



**Noba Anderson, Director**  
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Fellow EASC Directors  
September 16, 2016

**Re: Interpretation of EASC ToR**

As part of the SRD's governance workshop scheduled for October 6<sup>th</sup>, it is my understanding that we will be discussing, among other things, the Terms of Reference for all SRD committees. Before the EASC ToR is discussed by the full board (see attached), I wanted to offer an opportunity for us to discuss this matter here first at the committee level.

Since I joined the board in 2008, it is my experience that the ToR of EASC have been interpreted differently by our last two CAOs and Interim CAO than it is being interpreted at present inasmuch as single participant services are now coming to EASC for discussion were they have never before. It was previously regularly explained to us that any rural-related items that would eventually be voted on by the full board, rather than just rural area directors as part of the planning function, would come directly to the full board for consideration. This has meant that all discussion of single-participant services (Grant-In-Aid, Area C Economic Development, Q-Cove Sewer, Area D Water, Area A & B solid waste collection, Area B, C & D Parks services, etc) have not come to EASC prior to going to board.

I do see the merits of both versions of doing business. In the old practice, the board does not need to re-hash a discussion to which they have not been privy at EASC and perhaps take a different course of action from the EASC recommendation, as was the recent case involving Area D water rates. In the new version, rural area matters first get discussed by rural area director exclusively who may be seen to have a larger stake in, or understanding of, the matter at hand and save the full board from those deliberations. I, however struggle to see how I have any greater insight into another rural area single participant service matter than a municipal director would. I realise that at times the very function of a committee is to delve into matters that will ultimately be brought forward to the full board for a vote. I am aware that at times there are matters that come to the full board that were previously discussed at other committees, and that the rationale from the previous CAOs may not therefore have been applied consistently – I am still unclear on the intricacies of this point.

What I take issue with is that we have had a change in practice without an associated discussion at either EASC or the board. Furthermore, it appears that our EASC chair is not aware of the change (based on both our verbal discussions and an email exchange), and I am getting mixed messages from our CAO about if this change was done in consultation with some of the EASC directors or not... I just want transparency and awareness of our governance practices and am asking for our consideration of the pros and cons at the EASC table prior to discussion at the full board.

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Given that this changed practice is not commonly understood, I offer the following examples of the change to which I refer.

#### Past Practice

To the best of my research, all the following items related to single participant services appeared directly on a Board agenda without any recommendation from EASC or previously appearing on an EASC agenda. I have included just one most recent example from a few single participant services prior to the change in practice. Prior to later this year, I have not found any SRD records that show a different practice. (That being said, I have not looked through them all...)

- 2016 – February 10 - 'Byers Road/Ferry Park: Naming and Parks Regulations - 167/16.
- 2016 – February 10 – Request for Economic Development Funding – Stuart Island Community Association - 176/16.
- 2016 – February 25 – Hagel Park Playground Equipment Replacement Project - 232/16
- 2016 – February 25 – Request for Financial Assistance – Electoral Area C - 235/16
- 2016 – January 13 – Quathiaski Cove Sewer System – Order to Connect – 04/16
- 2016 – January 28 – Request for Financial Assistance – Electoral Area A -125/16
- 2015 – December – Fire Protection Contracts (Cortes Island) – 909/15
- 2015 – December – Solid Waste Collection Contract – Sayward Valley – 923/15
- 2015 – November 12 – Request for Financial Assistance – Electoral Area B – 808/15
- 2015 – November 26 – Cortes Island Solid Waste Service – Bylaw Review – 866/15

#### Current Practice

Items relating to single participant services are now, for the first time, appearing first on EASC agendas before proceeding (only if recommended by the committee) to board.

- 2016 – July EASC – Area D Water Rates Bylaw 118/16
- 2016 – July EASC – Sayward Valley Solid Waste Rates
- 2016 - July EASC – Quathiaski Cove Sewer System Rates
- 2016 – July EASC – Request for Financial Assistance – Area C
- 2016 – August EASC – Walters Cove Water Supply Local Service
- 2016 – August EASC – Request for Economic Development Funding – Area C

Thank-you for your consideration of this matter as I do think it is important that we are part of directing at which table business gets conducted.

Sincerely,



Noba Anderson, Regional Director



## ELECTORAL AREAS SERVICES COMMITTEE

### Terms of Reference

#### 1.0 Overview

The Chair of the Board of Directors (the 'Board Chair') for the Strathcona Regional District has established the Electoral Areas Services Committee (the 'Committee') to provide advice and guidance to the Regional Board concerning matters for which a unique electoral area interest has been identified. In accordance with the *Local Government Act*, the Committee shall continue to exist during the term of or until terminated by the Board Chair.

#### 2.0 Purpose and Mandate

2.1 The mandate of the Committee is to provide advice and recommendations to the Regional Board concerning matters which:

- are deemed to be of interest primarily to electoral areas, including service delivery alternatives affecting those electoral areas
- have been specifically referred to the Committee by the Regional Board;
- have been referred to the Committee in accordance with Regional District policy; or
- are related to the assumption of additional advisory responsibilities which the Committee believes should fall within the Committee's mandate.

2.2 The Committee may also make decisions on matters for which corporate authority has been specifically delegated by the Regional Board.

#### 3.0 Chair and Members

3.1 {deleted}

3.2 Membership on the Committee shall be comprised of all electoral area directors.

3.3 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 resolution of the Committee. Meetings will be held in conjunction with meetings of the Regional Board or of another Board committee whenever possible.

4.2 No director or alternate director shall have more than one vote on any question before the Committee.

4.3 The Committee will be subject to the rules of procedure set out in the Regional Board's procedure bylaw.

5.0 Reporting

The Committee will provide its advice and recommendations to the Regional Board in the form of verbal and written reports from the Committee Chair. A copy of the minutes of each Committee meeting will be included on the Regional Board's meeting agenda.

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Approved by resolution of the Regional Board on January 13, 2016