



## STAFF REPORT

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**DATE:** August 16, 2023 **FILE:** 0550-04 Board

**TO:** Chair and Directors,  
Regional Board

**FROM:** Dave Leitch  
Chief Administrative Officer

**RE:** NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE

### PURPOSE

To consider the proposed Terms of Reference for a Natural Resources Committee with membership comprising representatives from the Alberni-Clayoquot, Mount Waddington and Strathcona regional districts.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The attached report was considered at the March 15, 2023 meeting of the Regional Board at which time the following resolution was passed:

Dahl/Kerr: SRD 218/23

THAT the Board support the creation of a Natural Resource Committee as a standing committee with First Nation representation, and

THAT the Regional District of Mount Waddington be invited to appoint an equal number of its directors to the Committee.

The Board subsequently passed a motion to invite the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District to participate in the Natural Resources Committee.

In order to move forward with the Committee it is proposed that the attached Terms of Reference be developed and shared with the other participating regional districts to ensure acceptability before being finalized.

When responses to this initiative have been received, a further report will be shared with the Board and, at that time, the Terms of Reference may be confirmed and adopted.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT the draft Terms of Reference for the Natural Resources Committee attached to the August 16, 2023 report from the Chief Administrative Officer be shared with the Alberni-Clayoquot and Mount Waddington regional districts for comment prior to consideration of adoption.

Respectfully:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Leitch', is written over a horizontal line.

David Leitch  
Chief Administrative Officer

***Prepared by: T. Yates, Corporate Services Manager***

## NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

### Terms of Reference

#### 1.0 Overview

The Natural Resources Committee (the 'Committee') has been established to provide advice and guidance to the Alberni-Clayoquot, Mount Waddington and Strathcona regional districts on matters related to the forestry, aquaculture, mining and other natural resource sectors that exist within the boundaries of the participating regional districts.

#### 2.0 Purpose and Mandate

The mandate of the Committee is to provide advice and guidance to the participating regional district boards to ensure:

- that information and data regarding resource sector activities is maintained and shared between jurisdictions.
- that the interests of the participating regional districts and their citizens are taken into consideration when considering responses to Provincial and Federal government resource sector initiatives that may impact northern Vancouver Island and adjacent areas.
- when issues have been identified, that consultation efforts are coordinated with the leadership of the participating regional districts to provide input to senior governments regarding natural resource management, both in the region, and in the Province;
- that opportunities are provided to increase public awareness on the economic and social benefits provided by the resource sectors in parallel with advocating for sustainable management;
- that community perspectives on the importance of natural resources are taken into account before decisions on resource sector changes are made; and
- to investigate grant/policy opportunities that will support sustainable natural resource initiatives.

#### 3.0 Chair and Members

3.1 The Chair and one other member of each regional district shall be entitled to sit as members of the Committee. Each regional district shall decide the secondary member to be appointed and their term of membership.

3.2 In addition to the members identified in s.3.1, not more than 6 additional persons representing First Nations shall be entitled to sit as members of the Committee provided that the appointment of each such additional member shall have the support of a majority of the regional district members on the Committee. Nominations for such additional members may be made by a participating regional district or a representative of a participating regional district.

3.3 The Committee will elect a Chair and Vice Chair at its inaugural meeting each year. The Committee Chair will serve in that capacity until the next inaugural meeting or until the Committee is dissolved or until the Committee Chair ceases to hold the qualifications required for the position.

3.4 The Committee will elect a Chair (the 'Committee Chair') and Vice Chair at its inaugural meeting each year. The Committee Chair will serve in that capacity until the next inaugural meeting unless the Committee is earlier dissolved by the Board Chair or unless the Committee Chair ceases to hold the qualifications required for the position.

4.0 Meetings

4.1 The Committee will meet as required to fulfill its mandate. Meetings will be at the call of the Committee Chair or as scheduled in advance by a majority of the Committee members.

4.2 Decisions of the Committee will be determined by majority vote and all procedural rules will be decided in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order (Newly Revised edition).

4.0 Reporting

The Committee will provide its advice and recommendations to each participating regional district in writing.

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Approved by resolution of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional Board on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

Approved by resolution of the Mount Waddington Regional Board on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

Approved by resolution of the Strathcona Regional Board on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023



## DIRECTOR REPORT

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To: SRD Board

From: Mark Baker, Chair

Date: March 3, 2023

Subject: North Island Natural Resources

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### Background:

North Island communities have been traditionally resource based and the resource industries continue to support many families with well-paying jobs, benefits, and a vast array of community supports/donations. Over the last several years, the voices of the north island communities have struggled to resonate with policy makers at both the provincial and federal levels regarding the continual erosion of support for resources-based operations. Many municipalities have attempted to impress upon governments about the importance of forestry, aquaculture, mining, and other sectors continue to articulate yet their voices continue to go unheard.

With the continued lack of meaningful consultation, representation, and consideration of the north island economies, several sectors are facing the real possibility of reduced employment or outright closures and direct job losses which would devastate north island communities. This concern has now been realized with the most recent decision (February 2023) to close of all salmon farms in the traditional territories of the Laich-kwil-tach and Klahoose First Nations. As stated by the BC Salmon Farmers Association, "The decision to not issue salmon farm licences in the Discovery Islands area is devastating for all coastal communities who rely on the aquaculture sector".

With over 55,000 residents represented within the two Regional Districts (SRD and RDMW) it is critical that our voices are both heard and respected. Without a united and consistent voice, the risk to a significant portion of the north island economy is real and, with that, the loss of jobs, families, and financial stability for the north island economy. As we were elected to be the voice for our residents, a united voice is now more necessary than ever. The following motion is recommended to provide a strong, north island voice, to both Victoria and Ottawa.

The Strathcona Regional District and Regional District of Mount Waddington represent residents and communities across northern Vancouver Island where forestry, aquaculture and mining are the cornerstones of a healthy and vibrant Northern Vancouver Island economy.

Proposed motion:

1. THAT the report from the Chair be received.
2. THAT the Board support the creation of a Natural Resource Committee as a standing committee, and

THAT the Regional District of Mount Waddington be invited to appoint an equal number of its directors to the Committee.

Sincerely,



Mark Baker  
SRD Chair  
(Mayor, Village of Sayward)

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