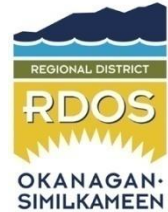


ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT



TO: Board of Directors
FROM: B. Newell, Chief Administrative Officer
DATE: November 19, 2009
RE: Electoral Area 'H' – Official Community Plan (OCP) Review
Resident Survey Results

Administrative Recommendation:

For information purposes only.

Background:

At its meeting of April 2, 2009, the Board resolved that the preparation of a new OCP for Electoral Area 'H' be included as a strategic project for 2009.

In support of this objective, a resident survey was initiated in June 2009. The survey was mailed to all registered property owners within the Electoral Area (i.e. over 2,400 households) with copies of the Survey made available on the Regional District's web site, at the Town of Princeton offices as well as the Riverside Wellness Centre in Princeton.

Participants were given the option of completing the survey on-line or by returning a paper copy. The initial round of the survey closed on July 31, 2009, and approximately 376 surveys were submitted (i.e. 16% of all households).

Of this total, approximately 230 participants (i.e. 61.2% of the total) indicated that they would be willing to participate in a series of additional surveys – known as a Delphi Survey - intended to further inform the OCP Review process.

A Delphi survey is a structured group interaction process that is directed in "rounds" of opinion collection and feedback. Opinion collection is achieved by conducting a series of surveys using questionnaires. The result of each survey will be presented to the group and the questionnaire used in the next round is built upon the result of the previous round.

One of the other perceived benefits of the Delphi Survey is the ability to avoid some of the interpersonal conflict and discord that can occur in public meetings. In a Delphi survey, the responses are anonymous; residents are able to speak their mind on important issues without fear of personal conflict; and everyone has an equal opportunity to be heard multiple times.

In this instance, the Delphi component of the Survey consisted of three rounds (in addition to the initial questionnaire). A summary of this process is provided below, while more detailed data is contained in the attached Schedules.

Highlights – Round 0:

This initial round asked some basic questions about households and provided respondents with an opportunity to provide open-ended feedback about what they currently like and do not like about their area. Some interesting results include:

- 63% of respondents indicated themselves as being part-time / seasonal residents;
- a majority of part-time / seasonal residents indicating that they did not intend to move to the Electoral Area permanently within the next 5 years; and
- 80% of respondents derive their income from sources outside of the Electoral Area.

Participants were also asked what initially attracted them to the area, while a series of open-ended questions asked what they now liked best about living in their local area, and what aspects of their local area required improvement. The responses are summarised as follows:

Pull Factors	Attributes	Improvements
1. Recreational opportunities;	1. Rural lifestyle;	1. Road quality / maintenance;
2. Pursue a rural lifestyle;	2. Natural environment;	2. Forestry practices / pine beetle kill / moth control;
3. Retirement living;	3. Recreational opportunities;	3. Park / recreation improvements;
4. Family ties; and	4. Community; and	4. Water system / quality; and
5. Pursue an employment or business opportunity.	5. Climate.	5. Improved policing / bylaw enforcement.

Highlights - Round 1:

The purpose of Round 1 was thus to ensure that staff had identified the full set of objectives that are relevant to the OCP review by asking participants to ensure that their issues had been included on the list for consideration in subsequent rounds of the Delphi.

To do this, participants were asked to read a list of candidate objectives and to add any objectives they thought were missing in the spaces provided. The participation rate for this round of the survey was approximately 68.3%. The responses are provided in Schedule B to this report.

Highlights - Rounds 2 & 3:

In Round 2, participants were asked to evaluate the objectives produced in Round 1, and given the option of providing a brief comment to support their evaluation. The participation rate for this round of the survey was approximately 67.0%.

Round 3 was identical to Round 2, however, the results and reasons provided by participants in favour and against each objective had been summarized and presented for consideration and reflection. The participation rate for this round of the survey was approximately 60.4%.

Some interesting results include:

- 83% support for the centralisation of stores, services and institutions in the Town of Princeton, with 82% support for the centralisation of industrial activity in the Town of Princeton;
- 55.3% either 'strongly support' or 'support' the creation of Economic Development Officer position (despite 80% of respondents deriving their income from outside of the Electoral Area);
- 66.7% 'oppose' or 'strongly oppose' the development of a coal-based energy industry in the area versus 12.0% who 'support' or 'strongly support' such an industry;
- 40% are willing to pay more taxes for better services and infrastructure; and
- 56% either 'strongly support' or 'support' restricting certain uses of recreational land, including restrictions on motorised vehicles.

A more detailed accounting of the responses to these Rounds is included in Schedule 'C'.

Summary

The responses to the Survey have helped to inform the preparation of a draft Community Vision as well as a series of broad objectives, both of which are to be presented to the community at series of forthcoming Open Houses. It is anticipated that the drafting of a new Electoral Area 'H' OCP will be completed in 2010.

Respectfully submitted:



C. Garrish, Planner

Attachments: [Schedule 'A' — Initial Survey Results](#)
[Schedule 'B' — Round 1 Survey Results](#)
[Schedule 'C' — Round 2 & 3 Survey Results](#)