

Executive Decides

MEMBER RELEASE

NOVEMBER 21, 2001

Highlights of UBCM Executive Meeting

November 8-9, 2001

This was the first full meeting of the new 2001-02 UBCM Executive, which had four key objectives:

- "getting together" as an Executive,
- setting priorities as an Executive,
- establishing committees and getting many of them underway,
- conducting regular business.

The Executive came away feeling they had accomplished these objectives and this circular reports on several of these activities.

➤ were advised that Mayor Don MacLean, Pitt Meadows will be the new GVRD Representative to replace Mayor Helen Sparkes, who was elected as Third Vice-President.

➤ dealt with a small number of **resolutions** referred by the Convention to the Executive. Since all resolutions were considered by the Convention this year, only the seven resolutions directed by motion to the Executive needed to be dealt with. On those, the Executive decided to endorse and refer two to FCM (A5, LR5), refer three back to the sponsors for clarification for further development (B70, B92, B102) and to take no action on a recommendation off the floor relating to the Energy Forum.

➤ determined which resolutions should be referred to the **federal government** and FCM beyond those identified at Convention.

➤ assigned responsibilities for Executive, committees and staff to implement convention resolutions and policy papers.

➤ received some initial reports on the 2001 Convention. The initial reports show **positive overall evaluations**. Financial statements look favourable and so did the sponsorships but there are some warning signs on the horizon with respect to future sponsorship levels.

➤ reviewed numerous ongoing policy files including:

- compiling local government comments and concerns about the implementation of the procurement provisions of the **Agreement on Internal Trade** by March 30, 2002

- continuing advocacy with the provincial government to legislatively fix the loophole in the **property classification** regulations for "urban farms"

- reviewing implications with affected local governments of possible changes in the way BC Assessment assesses and classifies Remanufacturing Plants

- advocating for UBCM involvement in

implementing the **Lobbyists Registration Act** and recommending to the provincial government that the legislation not cover organizations that represent elected people.

➤ were advised that the system of **BC Rail payments-in-lieu** was to be reviewed this year and that this had not taken place, and furthermore, that BC Rail communities had not yet received their payments for the current year. The Executive agreed to follow-up on these concerns and determine the status of the review and the status of the current-year payments.

➤ directed, with respect to RD bylaw evaluation policy, that a letter be written to the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection indicating that it does not support the proposed policy as it would reduce local autonomy and be administratively cumbersome and costly to implement.

➤ supported the FCM 2002 federal budget submission.

➤ made their Committee and other UBCM representative appointments (details of Committees will be in the December newsletter).

➤ received current financial statements that showed revenues and expenses on budget.

➤ were advised that the Community Sustainability Water, Stormwater and Wastewater Conference (October 11-12) was a success with over 250 registrants and all 29 booths in the tradeshow being sold out. The conference received an excellent rating from both the local government representatives and industry representatives that attended. The two-day session provided a unique opportunity to discuss community sustainability, federal/provincial government regulations and the linkages to innovative technology.

➤ approved legal assistance funding for the District of Central Saanich v. Jopp Ventures Corporation which will assist in clarifying the **definition of agricultural use**.

➤ reviewed a number of pieces of correspondence and as a result: will be writing the Minister responsible for **Deregulation** expressing the need to direct government to government discussion on deregulation proposals; will advise the Council of Resource Communities of the due process put in place for consideration of all Cooperation Agreements at the 2001 convention; will decline the proposal of the District of North Vancouver to undertake a process to recommend indemnities; referred a proposal from the District of Houston to subsidize convention fees of northern delegates to the Convention Committee; and agreed to see if there was interest amongst BC communities on coordinating actions on gas operating agreements.

➤ received a report which described the activities of the FCM ad hoc committee on **trade policy** and the result of its November 6 meeting with International Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew in Ottawa. The Executive also reviewed the position on trade negotiations recently put forward by the National League of Cities in the U.S., and noted the Province of BC's interest in UBCM's position on trade negotiations.

➤ received a report on a staff meeting with the Economic Policy Committee of the BC Chamber of Commerce, the purpose of which was to discuss various local government initiatives and to consider ways of improving local Chamber-Municipal Council relations and communications. The Executive agreed that if formally requested by the BC Chamber, UBCM would consider assisting to prepare a document on how to access local government decision-making.

➤ the President will be immediately in contact with the Minister responsible for **infrastructure program** approvals, Honourable Rick Thorpe, in response to a disappointing report from UBCM representatives on the Infrastructure Management Committee. BC is the only province that has not yet announced any infrastructure grants and progress for all but a few green projects appears stalled.

Please make copies of this circular and distribute to Council/Board Members /Staff.

COMMITTEES

Committee Reports

Health

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REAFFIRMED THE Committee's Terms of Reference with only a minor modification. Discussions included an update from members on attendance at the Premier's Dialogue on Health and the Chair's attendance at the Health Association of BC's AGM and Education Session. The Committee discussed the consultation activities of the Select Standing Committee on Health that was touring the province. The Committee decided that rather than appearing before the Select Committee, it would send the Committee a copy of the August 7 presentation made to the Caucus Committee on Health. The Committee's priorities and goals for 2002 were also discussed in some depth, as was a proposed agenda for the January, 2002 meeting. The following recommendations were put forward by the Committee and endorsed by the Executive:

- affirmation of the 2001-2002 Committee Terms of Reference; and
- establishing immediate priorities and goals for the Committee for the coming year.

Aboriginal Affairs

GOALS AND PRIORITIES WERE ESTABLISHED by the Committee for the coming year in the following areas: policy development, relationship building, interim measures and Treaty Advisory Committee support.

Policy development on local government interests and principles related to selection of lands within municipal boundaries (both inside and outside the treaty process) was identified as a high priority. It was noted that treaty making may become a more incremental process with more interim/treaty related measures agreements negotiated with First Nations. UBCM needs to ensure the province lives up to its commitment to notify and consult with local government as part of this process. Relationship building activities will include continuation of the Community to Community Forum program and establishment of stronger

ties with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities work on municipal-aboriginal relations.

Environment

THE COMMITTEE IDENTIFIED ITS GOALS AND priorities for the upcoming year in the following areas: streamside protection directive; product stewardship programs; protection of drinking water sources; review of contaminated sites; and air quality/climate change policy.

The Committee discussed the current reviews being undertaken by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection into the:

- Delivery of product stewardship programs;
- Contaminated site regulation;
- Drinking water protection – Drinking Water Review Panel, (UBCM representative is Chair Robert Hobson);
- Streamside protection – Streamside Protection Regulation Advisory Committee (UBCM representatives are Chair Robert Hobson and Ken Vance).

Communities and Resources

THE COMMITTEE REVIEWED ITS TERMS OF Reference and agreed that they needed to be expanded to reflect some of the activities and goals that the Committee identified. A revised Terms of Reference will be considered at the January meeting. Members reviewed the list of issues presently under consideration in the area of forestry, fishing, mining/energy and agriculture. From the list of issues the Committee identified two immediate priorities:

- Forest Policy / Softwood Lumber
- Bill C-10 – Marine Conservation Areas

Much of the Committee's discussion focussed on the proposed forest policy initiatives announced by the Minister of Forests. Chair Lonsdale advised that UBCM has responded on a number of fronts to the Minister's announcements:

- a member release on the forestry initiatives was circulated to members on November 1;

- members have been encouraged to submit their comments to UBCM on the proposals;
- a meeting is being arranged with the Minister of Forests to discuss community concerns;
- a letter will be written to the Minister outlining our initial concerns; and
- UBCM has hired a forestry consultant to assist in developing a presentation to the Minister.

As well the Committee confirmed it would seek a meeting with the Mining Association to receive an update on the mining industry in relation to the global markets. And finally, the Committee's request to hold a resource conference was endorsed by the Executive. The focus for the conference would be discussed in further detail at the January meeting.

Protective Services

THE COMMITTEE IDENTIFIED ITS GOALS AND priorities for the upcoming year in the following areas: expansion of bylaw courts; liquor policy changes; police financing and gaming policy.

The Committee discussed the need to obtain clarification from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General concerning:

- the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General's comments that small communities under 5,000 and rural areas will have to pay for policing in the future;
- the status of the provincial governments commitment to share 75% of the traffic fine proceeds with local government; and
- the status of the MOU on gaming with the current provincial government and the future direction of provincial government gaming policy – definition of no gaming expansion; relocation policy on gaming facilities; new gaming legislation.

The UBCM Executive authorized the President to establish a Task Force of rural and small community representatives to look at police financing issues being raised by the provincial government in relation to small and rural communities.



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