



**Sunshine Valley Ratepayers Association  
Directors Meeting  
March 2, 2007  
SCCC Recreation Centre, Sunshine Valley, BC**

**MINUTES**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Barb Bell, Norm Bell, Beata Korabek, Kate Zabell, Ben Barnett, Sharon Bender, Linda Carter

*Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.*

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION: *Approve agenda as circulated.*  
SECONDED and PASSED.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: *Approve the minutes as circulated from the February 2, 2007 Directors Meeting.*  
SECONDED AND PASSED.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

MOTION: *Approve the Treasurer's report for the month of February 2007.*  
SECONDED AND PASSED.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

New memberships and renewals were received in February. An e-mail reminder was sent to members with unpaid dues in early February and many people mailed in their renewals.

A letter to Stacey Corriveau, Fraser Valley Centre for Social Enterprise, was mailed thanking her and Sid Gould for speaking at our February directors meeting. Stacey also e-mailed the board with information on a March 26th workshop in Abbotsford that includes the training requirements needed in order to apply for a \$10K social enterprise grant that could be used for feasibility work.

An e-mail was received from Chris Weicht, a historian and author, regarding the possibility of giving a history presentation to residents in Sunshine Valley. Mr. Weicht is requesting an

honorarium of \$100 plus a contribution for gas. It was discussed by the board that we could ask for contributions at the door for Mr. Weicht's gas expenses.

**MOTION:** *To accept the proposal by Chris Weicht informing him that we would be happy to have him visit our community for a history presentation on the Hope Slide and Sunshine Valley, and to send a letter to the Sunshine Community Co-operative Club (SCCC) asking if they would like to co-sponsor this event by allowing the use of their recreation centre without charge for the purpose of this presentation.*  
**SECONDED AND PASSED**

A letter of reply was received from Gerald Kingston of the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) regarding funding opportunities from LocalMotion, Spirit Squares and Towns for Tomorrow. The request by the SVRA for consideration by the FVRD in developing a grant proposal was not approved by the Electoral Area Services Committee because the Towns for Tomorrow program only applies to municipalities with less than 5,000, for which Sunshine Valley does not qualify; the Spirit Squares program limited the FVRD to supporting only two projects and the project the FVRD chose had already progressed to detailed plans; and because the Local Motion fund required submissions to be "shelf ready" in that proposed projects must have already completed the planning and permit/approval process.

An e-mail was received from Arne Zabell, FVRD Area B Director, notifying the SVRA of a public meeting regarding community planning opportunities in Sunshine Valley that is to be held on March 10, 2007 at the SCCC Recreation Centre.

The SVRA was copied on two letters from Pieter Bekker, Deputy Comptroller of Water Rights, regarding status of the Application for Rate Increase and Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) submitted by Sunshine Valley Developments Ltd. (SVDL).

## **BUSINESS**

- **Community Water Update**

Don Bender spoke about the most recent letters the SVRA was copied on in regards to SVDL's rate increase application and CPCN for both water systems in Sunshine Valley. In a letter dated February 19, 2007 from Pieter Bekker, Deputy Comptroller of Water Rights to Kerry Rawlick, President of SVDL, the utility company was directed to engage in the services of a qualified and independent engineering firm to carry out a state of the system analysis of both water systems in Sunshine Valley and that the utility company must provide evidence of doing so no later than March 5, 2007. In a second letter from Mr. Bekker to SVDL dated March 2, 2007, a 45-day extension was granted to the utility company in providing evidence that the services of a qualified and independent engineering firm had been retained. Apparently this letter was in response to a request by SVDL to extend the deadline because the utility company was having difficulty in finding a capable engineering firm that wasn't too busy. At the conclusion of the 45-day extension (April 5, 2007), the utility company must submit a written work plan from a qualified engineer for a state of the system study of both water systems in Sunshine Valley. If the utility company fails to meet this deadline, the comptroller stated in his

letter that water rates would be rolled back to \$14.50 per household effective January 1, 2007.

Don Bender agreed to send a letter to Pieter Bekker's office expressing his disappointment that after nearly two years of correspondence between the utility company and the comptroller's office surrounding this particular rate application that water rates had not already been rolled back. Don will also include in his letter a timeline of all correspondence and reiterate the promise made earlier by the comptroller's office that a public meeting will be held to discuss this rate application and hear customers' concerns. Don will also ask the comptroller that in the event that rates are rolled back to make the rolled back rates effective to the date in which the interim rate was imposed.

- **Social Enterprise/FM Radio Station**

The SVRA received correspondence from Stacey Corriveau, Fraser Valley Centre for Social Enterprise, regarding a March 26th workshop in Abbotsford. Attendance at this workshop is required in order to apply for a \$10K grant that could be used for a radio station feasibility study. The board asked for at least two volunteers to attend this workshop and also asked for volunteers from the floor. No volunteers were identified. Gerry Bender informed the board that he had met with the previous owners and operators of the radio station. He also requested to meet privately with the board to discuss the radio station in greater detail. The board decided to withhold making a decision on whether to send anyone to the March 26th workshop until after meeting with Gerry.

- **SEEC Funding**

In 2006, Rudy Kehler gave a presentation to the board on the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission (SEEC). Rudy described how the SEEC, established through a treaty between the U.S. and Canada in 1984, uses its endowment fund to conserve and protect wilderness with the Skagit River watershed. The SEEC has an annual budget of approximately \$1.5M. SEEC uses its endowment funds to conduct habitat studies, fund educational projects, and assist governmental agencies in ecosystem management and planning. Since Sunshine Valley and the Sumallow River are part of the Skagit River watershed, our community may qualify for SEEC funding.

MOTION: *To send a letter to the SEEC expressing interest in having the commission conduct a habitat study of the Sunshine Valley area.*

SECONDED AND PASSED

- **Website Report**

Number of visitors to the site is down slightly from January. This might be due to the fact that the reporting period was a shorter because of the shorter month.

- **Canada Day 2007**

Kate Zabell reported that the Canadian Heritage grant application was faxed and mailed to the Celebrate Canada Committee for BC. This year the SVRA is requesting a slightly larger grant than last year's grant request. Festivities this year will include children's painting, talent show, street dance, free barbeque, soap box derby, story time in the park, children's piñata and more. Grant in aid requests will be sent to the FVRD and other local businesses and groups later this month.

- **Training Opportunities**

In addition to the Social Enterprise workshop on March 26th that was talked about earlier, there are two Coast Capital Savings training workshops in Abbotsford that are coming up. A workshop on strategic planning is scheduled for March 14th and a workshop on making change work is scheduled for May 23rd. There is also a United Way Board Basics workshop that is coming up, but details are still forthcoming.

- **Policy and Procedure Manual**

Hazel Boyd reported that the policy and procedure manual is just about complete. Job descriptions of each of the SVRA executive positions were handed out to each board member for review. In addition to the job descriptions the manual will include the SVRA's mission statement and values statement. The manual will spell out the characteristics of good policy, how to handle conflicts of interest, code of conduct that is expected from all board members, when closed meetings are allowed and information pertaining to legal liability. Target date for completion and delivery of this manual is sometime before the July general meeting.

- **Possible Mining/Quarry Activity**

In the March 1st edition of the Hope Standard there was a Notice of Intention to Apply for a Disposition of Crown Land. The notice stated that Argus Aggregate of Langley, BC intends to make an application for an investigative permit for the defining of aggregate material on a parcel of land near Sunshine Valley. The board determined that this parcel of land was not in the immediate vicinity of the Sunshine Valley community and instead was located along a stretch of Highway 3 between the Hope Slide and the city of Hope. It was reported by Norm Bell that there have also been recent sightings of rock material being removed from SVDL property near the Hope Slide. While the board agreed that this was on private property, a discussion ensued that it would be in the public interest if such activity, when known in advance by the FVRD, be shared with the SVRA.

MOTION: *To send a letter to the FVRD informing them that while we are aware of the application by Argus Aggregate and do not have any concerns with this particular location, we would like the FVRD to provide advance notice to the SVRA on any mining or aggregate removal activities that are occurring near Sunshine Valley.*  
SECONDED AND PASSED

- **March 10th Sunshine Valley Community Planning Meeting**

A public meeting to discuss community planning opportunities has been scheduled by the FVRD on March 10, 2007 from 10am to 3:00pm at the Sunshine Community Co-operative Club recreation centre in Sunshine Valley. The SVRA board encourages all residents, property owners and interested parties to attend this important meeting.

*Barb Bell pointed out that the first Friday of April (April 6th) falls on Good Friday and requested that the board move the next Directors Meeting to the following Friday. A motion was put forth to instead move the meeting to the Thursday prior, April 5th.*

MOTION: *To move the April Directors Meeting to Thursday, April 5th, from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at the Sunshine Community Co-operative Club recreation centre.*  
SECONDED AND PASSED

MOTION: *To adjourn the meeting.*  
SECONDED AND PASSED

*Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.*

**Next Directors Meeting is Thursday, April 5, 2007  
7:00pm – 9:00pm  
SCCC Recreation Centre, Sunshine Valley, BC  
Everyone is welcome to attend!**