AGENDA

Agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Tahsis Village Council to be held on September 1, 2020 in the Council Chambers Municipal Hall, 977 South Maquinna Drive and by electronic means

Remote access:

To attend this meeting remotely via Zoom/ phone
Join the Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/7473599558

Dial by your location
+1 647 374 4685 Canada
Meeting ID: 747 359 9558

Find your local number: https://zoom.us/u/ace6MdrgMW

A. Call to Order

Mayor Davis will call the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Davis will acknowledge and respect that we are meeting upon Mowachaht/Muchalaht territory.

B. Introduction of Late Items

C. Approval of the Agenda

D. Petitions and Delegations

None.

E. Public Input # 1

F. Adoption of the Minutes

1 Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on August 4, 2020.

2 Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on August 18, 2020.

G. Rise and Report		At the August 18, 2020 Closed Committee of the Whole Meeting Council elected to submit a grant application for the Loading Pier and the Boat Launch Plan as per the McElhanney report to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program
H. Business Arising	**1**	**Comox Strathcona Waste Management Service Stephanie Valdal, Services Coordinator, CSWM: Tahsis Compositing Pilot Project-Status Update**
	2	**The Village of Tahsis Community Wildfire Protection Plan**
J. Council Reports	**1**	**Mayor Davis**
	2	**Councillor Elder**
	3	**Councillor Fowler**
	4	**Councillor Llewellyn**
	5	**Cheryl Northcott**
K. Bylaws		**None**
L. Correspondence	**1**	**Email from the Village of Kaslo to Mayor and Council Re: A Strategy for Rural Economic Development Through Health Care**
	2	**Letter from Minister Selina Robinson and the UBCM submission that were provided to Premier John Horgan and Finance Minister Carole James as a contribution to the Province's economic recovery engagement process.**
	3	**Mayor Lori Ackerman, City of Fort St. John letter to Premier John Horgan Re: BC Utilities Commission's Approval of BC Hydro's Application to Amend the Net Metering Service under Rate Schedule 1289**
	4	**The Office of the Ombudsperson Re: Investigation Closing Summary**
	5	**Recycling Council of British Columbia letter Re: Proclaiming your support for waste reduction week in Canada.**
	6	**Email from Linda Jordan Re: Bylaw 614**
M. New Business	**1**	**Email from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development Re: Tahsis Salmon Enhancement Society**

	2	**Leigh Stalker, Senior Forester- Strategic Natural Resource Consultants Inc. Re: Request for a letter of authorization from the Village of Tahsis to carry out riparian restoration on municipal lands**

N. Public Input #2

Rise and Report

P. Adjournment

Minutes

Meeting	**Regular Council**
Date	**04-Aug-20**
Time	**7:00 PM**
Place	**Municipal Hall - Council Chambers and by electronic means**

Present	Mayor Martin Davis	
	Councillor Bill Elder	
	Councillor Sarah Fowler	
	Councillor Lynda Llewellyn	by phone
	Councillor Cheryl Northcott	by video
Staff	Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer	
	Janet StDenis, Finance and Corporate Services Manager	by video
Guests	Sgt. Josh Wiese, NCO i/c, Nootka Sound RCMP Detachment	by video
Public	5 members of the public	by phone/ video

A. Call to Order

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
Mayor Davis acknowledged and respected that Council is meeting upon Mowachaht/ Muchalaht territory

B. Introduction of Late Items and Agenda Changes

None.

C. Approval of the Agenda

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0313/2020

THAT the Agenda for the August 4, 2020 Regular Council meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

D. Petitions and Delegations

None.

E. Public Input # 1

None.

F. Adoption of the Minutes

1 **Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on July 7, 2020.**

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0314/2020

THAT the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of July 7, 2020 be adopted as presented. **CARRIED**

2 Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on July 7, 2020.

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0315/2020
THAT the Regular Council meeting minutes of July 7, 2020 be adopted as presented. **CARRIED**

3 Minutes of the Public Hearing held on July 8, 2020.

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0316/2020

THAT the Public Hearing minutes of July 8, 2020 be adopted as presented. **CARRIED**

4 Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on July 13, 2020.

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0317/2020
THAT the Special Council Meeting minutes of July 13, 2020 be adopted as presented.

G. Rise and Report

None.

H. Business Arising

1 Nootka Sound RCMP Detachment update and current policing issues- Sgt. Josh Wiese, NCO i/c, Nootka Sound Detachment
Sgt Weise provided Council with an update on the detachment and current policing issues and responded to questions from Council.

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0318/2020
THAT this verbal report be received. **CARRIED**

2 Report to Council Re: Emergency Operations Centre - COVID-19 Response and Recovery Update
The CAO spoke to his report and responded to questions from Council.

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0319/2020
THAT this Report to Council be received. **CARRIED**

J. Council Reports

Mayor Davis (written report)

It has been a month since our last regular council meeting and I hope everybody is having an excellent summer and is finding the time to get out there and enjoy all that our region has to offer. Covid-19 continues to simmer away in the background but fortunately for us in BC, we are lucky to have a thoughtful, effective government response that has allowed most of us to continue to live our lives in a relatively normal way, with a few precautions. It is also crucial to our safety that the US border remains closed, where one in four deaths worldwide is now occurring, at the rate of about 1000 per day. What a difference government management and civic attitudes makes!

Since our last regular council meeting, we have had a zoning hearing in preparation for passing our new zoning bylaws for Tahsis. We have also had one special council meeting where we received our audited financial statements for the past fiscal year. They are available to the public on the municipal website. I also attended a virtual regional district meeting. I must say that I enjoy doing the online meetings as I don't spend hours and days travelling, staying in hotels and generally running up expenses that have proven largely unnecessary to conduct business. It also frees up much time and greatly reduces my personal carbon footprint as mayor.

One topic that bears mentioning is the future of Pete's Farm. Last time I was on council, we managed to buy it before logging interests did, effectively saving it for the benefit of the community. There were many potential ideas for use of the land and its various zones. I personally walked the entire property, documenting boundaries, features, and ecosystem, timber, heritage and recreational values. Since then, little has happened, apart from volunteer construction of a river trail from the previous Leiner boardwalk trails all the way to the Leiner campground. It also gets use from federal fisheries and the Tahsis Salmon Enhancement Society. Some of the potential plans included applying for Heritage status, establishing a site for events, whether music, retreats, public education, or Ranger or Scout camps. Other ideas for areas of the property were community forest, canopy walkway and property sales. If this council brings any long range plans forward, the community will be consulted in this process. In the meantime, we have accepted a proposal from a private group to host a short retreat in late August. They are potentially interested in longer term use but at the moment this is a one-off. In return for use of a small area of the property, they are willing to clean up garbage that continues to be an eyesore in the farm section of the property. This would be an excellent start, but in the long run, we need to fix the old bridge to the property in order to remove the derelict vehicles that were dumped there years ago. One of the reasons that I bring up Pete's Farm is that there has been a bit of a disinformation campaign on social media which has led to attempts to intimidate the potential user group into cancelling. I find this very unfortunate and it harkens back to negative campaigns in the past which had given us a bad name. Personally, I want this community to be open and welcoming if we are going to grow into the viable, caring village in the future and will oppose any attempts to take us back down the rabbit hole.

On another note, I have been in preliminary conversations with a small First Nation sawmilling operation that is interested in locating in Tahsis and will hopefully be reporting further as things firm up.

Lastly, I should mention that Stephane Dionne is resigning as our Fire Chief and will be moving on to a new position. On behalf of Council, I would like to thank him for his service in Tahsis. He has been responsible for the transformation and modernization of our fire department, with much training and upgrading of skill levels of our volunteers. He has definitely left the organization in much better shape and we wish him well in his future endeavours.

Councillor Elder
No report.

Councillor Fowler (written report)

TAAC meeting July 30th at 3 p.m. Last week we had our second Age Friendly Action Committee meeting and I am putting together a list of questions that Jack Taylor, the president of the Senior's Society has agreed to organize a phone call to the membership encouraging enthusiastic participation
in our upcoming transportation survey.

The survey results will help us understand travel patterns but I am of course interested in how other seniors issues like chronic conditions, specialist appointments or prescription filling plays into the greater transit needs.

I am grateful to Dave Margiotta who shared with me his "new mistakes daily" motto from his transportation consultancy. The other thing that came up in the meeting was the Covid relief food bank partnership between the seniors and the St Vincent de Paul Community Cupboard. This Thursday we are launching into this pilot as we work with Terry Fassbender and the St Joseph Catholic Church to endeavor to get fruits and vegetables to financially compromised citizens in the Village.

Lastly I want to share the following news with my council and fellow residents. I have been selected to take part in the Climate Leadership course for elected officials (SEE below ATTACHED).

I have committed to personally covering cost associated with this opportunity and require no financial assistance for the village of Tahsis to participate.

Submitted respectfully,
Councillor Fowler

Attachment- Climate Leadership Course information

Councillor Llewellyn (written report)

At the last VIRL executive meeting the new budget was discussed. The news for Tahsis on this budget was not good. The money that has been allocated for a new library has been put back into reserves until such time as a site can be found. It does not mean we will never get a new library but it is not in the budget for the next couple of years. As I am sure everyone is aware there has been a great deal of difficulty in finding a site for the new library. We are not the only municipality who had their library site money taken off the books for this year.
The other project I was working on was affordable housing for Tahsis. With Erica Benson's help (she is the Health Network Coordinator) Tahsis has submitted an application for a Plan H Grant. Thank you also to Ian Poole for his help with the budget part of the application. I am technology challenged and there was a bit of a wobble getting the application in but we did receive confirmation of its submission.

It would seem summer has finally arrived in Tahsis and with it a lot of unfamiliar faces. I am trusting most of these visitors are from BC and the majority from somewhere else on the Island. These visitors bring much needed boost to out economy but they also bring with them the risk of the virus. I have noticed a higher level on anxiety among some of our residents…not all are happy to see strange faces this year. Wherever you stand on COVID and masks and distancing…please be aware that you neighbour may feel totally different then you and just because they think differently then you does not make them right and you wrong or vice versa…it means you have different coping methods and that is fine. Please be safe and play nice.

Finally, I want acknowledge the loss of Stephane as our fire chief. He brought a great deal of professionalism to the fire department and leaves it in great shape. I did fire prevention presentations at the school with him the last 2 years and will miss him come Fire Prevention Week in October.
Respectfully Submitted,
Councillor Llewellyn

Councillor Northcott
No report.

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0320/2020
THAT the Council Reports be received**.** **CARRIED**

K. Bylaws
Zoning Bylaw No. 630, 2020
3rd Reading

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0321/2020
THAT the Zoning Bylaw No. 630, 2020 be received for consideration. **CARRIED**
1 "no vote" registered
Councillor Elder

Fowler/Llewellyn: VOT 0322/2020
THAT the Zoning Bylaw No. 630, 2020 receive a third reading this 4th Day of August, 2020. **CARRIED**

1 "no vote" registered

Councillor Elder

2 Bylaw No. 632, 2020
Being a Bylaw to Amend the Village of Tahsis Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 594, 2017
Adoption

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0323/2020
THAT Bylaw No. 632, 2020 be received for consideration. **CARRIED**

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0324/2020
THAT Bylaw No. 632, 2020 be reconsidered, finally past and adopted as presented on this 4th day of August 2020. **CARRIED**

3 Development Procedure Bylaw No. 633, 2020

First, Second and Third Reading

The CAO spoke to the scope of this bylaw.

Fowler/Elder: VOT325/2020

THAT Bylaw No. 633, 2020 be received for consideration. **CARRIED**

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0326/2020

THAT Bylaw No. 633, 2020 receive a first reading this 4th Day of August, 2020. **CARRIED**

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0327/2020
THAT Bylaw No. 633, 2020 receive a second reading this 4th Day of August, 2020. **CARRIED**

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0328/2020

THAT Bylaw No. 633, 2020 receive a third reading this 4th Day of August, 2020. **CARRIED**

L. Correspondence

1 UBCM Re: Flood Mitigation Preliminary Design project funding approval

2 Email from Ben Pires Re: Proclaiming a new INCLUSIVE name for our province and adopt a new flag and coat-of-arms.

3 **Deane Johnson, Director of Instruction/Operations Supervisor, School District 84 Re: Disposition of Teacherage**

4 **Thomas Hartz, RPF, Stewardship Forester, FLNRORD-DCR Re: North Island TSA TSR- Data Package Review and Comment**

Llewellyn/Elder: VOT 0329/2020
THAT these correspondence items be received. **CARRIED**

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0330/2020
THAT correspondence items #2,3 and 4 be pulled for discussion. **CARRIED**

L2 **Email from Ben Pires Re: Proclaiming a new INCLUSIVE name for our province and adopt a new flag and coat-of-arms.**
A discussion followed.

Davis/Northcott: VOT 0331/2020

THAT a letter be sent in support of a new name for our province and a new flag that would be more inclusive to all people in BC and more historically accurate.

CARRIED
1 "no vote" registered
Councillor Elder

L3 **Deane Johnson, Director of Instruction/Operations Supervisor, School District 84 Re: Disposition of Teacherage**
Councillor Fowler briefly spoke to this correspondence item.

L4 **Thomas Hartz, RPF, Stewardship Forester, FLNRORD-DCR Re: North Island TSA TSR- Data Package Review and Comment**
A brief discussion followed.

M. New Business

M1 **Nootka Sound Watershed Society News Release- Re: Coastal Restoration Fund**

Councillor Fowler's motion Re: NSWS use of the Village of Tahsis' logo for press releases and communication purposes.
Councillor Fowler spoke to her motion.

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0332/2020

THAT this information be received. **CARRIED**

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0333/2020

WHEREAS important restoration work is being done regionally;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED to submit the Village of Tahsis logo to the NSWS for press releases and communication purposes, to show our support for the local salmon kiosks.

CARRIED

2 **Councillor Fowler Re: Letter of support from the Village of Tahsis to NSWS for the Conuma Autofish trailer BCSRIF Grant**

Councillor Fowler spoke to her motion.

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0334/2020

THAT this motion be received for discussion.

CARRIED

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0335/2020

THAT WHEREAS marking salmon at the Conuma hatchery helps manage fisheries harvests;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED to write a letter from the Village to the Nootka Sound Watershed Society in support of the autofish clipping trailer grant application.

CARRIED

3 **Report to Council Re: Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, Rural and Northern Communities (ICIP-RNC)**

There was a discussion of the possible grant proposals under this program. Discussion to be continued in a Committee of the Whole Meeting on August 18, 2020.

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0336/2020

THAT this Report to Council be received.

CARRIED

N. Public Input #2

A member of the public spoke to her letter which she had handed to Council just prior to the Council meeting. Council agreed to add the letter to the agenda of the August 18th, 2020 Special Council meeting.
Other members of the public raised questions about Pete's Farm to which Council responded.

Adjournment

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0337/2020

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:55 p.m. **CARRIED**

Certified Correct this

1st Day of September, 2020

Chief Administrative Officer

From:	Janet St. Denis
To:	Janet St. Denis
Subject:	FW: (Info) Climate Leadership Course for Elected Officials // Cours de leadership climatique pour les représentants élus
Date:	August 5, 2020 4:22:54 PM
Attachments:	image002.png image004.png

FCM FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES MUNICIPALITÉS

July 21st, 2020

Dear Sarah Fowler,
On behalf of Devin Causley, Manager, Capacity Building of FCM's Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program, I would like to congratulate you for being selected to participate in the online component of our new Climate Leadership Course for Elected Officials.
Throughout this course, you will hear from fellow peers and experienced leaders to discover lessons learned, best practices, and tools to help you achieve your community's sustainability objectives. You will learn about how you can enhance climate conversations in your municipality, why you should incorporate a climate lens into your initiatives and how to take climate action.

The online component of this course will be delivered from September 2020 to November 2020. Participants will be expected to complete three short assignments and attend three live chats. The time commitment will be approximately three hours a month, for a total of nine hours over three months. The live chats will be held on the last Wednesday of every month (September – November) from 1:00pm – 2:30pm ET.

You have also been selected to attend a 1.5 day in-person summit in Ottawa where you will receive skills training on climate change communication, public speaking, and community engagement. You will be asked to share your experience with your community upon returning. Please note that this summit is dependent on future travel and gathering recommendations from health authorities. Exact dates (anticipated for early 2021) will be provided in the coming months. Travel support is provided for your attendance and a minimum of two months notice will be provided when dates are confirmed. A live stream will be made available for portions of the event.

Please confirm your participation in both the online and in-person components through this form by Friday, August 7th, 2020, otherwise your spot at the in-person summit may be given to someone else. Once confirmed, FCM will announce the course participants on the FCM website.

Your main contacts throughout this course will be Jasmine Lum and Jean-Patrick Toussaint. We will be contacting you with more details in the coming weeks but please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions in the meantime.

Jasmine Lum: jlum@fcm.ca or 613-907-6309
Jean-Patrick Toussaint: jtoussaint@fcm.ca or 343-925-6458.

Thank you for your commitment to furthering climate action in your community. We look forward to supporting your development as a climate leader.

Sincerely,
Jasmine Lum

Jasmine Lum

Capacity Building Officer | Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program
Agente de renforcement des capacités municipales | Programme Municipalités pour l'innovation climatique
T. 613-907-6309

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thanks for your time,
smf

Minutes

Meeting	**Special Council**
Date	**18-Aug-20**
Time	**7:00 PM**
Place	**Municipal Hall - Council Chambers and by electronic means**

Present	Mayor Martin Davis	by video
	Councillor Bill Elder	
	Councillor Sarah Fowler	
	Councillor Lynda Llewellyn	by video
	Councillor Cheryl Northcott	by video
Staff	Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer	
	Ian Poole, Director of Finance	by video
	John Manson, P.Eng.	by video
	Sarah Greer, Co-op Student	by video
	Janet StDenis, Finance and Corporate Services Manager	by video
Public	3 members of the public	by phone/ video

A. Call to Order

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.
Mayor Davis acknowledged and respected that Council is meeting upon Mowachaht/ Muchalaht territory

B. Introduction of Late Items and Agenda Changes

Under business arising as "H2" a request from the Tahsis Senior's Society for the Village to act as the trustee in their grant application to Communities Food Centres Canada .

C. Approval of the Agenda

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0338/2020

THAT the Agenda for the August 18, 2020 Special Council meeting be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

E. Public Input # 1

None.

H. Business Arising

August 4, 2020 Regular Council Meeting resolution 0331/2020- Reconsideration

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0339/2020
TO reconsider resolution number 0331/2020 which states:
THAT a letter be sent in support of a new name for our province and a new flag that would be more inclusive to all people in B.C. and more historically accurate.

CARRIED

Elder/Fowler: VOT 0340/2020
THAT the August 4, 2020 Regular Council Meeting resolution 0331/2020 be rescinded.

CARRIED
1 'no vote'
Councillor Northcott

2 **Tahsis Seniors' Society request for the Village of Tahsis to act as the Trustee in their grant application to Communities Food Centres Canada under the Good Food Access Fund.**
The CAO spoke to this request and the requirements as a trustee.

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0341/2020
THAT this information be received.

CARRIED

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0342/2020
THAT the Village of Tahsis function as the Trustee for the Tahsis Seniors' Society in their grant application to the Communities Food Centres Canada under the Good Food Access Fund.

CARRIED

K. Bylaws
Zoning Bylaw No. 630, 2020
Adoption

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0343/2020
THAT the Zoning Bylaw No. 630, 2020 be received for consideration.

CARRIED

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0344/2020
THAT the Zoning Bylaw No. 630, 2020 be reconsidered, finally passed and adopted as presented this 18th day of August, 2020.

CARRIED

1 "no vote registered"

Councillor Elder

L. Correspondence

1 **Letter to Mayor and Council from Shawna Gagne Re: The use of Pete's Farm by the Centre for Spiritual Living**

2 **Email from the Tahsis Artisan's Co-op requesting these of the "Inlet Park" for a one day Saturday Market**

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0345/2020
THAT these correspondence items be received. **CARRIED**

Llewellyn/Elder: VOT 0346/2020
THAT correspondence items #1 and 2 be pulled for discussion. **CARRIED**

L1 **Letter to Mayor and Council from Shawna Gagne Re: The use of Pete's Farm by the Centre for Spiritual Living**
A discussion followed.

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0347/2020
THAT Councillor Llewellyn's email be used as a basis for a response to this correspondence item L1. **CARRIED**

L2 **Email from the Tahsis Artisan's Co-op requesting these of the "Inlet Park" for a one day Saturday Market**
A brief discussion followed.

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0348/2020
THAT Council approve the Tahsis Artisan's Coop on Saturday August 29th use of the 'Inlet Park' between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. as a Village event and encourage other community members to be involved. **CARRIED**

M. New Business

M1 **Village of Tahsis 2019 Annual Report**

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0349/2020
THAT the Village of Tahsis 2019 Annual Report be received. **CARRIED**

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0350/2020
THAT the Village of Tahsis 2019 Annual Report be approved **CARRIED**

M2 **Village of Tahsis 2019 Statement of Financial Information**

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0351/2020

THAT the Village of Tahsis 2019 Statement of Financial Information be received. **CARRIED**

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0352/2020

THAT the Village of Tahsis 2019 Statement of Financial Information be approved.

CARRIED

M3 **Report to Council Re: Consideration of rent reduction for Village business tenants**

Councillor Elder declared a conflict of interest and absented himself from the meeting.

The CAO spoke to this report and a discussion followed.

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0353/2020

THAT this Report to Council be received.

CARRIED

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0354/2020

THAT the option to reduce by 25% the rents of all business tenants of the Village properties from April 1, 2020 until December 31, 2020 be approved.

CARRIED

N. Public Input #2

None.

Public Exclusion

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0355/2020

THAT the Committee of the Whole meeting is closed to the public in accordance with section 90(1) (e) of the Community Charter - the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality and section 90(1) (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public.

CARRIED

Recess

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0356/2020

THAT the Special Council meeting recess to go into the in camera Committee of the Whole Meeting.

CARRIED

Reconvene

Fowler/Elder: VOT 357/2020

THAT the Special Council meeting reconvene at 3:18 p.m. **CARRIED**

Rise and Report

Council has rejected the Canadian Coast Guard Dock proposal (August 18, 2020 closed Committee of the Whole meeting). A letter will be sent to the Coast Guard informing of this decision with reasons.

Adjournment

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0358/2020

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 3:19 p.m. **CARRIED**

Certified Correct this

1st Day of September, 2020

Chief Administrative Officer

This document contains the Executive Summary, Summary of Recommendations, and key CWPP maps (Area of Interest, Local Wildfire Risk Analysis, and Land Ownership Maps).

The purpose of this document is to provide a brief summary of the analysis, results, and recommendations associated with the 2020 Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Refer to the complete CWPP document and associated maps for more detailed information and references.

The Summary of Recommendations in this document are organized by the Level of Priority. In the complete CWPP document, the Summary of Recommendations are organized in the order in which they appear in the document. The numbering is consistent across all documents.

Village of Tahsis

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

2020 Update

Submitted to:

Shaun Koopman – Emergency Program Coordinator, Strathcona Regional District
Mark Tatchell – Chief Administrative Officer, Village of Tahsis

Submitted by:

SuavAir Aerial Imaging
info@suavair.com
250-830-8849

June 26, 2020

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This plan was prepared by Colin Filliter, RPF and Cynthia Lu, RPF of SuavAir Aerial Imaging. Colby Day, RFT completed the spatial data analysis and mapping. The authors of this report would like to thank and acknowledge the following people for their assistance and participation in updating the Village of Tahsis Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

Shaun Koopman – Emergency Program Coordinator, Strathcona Regional District

Mark Tatchell – Chief Administrative Officer, Village of Tahsis

Stéphane Dionne – Fire Chief, Tahsis Fire Rescue Department

Scott Boyd – GIS Analyst, Western Forest Products Inc.

Mark DeGagné and Erica Tiffany – McElhanney Ltd.

Ben Boghean and Raphael Jamin, BC Wildfire Service

This report is made possible by the Union of BC Municipalities through the Community Resiliency Investment grant.

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL SIGN & SEAL

Colin Filliter, RPF #4820 SuavAir Aerial Imaging	Cynthia Lu, RPF #4923 SuavAir Aerial Imaging
Date Signed: June 25, 2020	Date Signed: June 25, 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was completed under the framework established by the Community Resilience Investment program, administered by the Union of BC Municipalities. The area of interest is the wildland urban interface (WUI) surrounding the Village of Tahsis, at the head of Tahsis Inlet on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The area of interest is within the traditional territory of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation.

The purpose of this CWPP is to update the recommendations made in the initial 2011 Village of Tahsis CWPP. Using the best available spatial data, this CWPP identifies the wildfire risks surrounding the community, potential consequences of a wildfire to the community, and recommends possible ways to reduce the risk. Relevant recommendations from the 2011 plan are carried forward where applicable.

The fuel types in the area are a mosaic of mature conifer forests, recently harvested cut blocks, immature forests, and deciduous patches. Previous fire history in the area indicates low fire density from both human and lightning caused fires. The local wildfire threat is Moderate with pockets of High. The local wildfire risk ranges from Low to High with higher risk areas associated with fuels in close proximity (within 500m) of the community.

Recommendations are summarized in the table below. The recommendations are based on a review of best practices from other jurisdictions, gaps identified through community engagement, the local wildfire risk analysis, prevention of human-caused ignitions, and integration of FireSmart program principles. FireSmart is a national initiative to educate and empower the public on what can be done to protect their families, properties and communities from wildfire. Fuel management (surface and ladder fuel removal) is recommended for High risk areas within 500m of structures in the Village. Community education and awareness also play a critical role in reducing the wildfire risk. Community education focuses on FireSmart principles, understanding fire use restrictions, emergency preparedness and regularly sharing fire safety related information with the community.

The Tahsis Fire Rescue Department (TFRD) provides fire response services for the Village. Currently, the TFRD is at full capacity with as many members as turnout gear, each trained in basic wildland firefighting for structural firefighters. The BC Wildfire Service provides wildfire response services on provincial crown land including Crown land within the municipal boundary. Joint mock exercises and greater cooperation between TFRD and the BC Wildfire Service would improve skills and communication in the event of a WUI incident. The TFRD should also aim to improve water availability for fire suppression in the outlying areas of its service area.

This plan makes 29 recommendations to the Village of Tahsis and Strathcona Regional District. The recommendations should be further prioritized by the community depending on local strengths, opportunities, and the availability of human, financial and physical resources. At minimum, the plan should be revisited every five years to assess the progress and relevance of previous recommendations and for the continual improvement of wildfire protection planning as more information becomes available.

HIGH PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

No.	Priority	Objective	Recommendation / Next Steps	Responsibility
2.	High	To engage regional operators and industrial stakeholders on the contents and recommendations in this plan; to improve inter-agency dialogue.	Collaboration amongst regional operators is recommended to reduce fuel hazards on Crown lands and along rights-of-way. Share this plan with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, MFLNRORD, forest tenure holders (ie: Western Forest Products Inc.), and BC Hydro. Areas of critical importance are action plans for fuel hazard management along Head Bay FSR right-of-way for access and evacuation; treatment areas in identified high risk areas on Crown lands; and minimizing fuel hazards along transmission line rights-of-way.	Village and SRD to share this plan and recommendations with regional operators
Rationale: Inter-agency cooperation within the WUI is necessary to protect a community and its critical infrastructure. Recommended best practice for information sharing, awareness, collaboration and cooperation.				
3.	High	To reduce the fuel hazard in identified treatment areas (High risk areas within 500m of the community).	Develop and implement site specific fuel management prescriptions. Prescriptions to be completed by a qualified Registered Professional Forester. Recommended treatment areas are listed in Table 8. The forest professional may also refer to Priority 1 treatment areas in the 2011 CWPP. Share this plan and collaborate with regional operators (forest tenure holders, BC Hydro, MFLNRORD, etc) where possible. Where treatment areas are identified on Crown lands, consultation is required with Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nations.	Village and/or SRD Share this plan and recommendations with regional operators
Rationale: Recommended treatment areas based on local wildfire risk analysis. High risk areas within 500m of community structures or critical infrastructure are priority for treatment.				
4.	High	To reduce the fuel hazard and ignition risk within the FireSmart	Conduct FireSmart Hazard Assessments starting with the priority areas identified in Table 9.	Village and/or SRD

		Structure Ignition Zone (100m) of structures and homes in Village.	Implement hazard assessment recommendations.	
Rationale: The FireSmart program is a nationwide initiative. Several post-wildfire examples across the country show how FireSmart activities reduce the structure losses associated with WUI fires. FireSmart activities are a focus area for all CWPP's developed under the UBCM CRI funding program. FireSmart is implemented through best practices in 7 disciplines: education, emergency planning, vegetation management, legislation, development, interagency cooperation and cross-training. Development standards are a FireSmart discipline. Priority areas for hazard assessments based on relative risk of adjacent fuels.				
5.	High	To reduce the ignition risk surrounding critical community infrastructure.	Contact a Local FireSmart Representative to complete FireSmart hazard assessments around critical infrastructure in the Village.	Village
Rationale: Hazard assessments around critical infrastructure were previously recommended in 2011. Hazard assessments are necessary for vegetation management, as described in #5 above.				
6.	High	To reduce fuel hazard on private land and provide alternatives to open burning.	Offer alternative yard waste disposal options including periodic collection and community chipping services.	Village and/or SRD
Rationale: Fuel management requires the removal of fuels which can be costly and a barrier to action. Providing free or subsidized debris disposal is a best practice for encouraging private landowner participation in fuel management activities.				
7.	High	To make this Plan and its associated maps available to the community.	Upload a digital copy of the CWPP to the Village of Tahsis and SRD websites.	Village and SRD
Rationale: Recommended best practice for community education and awareness regarding wildfire protection planning and FireSmart program implementation.				
8.	High	To improve community awareness of the FireSmart program.	Encourage residents to complete the free, online, FireSmart 101 course.	Village and SRD
Rationale: Public education as part of FireSmart program implementation, refer to #5 above.				
10.	High	To improve community awareness of wildfire threat and risk, and of the actions that can be taken to mitigate risk.	Use SRD and Village social media accounts to regularly share wildfire preparedness, wildfire safety, and FireSmart practices information. Posts can redirect followers to the established resources of FireSmart BC, BC Wildfire Service, and Prepared BC.	Village and SRD

Rationale: Recommended best practice for community education and awareness regarding wildfire protection planning and FireSmart program implementation.				
11.	High	To reduce the risk of human-caused ignitions by improving community awareness of local bylaws, provincial wildfire regulations, and wildfire safety.	Develop a Village specific Fire Safety and Wildfire Preparedness factsheet (paper and digital resource). Send this as an annual mailout to all Village residences. This factsheet should include information on Village Bylaws, what constitutes a "fire hazard" on private property, *Wildfire Regulation* legal requirements, FireSmart principles, and emergency evacuation routes	Village and/or SRD
Rationale: Community education and awareness are necessary for wildfire protection planning and FireSmart program implementation. Concern about fire hazards on private property identified during CWPP engagement. Bylaw education is a recommended best practice.				
12.	High	To improve community awareness of wildfire threat and risk, and of the actions that can be taken to mitigate risk.	Organize an annual Community Fire Safety or Community Wildfire Preparedness day. Activities may include checking fire extinguishers and smoke alarms in homes, conducting FireSmart clearing of Priority 1 (up to 10m) zones around critical community infrastructure, FireSmart presentations, fire department demonstrations, etc.	Village
Rationale: Recommended best practice for community education and awareness regarding wildfire protection planning and FireSmart program implementation. Addresses education and emergency planning FireSmart disciplines.				
15.	High	To improve inter-agency and cross-jurisdiction communication about wildfire risk, emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.	Arrange an annual meeting, prior to fire season, to include BCWS – North Island Fire Zone, EMBC, and local fire department representatives and Village Administration to review incident command structure, communication strategies and emergency support services in the event of a WUI fire.	SRD
Rationale: Key contacts and individuals may change from year to year. Annual meetings recommended as a best practice to build relationships and improve communication in the event of a WUI event. Interagency cooperation and cross-training are FireSmart disciplines.				

18.	High	To reduce the wildfire ignition risk along power line rights-of-way.	BC Hydro to ensure their vegetation management strategy does not contribute to unacceptable fuel loading or diminish the ability of the right-of-way to act as a fuel break. Specifically address any hazards identified around the substation.	Village and/or SRD to share plan recommendations with BC Hydro
Rationale: Carried from 2011 CWPP. Inter-agency cooperation within the WUI is necessary to protect a community and its critical infrastructure. Recommended best practice for information sharing, awareness, collaboration and cooperation.				
20.	High	To improve water availability for suppression of interface fires in outlying areas.	Purchase a water tanker, portable water tank, and/or portable bladders for improved water availability for wildland fire suppression and fire suppression in outlying interface areas beyond the water hydrant system. Consider access conditions, water sources, and most likely application when assessing which apparatus to acquire.	Village
Rationale: Based on CWPP engagement with the Village/TFRD on water availability for fire suppression in areas outside of hydrant coverage yet within the fire protective services area.				
22.	High	To manage and reduce the vegetation/fuel hazard along the Head Bay FSR right-of-way.	Plan for vegetation management, brushing and clearing along Head Bay FSR right-of-way with fuel hazard reduction as an objective (cleared materials should be chipped and hauled away).	Village and/or SRD to share this recommendation with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Rationale: Inter-agency cooperation within the WUI is necessary to protect a community and its critical infrastructure. Recommended best practice for information sharing, awareness, collaboration and cooperation.				
25.	High	To maintain and upgrade TFRD personnel certification & training.	Where possible, provide members the ability and resources to complete additional training such as SPP-115, ICS100, FireSmart LFR, or other related courses.	Village
Rationale: Cross-training is one of 7 FireSmart disciplines. WUI and ICS training for fire department members recommended as a best practice.				

26.	High	To maintain and improve communication with BCWS.	TFRD and BCWS (with Gold River Volunteer Fire Department) should coordinate to conduct joint yearly mock exercises, where information and technical/practical knowledge are shared, such as: fire line construction, pump operations, sprinkler protection, portable water tank deployment, and wildland hose operations.	Village with SRD and BCWS support
Rationale: Based on CWPP engagement with the Village/TFRD opportunities for cross-training would be beneficial. Interagency cooperation and cross-training are FireSmart disciplines. The BCWS North Island Fire Zone has indicated cross-training is an area of interest for future development.				

MEDIUM PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

No.	Priority	Objective	Recommendation / Next Steps	Responsibility
1.	Med	To reduce the likelihood of human-caused ignitions by regulating the use of fireworks and other spark/flame generating devices.	Extend the authority of the Fire Chief, or designate, to prohibit the use of fireworks, lanterns and other devices during burning ban periods, either in a new bylaw or amendment of the Fire Protective Services and Regulation Bylaw.	Village
Rationale: Recommended best practice, observed in similar jurisdictions, to reduce the risk of human-caused ignitions.				
9.	Med	To improve community awareness of wildfire threat and risk, and of the actions that can be taken to mitigate risk.	Deliver regular communications to community members (flyers, notice boards, emails, social media, etc.). Recommend at least one fire related communication per month (bi-weekly during fire season if required).	Village
Rationale: Recommended best practice for community education and awareness regarding wildfire protection planning and FireSmart program implementation.				
14.	Med	To improve community FireSmart awareness.	Contact a Local FireSmart Representative to deliver Public education materials at annual community events (ie: Canada Day, Tahsis Days, Fishing Derby)	Village
Rationale: As described in #5 above. Public education is one of the FireSmart disciplines.				

16.	Med	To continually communicate with the public on emergency planning activities.	Communicate the Village's completed emergency planning initiatives (including Evacuation Plan and this CWPP). Engage in an emergency response drill or other mock exercise.	Village
Rationale: Recommended best practice for public education and emergency planning.				
17.	Med	To ensure implementation and continual engagement with CWPP.	Annual check-ins between the Village and SRD should occur to follow-up on recommendations and actions planned and completed. Annual check-ins should also develop an annual action plan of priority items to be worked on for the year.	SRD
Rationale: Recommended best practice to ensure follow-up on action items.				
19.	Med	To promote alternative means of yard management and yard waste disposal.	Provide residents within information on alternatives to burning yard waste. Link this information on the SRD website. Alternatives to burning include yard waste disposal centres, composting or xeriscaping.	Village and SRD
Rationale: Recommended practice, observed from other similar jurisdictions. Contributes to public education and development planning.				
21.	Med	To improve water availability for suppression of interface fires in outlying areas.	Explore permitting requirements and opportunities for installing dry hydrant systems on Tahsis or Leiner Rivers, or other streams, to improve water availability in outlying areas.	Village
Rationale: Based on CWPP engagement with the Village/TFRD on water availability for fire suppression in areas outside of hydrant coverage yet within the fire protective services area.				
23.	Med	To improve emergency evacuation communications to the community.	Encourage residents to sign up to the SRD's free Connect Rocket emergency notification service which sends out text messages to cellular subscribers and voice calls to landlines.	Village and SRD
Rationale: Existing program/infrastructure to continue to encourage residents to use.				
27.	Med	To improve equipment availability for structure protection in the event of WUI fires.	Engage the City of Campbell River in a mutual aid agreement regarding the deployment of their Structural Protection Unit.	Village

Rationale: Recommended as a best practice emergency planning activity, to identify priorities or conditions for deployment of equipment prior to the event of a WUI fire.				
29.	Med	To improve equipment availability for structure protection in the event of WUI fires.	Purchase sprinkler kits for public infrastructure and encourage residents to purchase sprinkler kits for their homes. Training on set up and operational use is just as important as having the equipment readily available. Ensure TFRD members receive SPP-115 training.	Village
Rationale: Based on current knowledge and inventory, the equipment availability for structural protection in the region could be improved. Sprinkler kits are a relatively low-cost option and highly effective option for the Village and residents.				

LOW PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

No.	Priority	Objective	Recommendation / Next Steps	Responsibility
13.	Low	To improve community FireSmart awareness.	Continue to deliver the FireSmart education program in the K-12 public school system. Use the BC FireSmart Education package. Contact the BCWS Coastal Fire Centre Fire Prevention Specialists to borrow education kits and for education support.	Village
Rationale: As described in #5 above. Public education is one of the FireSmart disciplines.				
24.	Low	To maintain sufficient TFRD personnel to respond to emergencies.	Continue to ensure all TFRD members are trained to response to WUI incidents (SPP-WFF 1).	Village
Rationale: As new members join TFRD, to keep SPP-WFF-1 training top of mind.				
26.	Low	To improve equipment availability for structure protection in the event of WUI fires.	Engage Gold River Volunteer Fire Department and Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nations, on potential for cost sharing and purchase of a Structural Protection Unit for shared use.	Village with SRD support
Rationale: Based on current knowledge and inventory, the equipment availability for structural protection in the region could be improved. The nearest SPU is with the Campbell River Fire Department, its deployment may be affected by time, access conditions, and availability.				

SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL RESOURCES AND FUNDING SUPPORTS

Resources	Land Jurisdiction	Types of Projects
Local government taxation	Municipal Private	• Various projects as directed by local governments including FireSmart assessments and activities, debris disposal, equipment purchases, training, etc.
Forest Enhancement Society BC (FESBC)	Provincial Crown	• Fuel management treatment prescriptions and implementation
UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program (CRI)	Municipal First Nations Private	• FireSmart hazard assessments, demonstration projects, off-site debris disposal (i.e.: chip trucks) • Community Education • Development planning • Emergency planning and cross training
UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF)	n/a	• Emergency support services training • Fire department training or equipment • Emergency evacuation planning • Emergency operations training
First Nations Emergency Support Services – Indigenous Services Canada (FNESS/ISC)	First Nations Reserve lands	• Fuel management prescriptions and treatments On-Reserve
BC Wildfire Service	Provincial Crown	• Fuel management treatments (in coordination with local fire zone officer) • Public education and outreach

Tahsis CWPP
Area of Interest Map

suavair

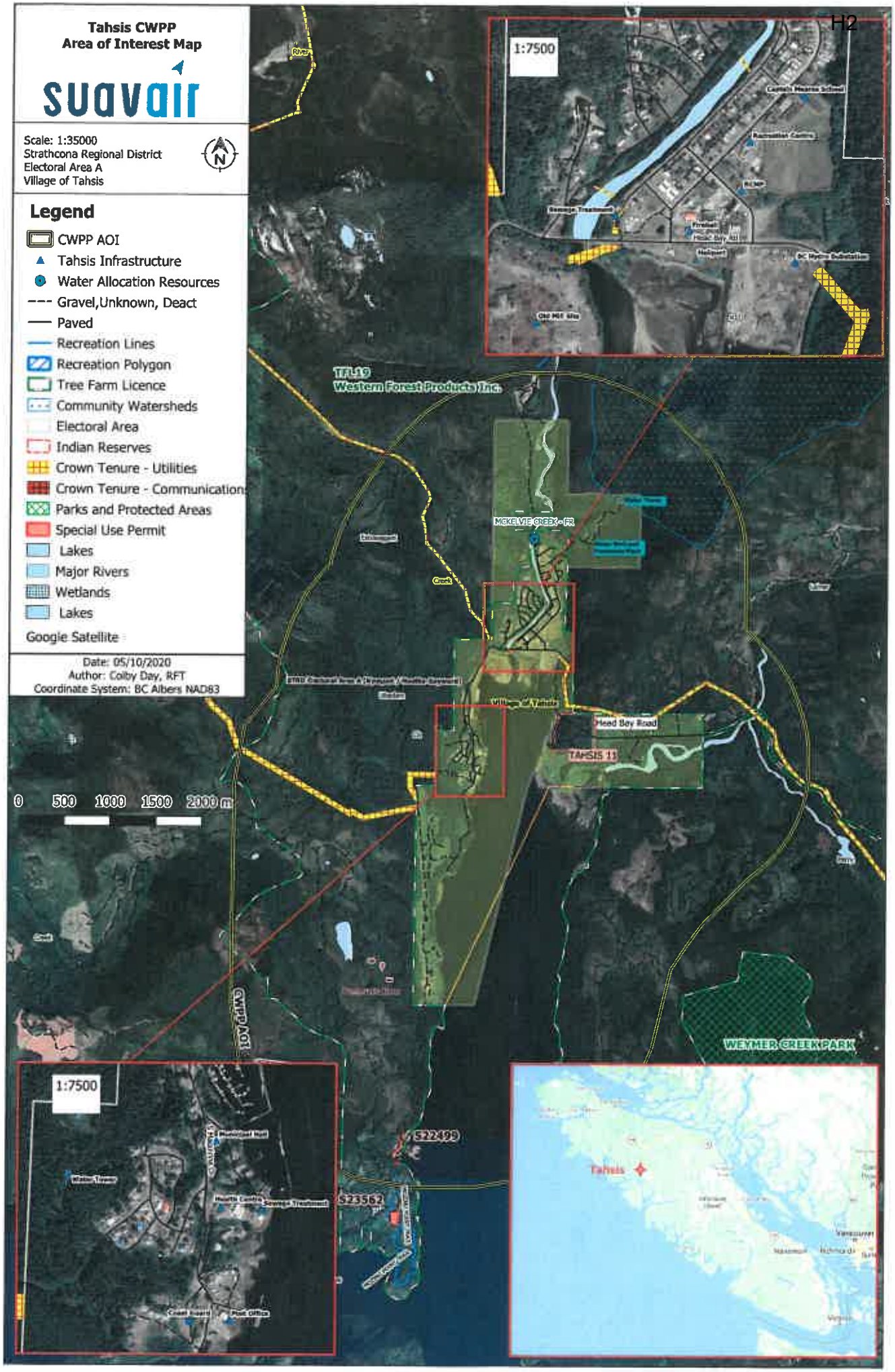
Scale: 1:35000
Strathcona Regional District
Electoral Area A
Village of Tahsis

Legend

- CWPP AOI
- Tahsis Infrastructure
- Water Allocation Resources
- Gravel,Unknown, Deact
- Paved
- Recreation Lines
- Recreation Polygon
- Tree Farm Licence
- Community Watersheds
- Electoral Area
- Indian Reserves
- Crown Tenure - Utilities
- Crown Tenure - Communication
- Parks and Protected Areas
- Special Use Permit
- Lakes
- Major Rivers
- Wetlands
- Lakes

Google Satellite

Date: 05/10/2020
Author: Colby Day, RFT
Coordinate System: BC Albers NAD83



Tahsis CWPP
Updated Fire Risk Map

suavair

Scale: 1:30000
Strathcona Regional District
Village of Tahsis
Electoral Area A

Tahsis Updated Fire Risk Summary	
Updated Fire Risk	**Area (ha)**
No Risk	0
Low Risk	112
Moderate Risk	3,280
High Risk	754
Extreme Risk	1
Total:	**4,147**

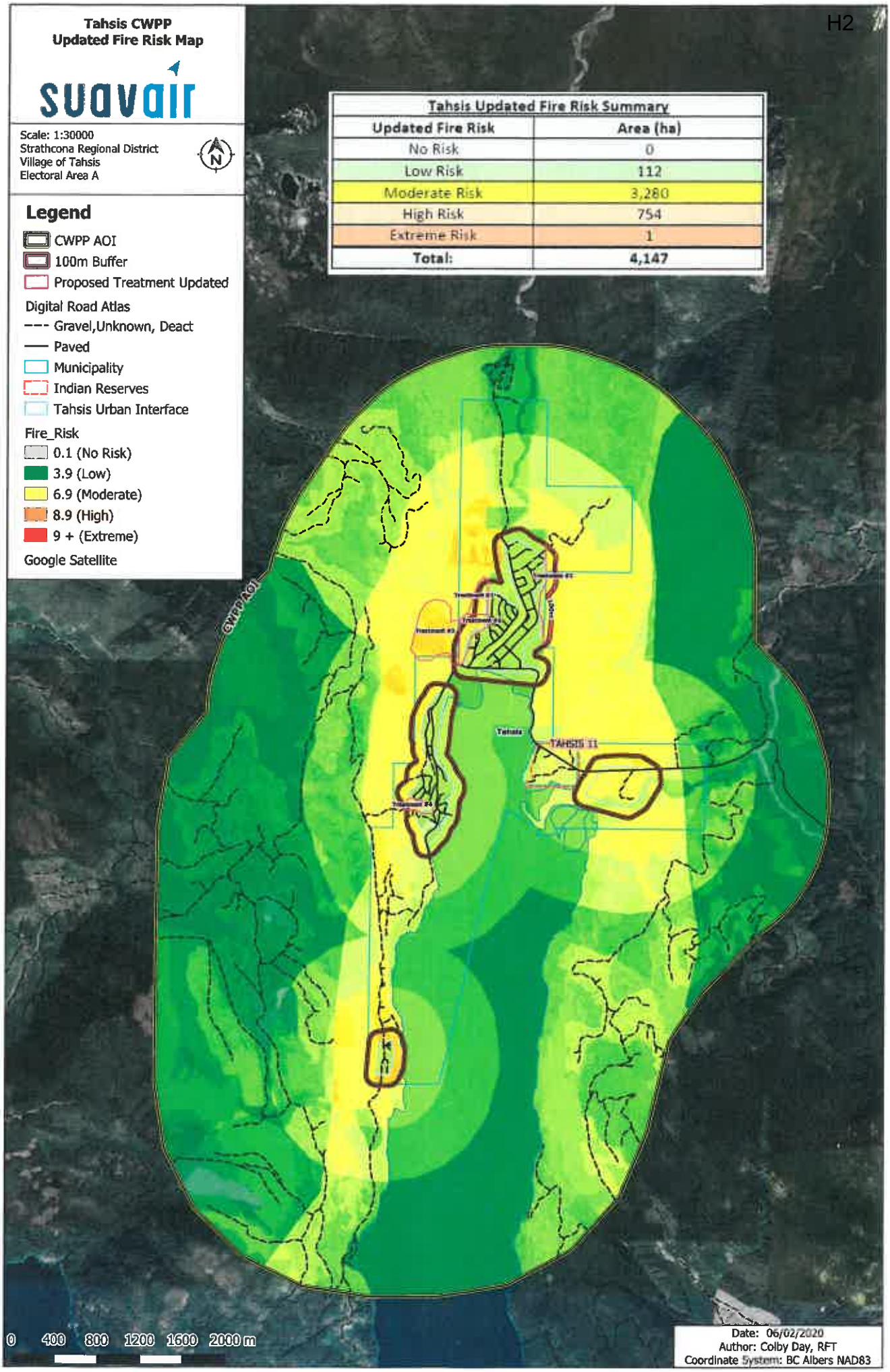
Legend

- CWPP AOI
- 100m Buffer
- Proposed Treatment Updated

Digital Road Atlas
- Gravel,Unknown, Deact
- Paved
- Municipality
- Indian Reserves
- Tahsis Urban Interface

Fire_Risk
- 0.1 (No Risk)
- 3.9 (Low)
- 6.9 (Moderate)
- 8.9 (High)
- 9 + (Extreme)

Google Satellite

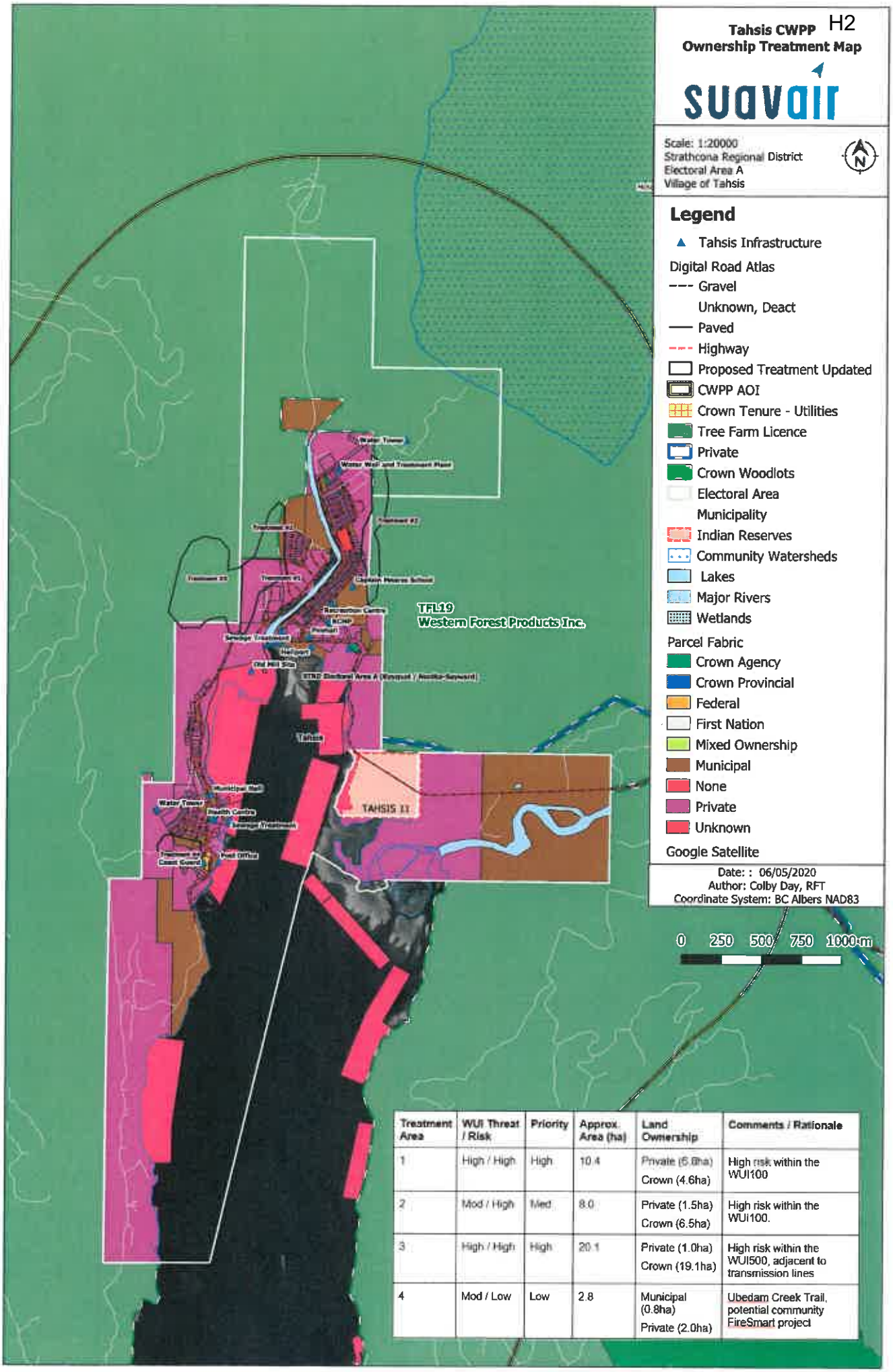


Date: 06/02/2020
Author: Colby Day, RFT
Coordinate System: BC Albers NAD83

Tahsis CWPP
Ownership Treatment Map

suavair

Scale: 1:20000
Strathcona Regional District
Electoral Area A
Village of Tahsis



Legend

- Tahsis Infrastructure

Digital Road Atlas
- Gravel
- Unknown, Deact
- Paved
- Highway
- Proposed Treatment Updated
- CWPP AOI
- Crown Tenure - Utilities
- Tree Farm Licence
- Private
- Crown Woodlots
- Electoral Area
- Municipality
- Indian Reserves
- Community Watersheds
- Lakes
- Major Rivers
- Wetlands

Parcel Fabric
- Crown Agency
- Crown Provincial
- Federal
- First Nation
- Mixed Ownership
- Municipal
- None
- Private
- Unknown

Google Satellite

Date: : 06/05/2020
Author: Colby Day, RFT
Coordinate System: BC Albers NAD83

0 250 500 750 1000 m

Treatment Area	WUI Threat / Risk	Priority	Approx. Area (ha)	Land Ownership	Comments / Rationale
1	High / High	High	10.4	Private (5.8ha) Crown (4.6ha)	High risk within the WUI100
2	Mod / High	Med	8.0	Private (1.5ha) Crown (6.5ha)	High risk within the WUI100.
3	High / High	High	20.1	Private (1.0ha) Crown (19.1ha)	High risk within the WUI500, adjacent to transmission lines
4	Mod / Low	Low	2.8	Municipal (0.8ha) Private (2.0ha)	Ubedam Creek Trail, potential community FireSmart project

Village of Kaslo
Incorporated 1893

July 23, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Dear Mayor and Council,

RE: A Strategy for Rural Economic Development Through Health Care

The Council of the Village of Kaslo is sponsoring the following resolution, which was identified by the Association of Kootenay-Boundary Local Governments as a top shared priority, to the UBCM Convention this September.

A Strategy for Rural Economic Development Through Health Care

Whereas local health care at all stages of life impacts the economic development of communities: e.g. family members lose work time, people and their businesses move out of the community or choose not to locate there;

And whereas "ageing in place" keeps seniors close to home, where their partner, family or friends are better able to provide loving support and care, which reduces the load on health care providers and improves quality of life for all;

And whereas concentrating health services in regional centres transfers a significant economic burden to individuals in the form of transportation costs, increased energy consumption and housing in-affordability;

And whereas providing health care jobs in small communities stimulates the local economy with numerous spin-off benefits, creating opportunities to attract new people, their families, and businesses;

And whereas our elderly, and all patients, deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, not as "users";

Now therefore be it resolved that we call upon the Government of British Columbia to build a strategy to expand rural community health care services with consideration for maximizing local

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economic impacts, creating professional job opportunities, access to affordable housing, improving social wellbeing and reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions.'

(Resolution 23/2020 Passed January 28, 2020)

We appreciate your consideration to support our resolution, which has become even more timely and relevant considering the impacts Covid-19 on the health and vitality of small, rural and remote communities.

Yours sincerely,

Mayor Suzan Hewat

Cc: BC Municipalities and Local Governments
The Honourable Adrian Dix, British Columbia Minister of Health

[Date]

Ref: 256384

Honourable John Horgan
Premier
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

Honourable Carole James
Minister of Finance
PO Box 1234 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V1A 2BC

Dear Premier and Minister James:

During the month of July, I held 10 consultation sessions about COVID-19 and economic recovery with municipal mayors and regional district chairs or their representatives across the province. The sessions provided an opportunity for local governments to contribute directly to British Columbia's recovery conversation. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing invited representatives from 189 local governments including 21 regional districts and 14 resort communities to the conversations. The discussion and ideas that were generated helped inform this letter and I am pleased to share them with you.

Overwhelmingly, local government representatives were most concerned about connectivity, infrastructure, transit and food security. The ministry also heard that people want more than economic recovery, they want to make things better for everyone and COVID-19 provides the opportunity to do that as we restart the economy towards recovery.

The consultation sessions were guided by the principles, values and measures outlined in the government's discussion paper, Building B.C.'s Recovery, Together. They focused on the importance of getting people back to work quickly, the value of equity, leaving no one behind, restoring the Province of British Columbia's revenue base, supporting climate commitments, and having an immediate and demonstrable impact on economic recovery.

…/2

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Office of the Minister

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9056 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2
Phone: 250 387-2283
Fax: 250 387-4312

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Room 310
Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

http://www.gov.bc.ca/mah

Local governments put forward a variety of practical, innovative and valuable ideas in the consultation sessions. The following priority themes (common topics or subject areas for recovery investment) were identified:

- **Connectivity/Broadband**
- **Investment in Infrastructure**
- **Transit/Transportation**
- **Agriculture/Food Security**
- **Child Care**
- **Low Wage Workers/Employment**
- **Health Care, Mental Health and Social Services**
- **Tourism/Recreation**
- **Education/Training**
- **Clean Energy and Technology**
- **Affordable Housing**
- **Industry/Business Development**
- **Reconciliation**

These priority themes (described further in **Appendix 1**) cut across all local governments, independent of size and location. They also reflect a strong sense of "building back better" – an idea that has been widely expressed by many who say that with the hard economic impact of COVID-19 comes an opportunity to diversify, innovate, collaborate and partner to make things better for people and communities as we work towards economic recovery.

The priority themes and ideas expressed by local government leaders were primarily focused on what could be done to help various sectors in their communities rather than on the needs of the local governments themselves. At the same time, the importance of local governments having enough supports and capacity to restart operations was also noted.

A number of local governments have laid off workers, experienced real revenue losses (e.g. transit, user fees) and faced significant new costs (e.g. adapting local government facilities and services to a COVID-19 environment). Some local governments also noted the opportunity to rethink local government financing to ensure that their financial tools are sufficiently robust and sustainable to meet the increased and changing demands on local governments and their services.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the dedication, hard work and leadership local governments are providing to their communities, each with unique needs, during a challenging and ever-evolving time. As B.C. has moved into restart and now recovery planning, local governments have not only been working hard to get themselves back to full operation in a safe way, they have also been supporting the businesses, non-profits and other interests in their communities. This includes patio expansions for restaurants, shop local campaigns, virtual community events, business information tools, local economic recovery task forces and direct contributions in dedicated time and resources.

…/3

Most importantly, local governments have been doing this work in collaboration with other local governments across their regions, First Nation neighbours, all sectors in their communities and the Province. The commitment to come together in response to the unprecedented COVID-19 emergency persisted as we worked together to get restarted and now continues in rebuilding together as local governments work with the Province to plan for recovery.

I appreciate the time that everyone took out of their busy lives to participate in the consultation sessions and the recommendations they provided from their unique positions on the front lines of the pandemic.

It gives me great pleasure to provide this input from my calls with local government leaders to the economic recovery engagement process. I expect that some local governments will also be submitting ideas into that process directly. The Union of BC Municipalities has also prepared a letter for submission and I am very pleased to include it here.

Sincerely,

Selina Robinson
Minister

pc: Her Worship Mayor Maja Tait, President, Union of BC Municipalities
Local Governments in British Columbia

Appendix 1 – Description of Priority Themes

Connectivity/Broadband

Digital connectivity is the number one opportunity that emerged in almost every engagement session, especially for rural and remote communities. To fully participate in the new economy, communities need digital access through broadband, cellular mobility, and capacity development to effectively use these technologies. Reliable and affordable high-speed internet is critical to removing barriers to growth and community well-being to enable working from home, remote schooling, moving traditional businesses to an online format and developing new types of businesses. Improving connectivity generates opportunities for everyone to learn new skills and access essential services and it will make it easier for communities to attract new residents and business investment that creates jobs for the long-term.

Investment in Infrastructure

Local governments recognize that continued investment in critical infrastructure projects that facilitate the delivery of public services, such as drinking water, sewage collection and treatment, cultural and recreational facilities, parks and transportation are good investments for everyone and creates primary and secondary jobs in their communities. Investment in infrastructure addresses environmental, economic and social dimensions, and is seen as having general economic benefits for all industry sectors. Several communities have also noted that they have “shovel-ready” projects.

Transit/Transportation

Effective transit and transportation networks are vital for economic recovery as they help bring people back to work and allow businesses to distribute their products and get the supplies they need. Local leaders identified a need for transit funding to make up for revenue losses and to enable the service frequency and safety that will get riders “back on board”. Other transportation infrastructure needs identified include expansion of highways, increased ferry services and investment in railway and municipal airports.

Agriculture/Food Security

During the pandemic, it became even more apparent that food security is an essential need. The ability for small producers to increase their capacity and structural support is needed to ensure food is marketed, produced, processed, packaged, distributed and sold locally. Local leaders acknowledged that our reliance on foreign agricultural workers impacts food security and identified an opportunity to create a skilled domestic agricultural workforce in order to reduce reliance on workers from outside B.C.

Child Care

The provision of childcare is essential for enabling workers to return to work and speed up economic recovery. Many communities identified a lack of adequate childcare in their communities. Local leaders recognize that investments in safe, reliable and affordable childcare is vital to economic recovery.

Low Wage Workers/Employment

The disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on low wage workers especially in certain sectors (e.g. tourism, retail and food services, agriculture and non-profits), and particularly women and youth, highlights the need for support for these workers. Local leaders talked about supplementing wages as a way to stimulate recovery that would also make it easier to recruit for often hard-to-fill jobs. Some local governments noted that their communities would benefit if they could hire students and others for temporary positions in the short term, until the economy picked up.

Health Care, Mental Health and Social Services

The pandemic and emergency measures have strongly impacted vulnerable populations. Isolation from services and support networks has had a profound impact on the homeless population, families living in poverty, and individuals struggling with pre-existing mental health and substance use issues. Local governments and non-profit organizations have been at the forefront of mitigating these impacts during the pandemic. Support from the Province and collaboration with local governments and non-profit organizations is essential in post-pandemic planning as this provides an opportunity to not just "pick up where we left off" but re-shape and strengthen B.C.'s health care, mental health and social services.

Tourism/Recreation

Some local governments with great natural assets, noted the challenge of diversifying their tourism economies to be more resilient over the long term. Investments to support local governments in enhancing natural assets through the development of trails, parks and facilities such as campsites and washrooms will help create new jobs, especially for youth, expand tourism and improve outcomes for people and communities.

Education/Training

A number of local governments identified the need for training programs to attract young people that can participate in the economy and some others noted that resource-based workers were also going through a separate economic downturn (i.e. mill closures) and that sector could also benefit from retraining and education programs.

Clean Energy and Technology

Communities have asked for consistent investment to help them transition to a low carbon future and support green technology aligned with CleanBC goals. These investments will ensure that communities and local businesses are ready to seize economic opportunities coming from clean energy and technology and create more and higher-value jobs. Additionally, local governments noted that investments in climate change adaptation and mitigation activities and studies would have long-term benefits.

Affordable Housing

There is still a shortage of affordable housing in the province. Investment in affordable housing will reduce chronic homelessness and support vulnerable populations by providing those most in need with a safe place to call home. Affordable and workforce housing will allow people to return to work quickly and give them the security they need to fully participate in the economy. Building affordable housing not only provides much needed housing but employs hundreds of skilled workers and can provide new workers with opportunities to learn new skills.

Industry/Business Development

Innovation and investment in traditional resource industries such as forestry is a critical component of economic recovery as these industries support and create jobs in many of B.C.'s rural communities. Communities and businesses need support to capitalize on innovative and emerging opportunities. Local governments recognize the need to assist businesses in developing an online presence and the need to work in collaboration with their local business community on an ongoing basis to promote economic recovery.

Reconciliation

The pandemic has highlighted the need to work together across communities and regions. Investing in ways to foster partnerships with Indigenous neighbours that not only support reconciliation but also builds community economic resilience is a real opportunity before us. There is strong willingness among local governments to work in collaboration with neighbouring Indigenous communities (as many have done in COVID-19 response); it was noted that some smaller and rural/remote local governments as well as First Nations lack resources and capacity for the level of engagement needed to achieve real economic progress.

UBCM Union of BC Municipalities

July 31, 2020

The Honourable John Horgan
Premier of British Columbia
PO BOX 9041, STN PROV GOV
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

The Honourable Carole James
Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier
Room 153, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Premier Horgan and Minister James:

Re: UBCM Response to *Building BC's Recovery, Together*

On behalf of BC local governments, please find attached the Union of BC Municipalities submission to the Province's *Building BC's Recovery, Together* consultation document.

Our submission reflects the results of member outreach undertaken over the March – May period, as well as more recent local government engagement on specific policy files such as public transit.

As well, I am pleased to advise that at our July 17th meeting, the Executive formally constituted a Special Committee on Economic Recovery, comprising members of the Presidents Committee. We would welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with you to share the perspectives of local government as we continue to move forward with the Restart Plan.

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership as we continue to navigate our province through this challenging and unprecedented time.

Yours truly,

Mayor Maja Tait
UBCM President

Cc: Hon. Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Attachment: UBCM Submission to the Province's Building BC's Recovery, Together

Union of BC Municipalities Submission to the Province's *Building BC's Recovery, Together* Consultation Paper

1. Introduction

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) represents 100% of the local governments in British Columbia (BC), as well as eight First Nations members, and has advocated for policy and programs that support its membership's needs since 1905.

BC local governments are recognized as orders of government in their respective jurisdictions under the Community Charter and Local Government Act. As the order of government closest to its citizens, local government leaders know the significant impact that this pandemic has had on BC residents; small and large businesses; non-profit groups and other community-based organizations.

As the recognized, collective voice of BC local government, UBCM is pleased to provide this submission to the Province's ***Building BC's Recovery, Together*** consultation process.

2. *Building BC's Recovery, Together* Consultation Process

The Province's ***Building BC's Recovery, Together*** consultation process offers British Columbians an opportunity to provide their feedback either through the consultation paper, on line survey or one of the virtual town halls. Due to the personal focus of the Province's consultation, UBCM was unsure if this was the appropriate avenue for us to make our views known. However, at our July board meeting Executive members directed that we prepare a submission to ensure that the local government voice was heard as part of the Province's recovery process. As a result, our submission does not respond directly to the questions posed within the Province's consultation paper *(page 12)* but instead provides an overview of the feedback we have heard from our members after undertaking our own member engagement.

So while our submission may not fit within the Province's template for response, we note that many of the elements covered within our submission do align with the provincial priorities identified on page 11 of the consultation paper as follows:

- *Strengthening our Health Care System*
- *Creating and Restoring good-paying and sustainable jobs*
- *Becoming more Self-Sufficient*
- *Improving Education, training and apprenticeship opportunities*
- *Taking Advantage of BC's Abundant Clean Energy*
- *Moving forward on Meaningful Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples*
- *Building the Critical Infrastructure and services that all communities need to thrive*
- *Ensuring That BC is on a Strong Fiscal Footing*

And while our submission may not directly reference all of the identified provincial priorities, UBCM does have a repository of resolutions and policy positions that would indicate broad member support for all of the priorities that have been identified.

In the Province's consultation paper, it states: "*As conversations across the province move from restart to recovery, it is clear recovery means more than returning to the past. This is an opportunity for businesses, organizations and non-profit agencies to help us generate solutions to address the challenges they face."*

UBCM concurs with this statement. By identifying the challenges facing local governments, as well as possible solutions, we hope our submission helps to generate new and creative opportunities for BC local government. We view our submission as a first step to help inform the Province's recovery process and look forward to further engagement in the coming months.

3. UBCM Perspectives on Recovery

Local Government and Financial Recovery

In late March 2020, UBCM reached out to a wide of range of local governments to gather information on the immediate and projected long-term financial pressures facing local governments, their residents, and local businesses as a result of the pandemic. Many local governments identified a loss of variable revenue, the shelving of capital projects, a re-evaluation of property taxes, new costs of supporting vulnerable populations, and concerns over reserve restrictions and looming financial deadlines. In response to these concerns, UBCM raised potential relief measures with the Province that focused on property taxes, legislated financial timelines, restrictions on reserves, capital project timelines, grants, and infrastructure stimulus funding.

In early April, the Province introduced a financial relief framework that initiated temporary changes to B.C.'s property tax framework to provide financial support for businesses and local governments. Among the changes introduced, local governments were given the ability to borrow, interest-free, from their capital reserve funds and municipalities will be able to access school tax revenue collected for the Province until the end of the year. UBCM committed to monitoring the impact of the measures on local government finances, and working with the Province to ensure that local governments had the necessary resources to sustain their communities.

After a second round of outreach, many of our members acknowledged the provincial measures were a modest first step in attempting to address the pandemic-related financial challenges for communities. The measures provided local governments with some flexibility, enhanced cash flow, and short-term certainty that assisted them in financial decision-making. These provincial measures were viewed as a tool for governments to use in the interim, as well as support for local businesses. Even with these provincial measures, many local governments had to re-evaluate their budgets and make extremely difficult decisions and adjustments on capital spending, service levels, staffing, and proposed property tax increases, to ensure continued operation and delivery of critical services. Many local governments also engaged in layoffs of casual, temporary and facility related staff in early April, with the continued uncertainty of the pandemic impacting potential future layoffs.

While there was a general feeling that local governments might be able to financially weather the next several months, our members expressed particular concern about their finances in coming year(s). The risk of delinquencies amongst residential and commercial property taxpayers remains high as the economic fallout from the pandemic mounts. Local governments are concerned that the continued loss of non-taxation revenue, coupled with the uncertainty of tax delinquencies, will hinder the ability of local governments to advance capital projects, maintain existing essential services, and pay back reserves without significant property tax increases in the years ahead.

Upon receiving this feedback, UBCM called for additional provincial support measures in May to address local government funding shortfalls, mitigate the risk of tax delinquencies, and facilitate a revival of local economies. In particular, UBCM called for financial support for transit to aid local economic recoveries; an infrastructure stimulus framework to generate economic returns for communities; and an expansion of the property tax deferral program to all residents to reduce the risk of tax delinquencies. A copy of our May 8th letter to Minister Robinson is attached to this submission.

In addition, UBCM supported the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' request for a minimum of $10 billion in emergency operating funding, with an additional $2.4 billion for communities with transit systems, to be provided through a direct federal allocation to local governments.

Recently the federal government announced a $19 billion funding program to support provinces with their recovery efforts, with specific funding to be targeted to local governments, specifically transit services. On July 22nd the Province announced it would target up to $1 billion of additional spending to address COVID-19 impacts and restart plans of local governments and public transit services, conditional on matching federal contributions under a 50/50 cost-sharing criteria. UBCM welcomes this announcement and looks forward to working with the Province to identify how best to support local governments with their recovery efforts.

Local Government and Public Transit

As noted above, in the early days of the pandemic, UBCM reached out to local governments to identify their financial challenges. And while we heard predictably about property taxes, and the loss of other revenue sources (i.e. casinos, parking and recreation fees) we also heard very specific concerns around transit, and the significant impact on local government budgets.

UBCM then followed up with officials from BC Transit, TransLink and the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation to get a better understanding of the impacts on transit communities across BC. The financial impact is, and continues to be devastating.[1] In May, the UBCM Executive directed that we offer our support to BC Transit and TransLink communities to address the problem in a collective way. On June 16th, UBCM hosted a Public Transit Forum for all BC Transit and TransLink communities. What we found most interesting was, despite facing major financial challenges, mayors from transit communities commented on how important it was to remain on track; how they wanted to be part of the conversation to make transit more nimble and better able to adapt to these crisis situations.

During the Forum a document outlining draft principles and recommendations was shared with participants. The document specifically asked the Province to work with all transit / community partners on the development of a transit recovery strategy to address the financial impacts; and a rebuilding strategy that would

[1] For example: Kelowna - $3M losses predicted over next 12 months; Nanaimo RD - $2.5 - $3 million in 2020; Nelson - $100,000 in revenue losses to date; Prince George - $100,000-$200,000 in revenue losses to date.

focus on how to sustain, grow and identify alternative funding models to support public transit.

UBCM recognizes that the Mayors' Council is working with Minister Robinson to address TransLink community concerns, however there is no comparable collective for BC Transit communities. As a result, UBCM wrote to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure on behalf of BC Transit communities offering to assist. We indicated our interest in working with the Province to coordinate a consultation process with affected communities to identify how best to support them to deliver transit at this critical time, and into the future. A copy of our June 29th letter to Minister Trevena is attached.

As noted earlier, UBCM was pleased to learn of the July 22nd announcement by the Minister of Finance to earmark up to $1 billion to fund the Province's portion of municipal and transit services assistance, depending on the outcome of further federal cost-sharing discussions. We look forward to learning more about how this funding will be allocated to support transit communities recover from fare losses and rebuild the system to be more resilient. UBCM remains committed to working with the Province to identify other funding models to ensure transit can remain sustainable not only at this critical time, but through the recovery process into the future.

Local Government and Infrastructure

As the Province turns its attention to the recovery phase of the pandemic, Infrastructure stimulus has historically generated significant economic returns for local communities, through increased employment, the flow through of dollars to local businesses, and the creation of much needed community assets.

When UBCM reached out to its members this past spring about recovery, members expressed broad support for securing an infrastructure stimulus framework that:
• maximizes flexibility on project category, eligible costs, procurement and timelines;
• provides 100% funding for any recovery program and/or current infrastructure program; and
• ensures administrative ease and efficiency in recognition of local staff capacity.

In addition, members noted that any infrastructure stimulus framework should support "shovel worthy" projects over shovel ready projects, expedite BC announcements in the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), and remove existing federal stacking rules. UBCM believes that the current Gas Tax funding model is the appropriate model for any infrastructure stimulus framework,

as it maximizes local choice and flexibility to ensure funds are invested in the areas with the greatest need and economic return.

An ancillary issue that has surfaced repeatedly in our discussion of infrastructure stimulus relates to procurement. While we understand existing trade agreements prescribe specific procurement obligations, our members have expressed a desire to procure locally, where possible, as means to support local economic recovery. Local governments have expressed frustration with the BC Bid process, as it does not permit local governments to hire/buy local due to specified procurement thresholds. Adjustments to procurement thresholds or processes may provide an opportunity for economic stimulus, at a time when local economic development is critical to the overall provincial recovery effort.

Local Government and Broadband Connectivity

Improved and expanded broadband internet connectivity has been, and continues to be a key priority for UBCM. Its importance has been underscored in 2020 by the move to work and conduct business remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the early days of the pandemic local governments with limited connectivity struggled to conduct normal council/board business in a virtual format. While most local governments found ways to adapt, there are still many regions of our province that continue to struggle daily due to the lack of, or inadequate connectivity. The pandemic has revealed how vulnerable these communities are when disasters happen, and highlight how important it is to remedy the current situation.

We applaud the Province for expanding the Connecting British Columbia program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to help internet service providers (ISPs) undertake immediate network equipment upgrades to rapidly improve capacity and internet speeds in underserved areas, but unfortunately it is still not enough. None of the current funding programs address the issue of existing, dormant backbone and last-mile infrastructure that either lacks an ISP to make use of it, or is owned by an existing Internet service provider that declines to activate and use it. Consequently, action needs to be taken to require ISPs or the owners of network infrastructure to activate and make use of existing, dormant network infrastructure to help achieve universal broadband Internet access.

Addressing the broadband connectivity gap is critical to the recovery effort. Communities need reliable adequate broadband connectivity to conduct the day to day business of local government; attract and retain business; support distance education / learning opportunities; access online health support/services; and ensure that their citizens are able to engage fully in a virtual environment.

Local Government and Societal Impacts of COVID-19

While much of our submission has focused on economic recovery, our Executive and broader membership have identified the significant social impacts associated with the pandemic. As noted in the Province's consultation paper, hundreds of thousands of individuals have lost their jobs with those most impacted coming from the service sectors, notably retail, restaurants, hotels and tourism.

An example of this impact is very clearly evident on a community such as Whistler, a tourist destination, dominated by service sector employment. The following account was shared by Councillor Jen Ford, UBCM Third Vice-President:

> *The Whistler Food Bank saw an immediate and alarming uptick in need for food security. Prior to Covid, the food bank handed out bags to roughly 45 households each week (one day per week it was open). In the first week, we saw 100, in the next week we were up to 200, and the peak was just before the CERB cheques started, there was 600 bags in a week. We moved to the conference centre with 5 day per week service. The service has remained strong with an average of 200 bags per week, and will remain at the conference centre through September. This move made sense to allow for adequate spacing and processing of the food donations. There are also outreach services available on site for support navigating CERB applications, financial support, and multicultural outreach. Prior to Covid, the majority of people would talk about insecure and unstable housing as the biggest issue. That has changed substantially, and it is now job insecurity and mental health.*
>
> *As far as the tourism impact, Whistler generates 25% of the provincial tourism export revenue. The closure of hotels and reduced capacity of restaurants will be felt for many, many months ahead. Many of the local restaurants have reopened, and all the hotels have reopened, but we're seeing an entirely different kind of guest who is spending less and staying for shorter stays, unlike our typical visitor. Every business in town is being challenged by far fewer workers and few applicants, so service levels are difficult.*

The societal impacts of the pandemic cannot be underestimated. Additional and ongoing support is needed to assist vulnerable populations that have been significantly affected. Whether its unemployment, homelessness, substance abuse/addictions, mental health or other situations requiring social support services, communities are on the front line working with the Province, local organizations and volunteers to do what they can to help their residents.

4. UBCM Role in the Provincial Recovery Effort

In order to effectively respond to, and recover from, the current pandemic, it is imperative that federal, provincial, local and aboriginal governments work collaboratively to address the devastating health, safety, social and economic impacts that have impacted every resident, in every region of our province and country.

At the July 2020 UBCM Executive meeting, board members directed that a Special Committee on Economic Recovery be established to serve as a contact point for provincial and federal governments to support recovery efforts. The newly established Special Committee is comprised of the following Executive members:

- Mayor Maja Tait, President
- Councillor Brian Frenkel, 1st VP
- Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, 2nd VP
- Councillor Jen Ford, 3rd VP
- Councillor Arjun Singh, Past President
- Councillor Craig Hodge, GVRD/Metro Rep.

Members of the Special Committee would welcome the opportunity to meet with the Province to discuss our submission or any other matters as they pertain to local governments and pandemic recovery.

5. Concluding Remarks

On behalf of local governments across BC, UBCM thanks the Province for undertaking the ***Building BC's Recovery, Together*** consultation process. We appreciate the opportunity to share what we have heard from our members since the state of emergency was declared in March 2020.

While this submission is not exhaustive of the issues and challenges facing our members, we consider it to be an accurate portrayal of the key concerns facing BC local government. As the collective voice of local government, UBCM stands ready to work with the Province and offer our assistance as BC moves forward through the recovery phase.

Attachments:

- *May 8, 2020 letter to Minister Robinson*
- *June 29, 2020 letter to Minister Trevena*

Attachment #1

UBCM Union of BC Municipalities

May 8, 2020

The Honorable Selina Robinson
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
PO Box 9056 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
Via Email: MAH.minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Robinson,

On behalf of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), I wish to thank you for listening to the range of financial pressures facing local governments that were raised in our discussions with you and your staff in April. The Province's willingness to move quickly and develop measures seeking to address those financial challenges was welcomed by UBCM and its members.

The measures announced on April 16th were an important first step in supporting our members and their local economies, as they provided additional relief to small business and gave some flexibility to help local governments maintain operations. At the time of their announcement, UBCM committed to monitoring the impact of the measures on local government finances, and working with the Province to ensure that local governments had the necessary resources to sustain their communities.

We have since reached out to our membership to gauge the impact of the provincial financial relief framework, and to identify a stimulus approach that would assist a post-pandemic recovery in our communities. Outlined below you will find a summary of our outreach findings, coupled with a request for additional measures that would address local government funding shortfalls, mitigate the risk of tax delinquencies, and facilitate a revival of local economies.

Provincial Financial Relief Measures

Many of our members acknowledge the April 16th measures as a modest first step in attempting to address the pandemic-related financial challenges of communities. The measures provided local governments with some flexibility, enhanced cash flow, and short-term certainty that assisted local governments in their financial decision making. They were viewed as a tool for governments to use in the interim, as well as financial support for local businesses. It should be

noted that many local governments had to re-evaluate their budgets and make extremely difficult decisions and adjustments on capital spending, service levels, staffing, and proposed property tax increases, to ensure continued operation and delivery of critical services. Many local governments also engaged in layoffs of casual, temporary and facility related staff in early April, with the continued uncertainty of the pandemic impacting potential future layoffs.

While there is a general feeling that local governments might be able to financially weather the next several months, our members are particularly concerned about their finances for the following year(s). The risk of delinquencies amongst residential and commercial property taxpayers remains high as the economic fallout from the pandemic mounts. Local governments are concerned that the continued loss of non-taxation revenue, coupled with the uncertainty of tax delinquencies, will hinder the ability of local governments to advance capital projects, maintain existing essential services, and pay back reserves without significant property tax increases in the years ahead.

Expanded Property Tax Deferral Program

Given the risk of property tax delinquencies, local governments are seeking an expansion of the existing Property Tax Deferral Program to cover all residential tax payers at a minimum. While the program's eligibility covers a significant number of residents, there remains a sizeable number of ineligible residents that require support. An expanded program would mitigate the risk of delinquencies, and provide a greater degree of certainty for budgeting and long-term financial planning.

Transit Financial Support

The need for financial support for transit has also emerged as an issue amongst transit dependent communities throughout the province. Not only has the loss of fare revenue significantly impacted many local government budgets, but the decreased ridership arising from physical distancing requirements threatens the financial sustainability of existing services levels. Transit is a service critical to supporting local economic recoveries, and UBCM's members are looking for provincial funding assistance to support the sustainability of transit in their communities.

Economic Recovery Stimulus Funding

UBCM's members are seeking economic recovery stimulus funding once the Province fully turns its attention to the recovery phase of the pandemic. Infrastructure stimulus has historically generated significant economic returns for local communities, through increased employment, the flow through of dollars to local businesses, and the creation of much needed community assets.

To that effect, UBCM's members are broadly supportive of securing an infrastructure stimulus framework which maximizes flexibility on project category, eligible costs, procurement and timelines; provides 100% funding for any recovery program and/or current infrastructure program; and which ensures administrative ease and efficiency in recognition of local staff capacity. In addition, any infrastructure stimulus framework should support shovel worthy projects over shovel ready projects, expedite BC announcements in the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), and remove existing federal stacking rules. UBCM believes that the current Gas Tax funding model is the appropriate model for any infrastructure stimulus framework, as it maximizes local choice and flexibility to ensure funds are invested in the areas with the greatest need and economic return.

I wish to thank you for your leadership and collaboration on combating the impact of the pandemic in BC's communities. I look forward to working with the Province on these proposed measures to ensure that local governments have the resources necessary to sustain their operations and services while stimulating their local economies.

Sincerely,

Mayor Maja Tait
UBCM President

Attachment #2

UBCM Union of BC Municipalities

June 29, 2020

The Honourable Claire Trevena
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Room 306 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Trevena:

Re: Public Transit in BC

On behalf of UBCM I wanted to take the opportunity to update you on work that we have undertaken to support transit communities in BC. While all BC communities have been financially impacted by COVID-19, UBCM has found that transit communities are struggling even more so. I shared some initial findings when we connected a few months ago, and now have additional feedback that I felt was important to convey.

In response to member concerns, UBCM hosted a Transit Forum on June 16th for both TransLink and BC Transit communities. The session was well attended with over 90 participants and was planned in coordination with the TransLink Mayors' Council. The Forum opened with a joint presentation by Erinn Pinkerton, President and CEO, BC Transit and Kevin Desmond, CEO, TransLink on the state of public transit in BC. Both presenters noted that the next two years will bring continued uncertainty and the need to be nimble and responsive.

Mayors from both TransLink and BC Transit communities shared the financial and operational challenges they have faced over the past four months and how they have tried to adapt. Discussion focused on a draft set of principles and recommendations that reflected on how to recover from current losses and what is needed to rebuild public transit. This document, attached, received overwhelming support.

And, despite the significant financial losses faced by many transit communities, it was heartening to learn that over 90% of participants indicated that their community remains committed to the same growth, transportation and other local/regional plans and objectives that they had in place prior to COVID-19. Interestingly, the Mayors commented on how important it was to remain on track; the importance of continued transit growth and the need to make transit more nimble and adaptive to respond to these crisis situations.

And finally, over 98% of Forum participants supported being part of a collaborative approach (UBCM, BC Transit and TransLink communities) going forward that would advance the recommendations for rebuilding transit in BC to the provincial and federal government.

UBCM and its local government members recognize that transit is an essential service that is key to the Province's Restart Plan. Based on what we heard from Forum participants, there is an opportunity for transit communities to help identify what recovery and rebuilding might look like and to ensure public transit remains sustainable into the future as the Province continues to re-open the economy.

We recognize that the Mayors' Council is already working collaboratively with Minister Robinson's office and would offer our organization as a body that could assist your Ministry in establishing an ongoing working relationship with BC Transit communities.

In closing, we would welcome an opportunity to meet with you to discuss how we can work in partnership to develop a recovery and rebuild strategy for BC public transit.

Yours truly,

Mayor Maja Tait
UBCM President

Att: ***Principles and Recommendations to the Province for Rebuilding Transit in BC***

cc: Hon. Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Responsible for TransLink)
Mayor Jonathon Cote, City of New Westminster and Chair, Mayors' Council
Mayor Colin Basran, City of Kelowna
Mayor Jack Crompton, Resort Municipality of Whistler
Kevin Desmond, CEO, TransLink
Erinn Pinkerton, CEO and President, BC Transit
Mike Buda, Executive Director, Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation

FORT ST. JOHN
The Energetic City

City of Fort St. John
10631 100 Street | Fort St. John, BC | V1J 3Z5
(250) 787 8150 City Hall
(250) 787 8181 Facsimile

July 31, 2020
File No. 5330-20
0400-20
Email: premier@gov.bc.ca

Premier John Horgan
Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Horgan,

Reference: **BC Utilities Commission's Approval of BC Hydro's Application to Amend the Net Metering Service under Rate Schedule 1289**

This letter is in response to the British Columbia Utilities Commission's (BCUC) decision on the approval of BC Hydro's application to amend the net metering service rate. The Clean BC Initiative identifies a change towards using cleaner energy to the greatest extent possible with a target year of 2030 although this decision contradicts the plan. A few short years ago BC Hydro worked with the City of Fort St. John to allow for the construction of an innovative clean energy source, this decision now effectively stops any further investment in, or development of, new alternate energy sources.

The energy price currently paid to existing customers in accordance with the previous rate schedule was 9.99 cents per kWh. The BCUC approved BC Hydro to use a revised amount that will be calculated each January starting in 2025 that will be based on the daily average Mid-C prices for the previous calendar year. BC Hydro indicated in their submission to the BCUC that the average Mid-C amount for hydro generation would be 4.16 per kWh based on 2018 consumption numbers which is a decrease of 5.83 cents. It is acknowledged that the BCUC provided a five-year Transition Energy Price that will terminate in 2024 as part of this rate amendment and this transition period is appreciated. Although, this may dissuade other local governments to undertake clean energy initiatives in the future since cash strapped municipalities may not be able to justify the capital and operating cost incurred in comparison to any revenue that may be generated or cost savings realized. As it now stands for the City of Fort St. John, the revenue that our micro-hydro station will generate in the future will barely cover the annual operating costs let alone recover the cost of constructing this clean energy station.

BC Hydro stated in its submissions to the BCUC that the *"vast majority of customers in the Net Metering Program in fiscal 2018 (1,044 or 80%) received no Surplus Energy Payment and of the 256 customers who received a Surplus Energy Payment, 215 or 84% receive a payment of less than $500."* Additionally, BC Hydro indicated *"Overall, this means that the majority of customers are not materially impacted by an*

July 31, 2020 Letter to Premier Horgan
BCUC Decision

update to the Energy Price as they are likely to receive minimal Surplus Energy Payments or none at all." In one of the City's submissions to the BCUC, the City asked what the value of payments were for the 16% of customers who would have received over $500. This question remains unanswered.

One of City Council's strategic goals is the implementation of policies/programs that will provide long term financial sustainability for the City moving into the future. The City was successful in obtaining a federal grant for the construction of a micro hydro project at the City's south lagoons in 2013. Since the micro hydro project was completed, the following revenue amounts were received:

2016	$66,304.68
2017	$65,655.49
2018	$58,085.40
2019	$57,094.60
TOTAL	**$247,140.17**

One of the criteria Council considered as part of this proposed project was based on the premise that this would be a revenue source for the City and the revenue received would partially offset operating costs incurred. It is acknowledged that BC Hydro indicated that this program's intention was never to purchase energy from a supplier and was initiated as a load offsetting program rather than a means of securing additional power supply. It should be noted that this information was not conveyed to the City by BC Hydro when City staff were considering this project as part of the draft capital budget to present to Council.

The City has no objections to BC Hydro's clarified stance on the net metering program – if – BC Hydro implements the BCUC panel's suggestions by 2025:

- Net metered hydroelectric plants be treated differently from other types of net metered installation since:
  - *these plants generate the largest excess generation thus may have some capacity value to BC Hydro*, and
  - these projects require large capital to construct the infrastructure in comparison to other net metering generators.

  The City's micro hydro facility provides consistent energy generation thus should be considered as a reliable energy supplier to BC Hydro.
- Establish a virtual new metering program that will allow the City to offset the additional load generated from its micro hydro facility to all of its meters. The net metering program's criteria is that the energy generated is offset by the meters associated to the infrastructure. The City's micro hydro facility has two meters associated with it although overall, the City has a total of 63 different meters. The two meters make up less than 6% (net) of the overall energy used for City's operations.

BC Hydro's responses regarding this application has raised additional questions. Within the decision, *"The Panel acknowledges BC Hydro's evaluation that it presently has a surplus supply of electricity and this is expected to be the case until at least 2030".* This directly contradicts the Provincial Government's Clean BC quote: *"Specifically by 2030, the policies in this strategy will require an additional 4,000 gigawatt-hours of electricity over and above the currently projected demand growth to electrify key segments of our economy."* Which statement is correct?

July 31, 2020 Letter to Premier Horgan
BCUC Decision

City Council would greatly appreciate receiving the Province's reply to the questions indicated above and confirmation as to if the Province is going to mandate BC Hydro to include BCUC's recommendations into their upcoming internal review.

Yours truly,

Lori Ackerman
Mayor

cc Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
BC Hydro Board Chair
UBCM member municipalities

The Office of the
Ombudsperson
B.C.'s Independent Voice For Fairness

Complaints/Enquiries:
1-800-567-3247
(250) 387-5855
Fax: (250) 387-0198

947 Fort Street
PO Box 9039 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9A5

www.bcombudsperson.ca

Notice: Use of this letter or attachment as evidence against an individual or institution in a court or tribunal proceeding is prohibited by s. 20(2) of the ***Ombudsperson Act****.*

RECEIVED
JUL 28 2020

July 16, 2020
File: 20-181997

Mr. Mark Tatchell
Chief Administrative Officer
Village of Tahsis
977 South Maquinna Drive
PO Box 219
TAHSIS BC V0P 1X0

Dear Mr. Tatchell:

On June 18, 2020 I contacted you regarding a complaint concerning the Village of Tahsis. The ***Ombudsperson Act*** requires that both the authority and the complainant be notified of the decision to end an investigation and the reasons for it. This letter and the copy of the closing summary are intended to fulfill that obligation.

Please note that, effective April 1, 2017, our office no longer sends a copy of this letter to the head of your organization at the time the file is closed. Instead, we now send a consolidated report to the head of your organization on a quarterly basis. You may wish to consider forwarding this correspondence to an appropriate senior management contact in your organization in the event more immediate reporting is expected.

Thank you for your cooperation in the course of this investigation.

Yours sincerely,

Katherine Jeakins
Investigation Coordinator

Enclosure

Office of the Ombudsperson

Closing Summary

Authority: VILLAGE OF TAHSIS

File Number: 20-181997 /001

Closing Date: 16-Jul-2020

Closing Status: *Closed; Investigation; Ceased (discretion) (s.13); Complaint settled under s.14 (s.13(i)); No findings*

A person complained that the Village would not accept his third-party provincial and federal government cheques for the payment of his 2019 property taxes.

The Village accepted our proposal that they accept the complainant's third party government cheques as payment for the 2019 property taxes with the condition that the Village will not accept third-party cheques for any future property tax payments.

Subject: FW: Municipal Proclamation Request - Waste Reduction Week 2020
Attachments: 2020_Sample Municipal Proclamation.pdf; 2020_Sample Municipal Proclamation.pub

From: Jessie Christophersen <Jessie@rcbc.ca>
Sent: August 11, 2020 10:35 AM
Subject: Municipal Proclamation Request - Waste Reduction Week 2020

Good morning,

Proclaim Your Support for Waste Reduction Week in Canada!

Each year the Recycling Council of British Columbia (RCBC) organizes BC's involvement in observing this important week. We would like to ask all municipal councils in British Columbia to officially declare October 19th through 25th, 2020 as Waste Reduction Week in their respective communities.

Waste Reduction Week in Canada is intended to raise awareness about waste and its environmental and social impacts. The theme of Waste Reduction Week, "Too Good to Waste", is meant to draw attention to the richness and diversity of the natural world and the importance of working towards ecological sustainability through waste avoidance and resource conservation.

Please join RCBC in proclaiming October 19th through 25th, 2020 as National Waste Reduction Week in Canada and lending your support!

I have attached a sample Municipal Proclamation in PDF and in Publisher form for your convenience. Of course, you are free to use your own Proclamation format, too.
Completed Proclamations can be emailed or mailed as per the contact information below. Thanks for your continued support of this important event!

Regards,
Jessie

Jessie Christophersen
Information & Member Services Coordinator
Recycling Council of British Columbia
#10 – 119 West Pender Street, Van., BC
V6B 1S5
T: (604) 683-6009 ext. 317
E: jessie@rcbc.ca
W: www.rcbc.ca

Download the BC Recyclepedia app:

WASTE REDUCTION WEEK IN CANADA

EST. 2001

_____

(Name of Municipality)

hereby recognizes

Waste Reduction Week in Canada

October 19-25, 2020

As a municipality, we are committed to conserving resources, protecting the environment and educating the community.

We recognize the generation of solid waste and the needless waste of water and energy resources as global environmental problems and endeavor to take the lead in our community toward environmental sustainability.

We have declared October 19-25, 2020, Waste Reduction Week in

_____

Municipality

_____

Signed Date

_____

Name and Position

RCBC RECYCLING COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Please send this declaration to the Recycling Council of BC
By fax at 604-683-7255 or by email at wrw@rcbc.ca.
We thank you again for your commitment to waste reduction.

Subject: FW: Bylaw #614

-----Original Message-----
From: Linda Jordan <lmjordan@live.ca>
Sent: August 22, 2020 2:57 PM
To: Reception Account <Reception@villageoftahsis.com>
Subject: Bylaw #614

Dear Mayor and council
With so many properties in disrepair in the village I was wondering why the bylaw is not more proactively enforced . Numerous times this summer I have been asked by visitors if we don't have bylaws here . I'm sure they go home and tell other people how run down this community is .
I feel we are missing out on a great opportunity right now as many people are finding they can do their jobs from home . How could we market ourselves as a great place to work and live when everything is in such a mess . We need young families to come here but when you look across from the school and see run down junky houses I don't think you would want your children to go there .
A lot of small villages have home based internet businesses which hire two or three employees. Gold River has a company that makes fishing lures and ships them all over the world. There is no reason Tahsis can't do things like that too. But before we can ever hope to entice people here we must clean up our act .
Thank you
Linda Jordan
Sent from my iPad

From: Merriman, Paul (Rick) FLNR:EX <Rick.Merriman@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 10:02 AM
To: hozempad@yahoo.com; Mark Tatchell <MTatchell@villageoftahsis.com>; Reception Account <Reception@villageoftahsis.com>
Subject: Tahsis Salmon Enhancement Society, Existing Use Groundwater Application: ATS 267743

Good Morning,

My name is Rick Merriman with the Province Of BC Water Authorizations Group. I am currently reviewing your Existing Use Groundwater Licence Application for **the Tahsis Salmon Enhancement Society**. I want to thank you for you patience during this process. I do require more information to continue with my review so I am looking for a contact that would be able help me gather the needed information. The application had several names and emails associated with it so I figured I would reach out to determine who would be best to communicate with.

I do require more details on the following topics; I am happy to communicate via email or phone.

- Land Owner Permission:
  - As the Tahsis Salmon Enhancement Society is not the "land owner" proof of permission from the land holder is required.
- Volume Justification:
  - How this volume was calculated, is there a meter and or record of water use?
- Map, Location details:
  - I do required a map of key features of facility. Well location, major distribution lines, reservoirs,
  - Some documents were submitted, however several of them are illegible due to unknown reasons.

I am happy to communicate via email or phone. I am working from home during these times so if I do not answer my phone please feel free to leave a voicemail and I will return your call as soon as possible. Hope you have a wonderful day.

Rick Merriman
Sr Water Authorizations Technologist | Authorizations
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development | West Coast Region
2100 Labieux Road | Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6E9 | (250) 739-8355 | Front Counter BC (250) 751-7220

From: Leigh Stalker
To: Mark Tatchell
Cc: Janet St. Denis
Subject: Re: FW: NSWS: Riparian restoration on municipal lands
Date: August 17, 2020 3:58:03 PM
Attachments: image003.png
image004.png

Thanks Mark,

I have put it in my calendar as I would be happy to attend the Council meeting to answer any questions if need be, so please send me meeting details.

Cheers,
Leigh

On Mon, Aug 17, 2020 at 3:46 PM Mark Tatchell <MTatchell@villageoftahsis.com> wrote:

> Thanks Leigh.
>
> I'll add this request to Council's Sept 1 regular meeting agenda. You may wish to attend (via zoom) in case there are questions. The meeting begins at 7 pm. Let me know if you are able to attend and we'll send you the meeting coordinates.
>
> Mark
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Leigh Stalker <leigh.stalker@snrc.ca>
> **Sent:** Monday, August 17, 2020 1:15 PM
> **To:** Mark Tatchell <MTatchell@villageoftahsis.com>
> **Subject:** Re: FW: NSWS: Riparian restoration on municipal lands
>
> Hi Mark,
>
> Thanks for the reply, I will cc you going forward, so thanks for clarifying.
>
> Thanks also for clarifying the overlap with the TFL. We will keep you informed of the plans/movements in the area, especially since we still have your key for the landfill.

Do you think authorization for the Leiner area will be attainable in the coming weeks?

Cheers!

Leigh

On Mon, Aug 17, 2020 at 8:28 AM Mark Tatchell <MTatchell@villageoftahsis.com> wrote:

> Hi Leigh,
>
> FYI: The Tahsis River cross-hatched area is Crown land under tenure to WFP. Although the parcel (DL 82) is within the municipal boundary, the Village has no jurisdiction over land use. I suggest you contact FLNRORD and/or WFP for approvals.
>
> Also, would you be kind enough to copy me on future emails to the Village? It will help coordination at this end.
>
> Thanks Leigh.
>
> Mark Tatchell
>
> Chief Administrative Officer/EOC Director
>
> Village of Tahsis
>
> (250)934-6344 (office)
>
> (778)966-1012 (mobile)

We acknowledge and respect that we are on the territory of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation

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From: sarah fowler <farmeveryfoot@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2020 11:58 AM
To: Sarah Fowler <SFowler@villageoftahsis.com>; Mayor Davis <Mayor@villageoftahsis.com>; Mark Tatchell <MTatchell@villageoftahsis.com>; Councillor Elder <beldertahsis@gmail.com>; councillor Llewellyn <lyndabs1983@gmail.com>; Cheryl Northcott <northcott.council@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: NSWS: Riparian restoration on municipal lands

Last night i spoke with Leigh Stalker, project coordinator with strategic, about a time sensitive approval needed for the habitat restoration project. They are hoping to start mid september but need to get the plans into MFLNRRD for the FRPA application.

I would recommend that tahsis council approve this work ASAP.

Do i need to make a notice of motion? Is this nsws habitat work something we can fast track?

Thanks for your time.

smf

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Leigh Stalker** <leigh.stalker@snrc.ca>
Date: Fri., Aug. 14, 2020, 6:08 p.m.
Subject: NSWS: Riparian restoration on municipal lands
To: <farmeveryfoot@gmail.com>
Cc: Kent O'Neill (kent@thelodgeatgoldriver.ca) <kent@thelodgeatgoldriver.ca>

Good evening Sarah,

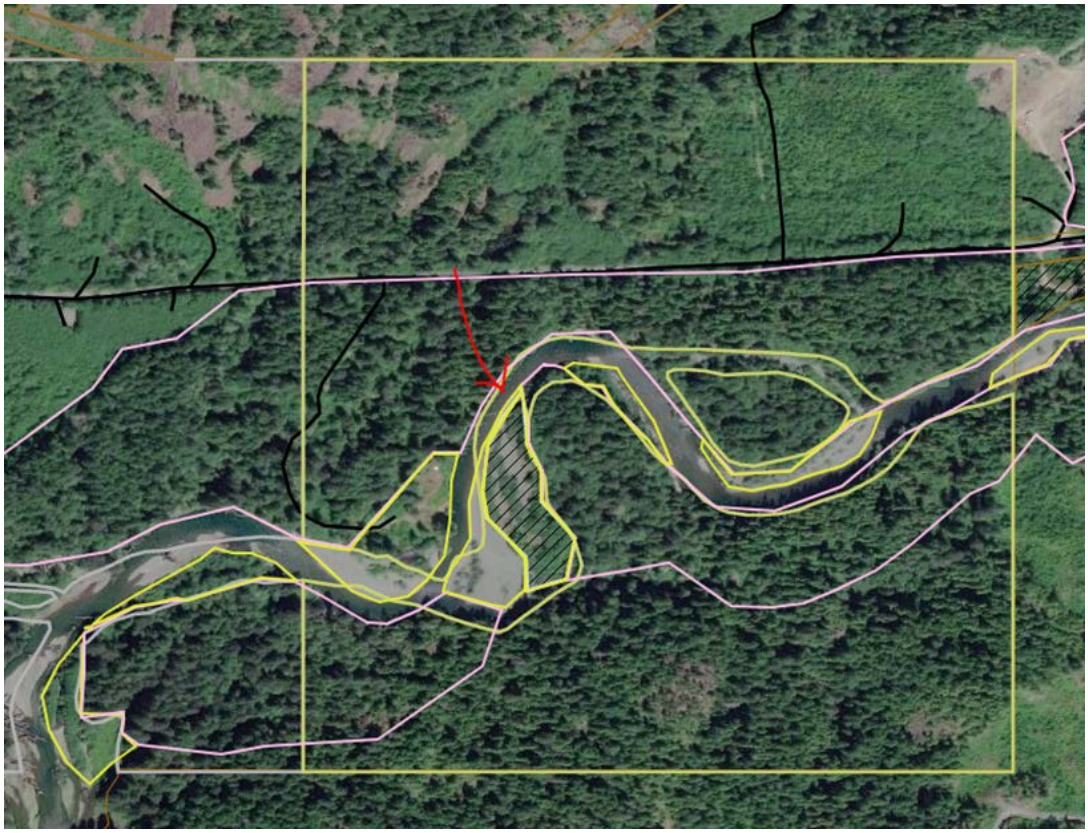
As you are aware, our team has been assessing areas within the Leiner and Tahsis Rivers for potential riparian restoration under the Nootka Sound Watershed Society's DFO Coastal Restoration Fund grant.

Some proposed treatment areas (*as shown in the black cross-hatching below*) overlap municipal land. Treatment strategies include:

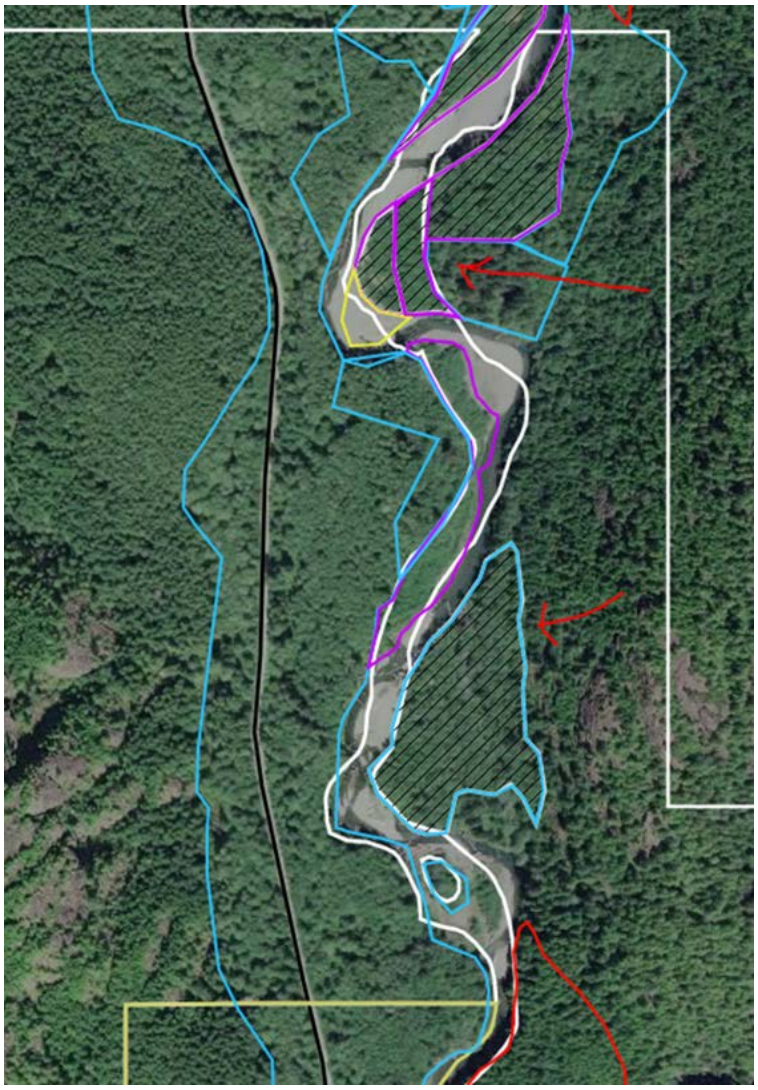
- **Brushing out existing conifers** (i.e. small conifers growing under willow/alder); and

- **Clearing small openings** (i.e.~2-4m or 20-30m) **and planting them with conifers**

Leiner River (Municipal overlap):



Tahsis River (Municipal/TFL overlap, just south of the landfill):



This work will be conducted by crews from Tahsis (Nootka Reforestation) and the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation. It is hoped that operations would begin in mid-September, pending authorizations, crew availability and seedling delivery. Prescriptions and final maps are currently being developed.

I am requesting a letter of authorization from the Village in order to carry out these works.

Thank you,

Leigh

--

Leigh Stalker, RPF

Senior Forester
Integrated Environmental Management
South Island - Sunshine Coast

Strategic Natural Resource Consultants Inc.
m: 250.202.7396 **p:** 250.287.2246 ext.133
w: snrc.ca

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Leigh Stalker, RPF

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