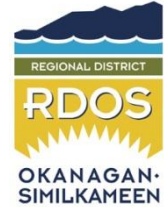


ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT



TO: Board of Directors
FROM: B. Newell, Chief Administrative Officer
DATE: January 7, 2010
RE: RDOS Sub-regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 2421, 2007

Administrative Recommendation:

THAT the Board forward Bylaw No. 2421, 2007 “Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Sub-regional Growth Strategy Bylaw” to affected local governments and to the Ministry of Community and Rural Development for their formal consideration according to Section 857 of the *Local Government Act*.

History:

On October 22, 2009 the Board re-read Second reading of the RGS bylaw in order to incorporate a series of amendments that were drafted in response to broad consultation that took place in late 2008 and early 2009. At the same meeting, the Board directed the holding of a public hearing for the RGS.

The public hearing for the RGS took place over two nights. The hearing was convened on December 8, 2009 in Oliver. The hearing was then recessed in Oliver and reconvened on the following night (December 9, 2009) in Penticton. A total of 81 members of the public were in attendance.

[Attachment 1](#) is a record of the written submissions regarding the RGS received over the past several years.

In order to proceed, the Local Government Act requires that the RGS bylaw be forwarded to affected local governments for their formal consideration. Affected local governments include: the council of each south Okanagan member municipality, and the board of each regional district that adjoins the RGS study area. The RGS must also be forwarded to the Minister of Community and Rural Development.

Each affected local government has a maximum of 120 days in which to respond by resolution either approving the RGS or refusing to approve the strategy. Failure to act within this time period is deemed as acceptance of the strategy.

In the event that an affected local government refuses to accept the RGS, a dispute resolution or settlement process is initiated according to Sections 859-862 of the *Local Government Act*.

Alternatives:

THAT the Board direct staff to prepare amendments to the RGS to address the issues raised at the Public Hearing.

Analysis:

55 of the 60 representations made and submissions received at and during the run up to the formal public hearing for the RGS generally supported the adoption of the strategy.

Despite the strong support expressed for the Strategy and its implementation in the region, the following comments were made recommending some changes:

- policies around rural growth are still not clear enough (2 submissions);
- Willow Beach and Twin Lakes should be removed as Rural Growth Areas (2 submissions);
- the Environment section should be bolstered to reflect new science (1 submission);

- establish an Environmental Advisory Committee (1 submission); and,
- develop policy in the RGS to encourage heritage tourism and eco-tourism (3 representations).

While some of these comments may merit additional investigation for possible inclusion in the RGS, it is not recommended to amend the bylaw presently.

Making additional amendments at this time, where such amendments are not critical, may require significant additional staff time, the holding of another public hearing and further discussions with member municipal councils.

Respectfully submitted:



J. Moore, Planner