekly syndicated column on B.C. politics for a variety of Lower Mainland papers, including the North Shore News and the Now newspapers, and appears regularly on News Talk 980 CKNW.

He has a long history of understanding and commenting on BC politics – Baldrey joined The Vancouver Sun in 1984 and moved to the The Sun's legislature bureau in 1986, eventually becoming its bureau chief in 1989. In 1995, he joined Global BC where over the course of his career, has covered 10 premiers, 10 provincial elections, and 12 federal elections.

He has covered nine premiers and the 2017 election was the ninth B.C. election campaign he has covered (along with numerous federal campaigns and party leadership races).

2024 CONFERENCE CHARITY: United Way British Columbia (UWBC)



Working with communities in BC's North, Interior, Lower Mainland, Central & Northern Vancouver Island

United Way British Columbia supports the development of healthy, caring and inclusive communities by strengthening vital connections that support people in need. In the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley in 2022-2023, UWBC served over 6,000 children and youth, 21,948 seniors and 63,849 individuals experiencing food insecurity, coordinated a network of community partners with 13 food hubs and over 12,000 volunteers, and invested over \$13 million back into the community. Further, UWBC collaborates with key agencies to deliver a variety of programs across the Lower Mainland. We partner with 79 agencies to deliver senior's programming, 60 agencies acting as stewards/spokes for our Regional Community Food Hubs, and 66 agencies for various youth programs. Lastly, our BC211 helpline service is available throughout BC, but in the LM/FV during 2022-2023 UWBC responded to 31,200 calls, providing 87,988 referrals – with the top issues being housing & homelessness, health, income & financial assistance, mental health, basic needs, legal & public safety, and abuse.



Banquet Dinner Entertainment

Ruckus Deluxe is based in Whistler and features Cirque du Soleil lead singer Chad Oliver on acoustic guitar and GRAMMY® nominated violinist Ian Cameron on fiddle, electric guitar and mandolin. They perform over 200 dates a year and cover a massive range of rock, pop and country hits along with their award-winning originals.

Candidates For 2024/2025



Candidate for President: Paul Albrecht

A three-term councillor in Langley City, Paul has been the LMLGA First Vice President for the

past two years and served previously in various other positions on the LMLGA Board. He has also served on the UBCM Executive and is currently a Metro Vancouver Director.

While serving on these various boards Paul has been able to develop very strong connections and relationships with members of the Provincial government as well as other peers in Local Government across the province. As a Civil Engineering Technologist, Paul brings over thirty years of municipal experience in all areas of infrastructure, servicing, planning, land use, land development and economic development that has been valuable in representing and serving his community and the Metro Region.

We in Local Government are facing very uncertain and challenging times in each of our communities. The value of an experienced executive board with strong relationships with senior orders of government cannot be overstated. Good governance requires the ability to develop strong relationships with many, listen to all our member communities, and find solutions. Paul will continue to help develop the kind of strong and supportive team needed for the LMLGA to make a difference in providing actionable solutions to meet all the challenges our communities face.

Together we can strategically amplify our collective voices and build productive relationships with other orders of Government when dealing with housing, homelessness, mental health, childcare, transit, tax relief, revenue loss, economic recovery, climate change, reconciliation and so many other complex issues that we all face daily. Paul is always available for further conversations with anyone at anytime.

It would be an honour and privilege to continue serving the LMLGA as President with the strong LMLGA Executive Team that we have developed. Thank you for your consideration and support!



Candidate for First Vice President: Michie Vidal

Throughout her life, Michie has demonstrated a history of community commitment,

leadership and organizational expertise. Her 25 year career as an Emergency Services 911 dispatcher provided extensive knowledge in local government structure and systems. Following retirement to the Village of Harrison Hot Springs, Michie continued her dedication to her community. She united local residents, businesses and all levels of government towards a common goal related to a significant environmental and economic concern.

Michie has a deep passion for the role of Local Governments and the impact it has on our daily lives. She is especially interested in promoting the principles of reconciliation with First Nations and is actively involved in achieving those goals.

Michie is currently serving her second term as Councillor with the Village of Harrison Hot Springs and Second Vice President with the Lower Mainland Local Government Association. Her Council liaison appointments include Lets'emot Community to Community Forum, Council to Council Committee with Sts'ailes, Community Futures North Fraser, Joint Emergency Planning Committee and Corrections Canada Citizens Advisory Committee.

During her spare time, Michie enjoys, hiking and golfing in the beautiful Fraser Valley.

Lower Mainland LGA Executive Positions:

An eleven-person Executive Board that is elected at the AGM during the Annual Conference governs the ongoing operations and policy direction of the Lower Mainland LGA.

Seven Elected Positions

- President
- First Vice President
- Second Vice President
- Third Vice President
- Director at Large (3 positions)

Non-Elected Positions

Appointed representatives from:

- Fraser Valley Regional District
- Metro Vancouver Regional District
- Squamish Lillooet Regional District

Eleventh Position

- Past President

The Nominations and Elections Process

THURSDAY, MAY 2nd (DURING AGM)

- Nomination Committee Chair, Jack Crompton presents the nominations received
- Nominations from the floor can be received for elected positions
- Candidates speeches, will follow

Nominations Received for the 2024/2025 Lower Mainland LGA Executive

As a result of the call for nominations, the Nominating Committee had received and will be placing the following names forward for consideration:

President:

Councillor Paul Albrecht, Langley City

First Vice President:

Councillor Michie Vidal, Harrison Hot Springs

Second Vice President:

Director Jen McCutcheon, Metro Vancouver Regional District

Third Vice President:

Councillor Chris Pettingill, District of Squamish

Director At Large (three to be elected)

Councillor Ruby Campbell, City of New Westminster

Councillor Jessica McIlroy, City of North Vancouver

Councillor Jeff Murl, Resort Municipality of Whistler

Mayor Sylvia Pranger, District of Kent

2024 Sponsors

BC Assessment

BC Council of Forest Industries

BC General Employees' Union(BCGEU)

BC Hydro

BCLC

CN

CUPE BC

CUPE 8911 Emergency Communications Professionals of BC

Disability Alliance BC

E-Comm 9-1-1

Enbridge

Fortis BC

Gambling Support BC

ICBC

Lidstone & Company Law Corporation

Municipal Finance Authority of BC

Municipal Insurance Association of BC

National Police Federation

Pattison Outdoor

Advertising

Rogers Communications

TELUS

Trans Mountain

Vancouver Fraser Port Authority

Young Anderson

YMCA BC



**Candidate for
Second Vice President:
Jen McCutcheon**

Jen serves as the Director for Metro Vancouver's (MV) only electoral area, which includes

approximately 18,000 people on the UBC peninsula and in a number of rural communities and islands across the MV region. She is in her second term of office, and serves on a number of committees as well as the Board of the Metro Vancouver Regional District and Translink's Mayor's Council. Jen brings a unique perspective to the LMLGA executive as a representative of both urban and rural communities.

Prior to entering politics, Jen utilized her doctoral degree in public health to help manage complex health projects in various countries across Africa for ten years, and still consults in public health.

In her spare time, Jen volunteers in her community, stays physically active, and spends as much time as she can out in nature with her husband and two children.



**Candidate for
Third Vice President:
Chris Pettingill**

Chris Pettingill is a Councillor with the District of Squamish on the traditional and unceded

Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh territory. Chris also serves as a Director for the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Board, and as an active member of the Climate Caucus. Everyone deserves a bright future so Chris brings thoughtful consideration of equity and climate change to these roles.

Chris has served on the boards for Tourism Squamish and the Squamish Arts Council, and as the chair of the BC Green Party Provincial Council and Squamish Chamber of Commerce respectively.

Chris' professional career has focused on software development, and he is a senior technical lead and founding member of an exciting Squamish tech startup.

Chris also stays busy as a long-standing volunteer for Squamish's "Amped in the Park" music program. Through this involvement, Chris is able to enjoy his passion for music while supporting others as they learn to be performers and leaders.



**Candidate for
Director at Large:
Ruby Campbell**

Ruby is serving her first term as New Westminster City Councillor. Prior to being elected, Ruby

spent the majority of her career managing fundraising and community engagement programs to create and improve public amenities, community spaces, social programs and strengthen community partnerships between various sectors.

Ruby was employed in the civic sector in a leadership position managing intergovernmental relations and worked with project teams to develop and implement complex funding strategies for projects resulting in awards of up to \$24 million. She has also worked in leadership positions for a variety of not for profit organizations such as the BC Lung Association, Royal Columbian Hospital Foundation, Simon Fraser University and provided fundraising and governance consultation services for various other organizations.

Ruby has also served on the boards of Arts Council of New Westminster, Massey Theatre Society, Fraserside Community Service, New Westminster Chamber and the New Westminster Police Board.

She currently serves on the following City of New Westminster Committees:

- Arts Culture Economic Development Advisory Committee (Chair)
- Massey Theatre Working Group (Chair)
- Community Heritage Commission (Council Representative)
- Downtown Business Improvement Association (Council Representative)
- Land Use Planning Committee (Alternate Council Representative)



**Candidate for
Director at Large:
Jessica McIlroy**

Jessica is currently in her second term on Council in the City of North Vancouver,

being first elected in 2018, and currently sits on the City's Integrated Transportation Committee and as the Council representative on the Lonsdale Energy Corporation Board of Directors. Jessica previously sat on the LMLGA Executive as a Director-at-Large from 2022 to 2023.

Over the past twenty years, Jessica McIlroy has provided leadership on clean energy development and climate action policy with for-purpose organizations, and currently works with a clean energy think tank focusing on the decarbonizing and climate resiliency of our built environment.

Jessica also works with Climate Caucus, a non-profit network of local government elected officials leading the transformation needed for communities to thrive within planetary boundaries. She is passionate about advancing climate policy and action within local governments and currently sits on the B.C. Municipal Climate Leaders Council Steering Committee and the Climate Caucus Board of Directors.

When not working or in the community, Jessica takes every opportunity to be in the forest and mountains with her family and two dogs.



**Candidate for
Director at Large:
Jeff Murl**

Jeff's professional career started in with degree in Finance from UBC, leading to work in

the investment industry. That evolved to owning restaurants in North Vancouver, and after receiving his Chartered Professional Accountant designation (CPA), into opening his own accounting practice. Throughout that time, he also worked as a ski instructor, first at Cypress, and for the last 20 years at Whistler.

Jeff is serving his first term as a Councillor in Whistler, where he's bringing his skillset and perspective as a CPA to various committees: Audit and Finance, Smart Tourism, Transportation Management, and the Advisory Design Panel. He also currently sits on the boards of the Whistler Development Corp., the Whistler Institute, and the Whistler Museum.

Prior to joining council, Jeff volunteered on boards across a wide spectrum of activities: The Beaumont, Vancouver Urban Farming Society, Arts Whistler, Whistler Public Library and the Whistler Board of Variance. His first experience with local politics was sitting on a Citizens committee of North Shore residents.

Jeff's spare time is spent with his wife and two young boys, who are always entertained by his stories of council meetings, policy work and advocacy to other levels of government.



**Candidate for
Director at Large:
Sylvia Pranger**

Hello everyone, my name is Sylvia Pranger, and I am pleased to have my name stand as

Director at Large for LMLGA. I have lived in the District of Kent in the beautiful Fraser Valley for 62 years and consider myself a long-term resident!

I bring a wealth of experience in providing service at both, local and provincial government levels. In 1990, I was first elected as Councillor for the District of Kent and then elected as Mayor in 2000 until 2006. During this time, I was on the Board of the Fraser Valley Regional District, and elected Chair of the Union Board of Health, which was the governing body for Public Health and Vice-Chair of the Provincial Union Board of Health. When I was not on Kent Council, I served as Chair of the South Coast Panel of the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) for several years. I was re-elected to the Kent Council in 2014 and became Mayor by acclamation for the past two terms. I also serve as a Director for the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) and Chair of the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Board.

The LMLGA provides a valuable avenue to voice our regional concerns with our colleagues at the UBCM as well as the provincial and federal governments. Over my years of service as an elected official, I continually see the benefit of learning from one another to serve our main purpose of better serving our communities. I believe that my experiences can bring value to the Executive as we work together to be an effective local government association.

