

For Metro Vancouver meetings on Friday, October 3, 2025

Please note these are not the official minutes. Board in Brief is an informal summary. Material relating to any of the following items is available on request from Metro Vancouver. For more information, please contact:

media@metrovancover.org.

Metro Vancouver Regional District**E1.1 Global Promotion at Web Summit Vancouver 2026 and 2027****APPROVED**

Web Summit Vancouver 2025 attracted 15,727 attendees from over 100 countries, profiling 1,108 startups and attracting 550+ global media professionals. Invest Vancouver secured a regional presence through the Naturally Innovative Alliance, a government consortium promoting the BC tech ecosystem and driving investment, trade, and job growth.

Through this consortium, Invest Vancouver showcased groundbreaking innovation in applied AI, cleantech, life sciences, and creative tech to global investors. Highlights included sector-specific investor tours and a 200-person investment reception held within the City of Surrey and led by Invest Vancouver. Invest Vancouver collaborated to expand brand and marketing reach and engagements with investors. Over the course of the event, Invest Vancouver conducted over 100 investor meetings, generating a significant number of international leads.

The Province of BC, PacificCan, City of Vancouver, Innovate BC and Destination Vancouver have committed \$17 million for the conference over three years. Invest Vancouver's budget contribution of \$150,000 for each year of 2026 and 2027 will complement their investment and secure a regional presence at Web Summit Vancouver. Thus far, Invest Vancouver has contributed \$300,000 for Web Summit activation (\$150,000 for 2024 and \$150,000 for 2025).

The Board directed staff to budget for securing a regional presence at the Web Summit Vancouver through the Naturally Innovative Alliance for 2026 and 2027.

E1.2 Agri-Foodtech Report**RECEIVED**

Invest Vancouver has completed research on the Metro Vancouver region's emerging agri-foodtech hub. The *Agri-Foodtech Industry Analysis* report describes the region's value proposition for firms developing solutions to boost efficiency, resilience, and sustainability in food production and processing. These firms benefit from proximity to agricultural producers – both those in the region and the adjacent Fraser Valley – and access to the province's food and beverage processing industry, which is concentrated in the region. They also benefit from the region's rapidly growing tech sector and are supported by the BC Centre for Agritech Innovation at Simon Fraser University in Surrey and the Food and Beverage Innovation Centre at the University of British Columbia. With a culturally diverse population to serve as a test market and connections to global markets, the region is well positioned to attract global investment and take advantage of opportunities in areas such as alternative proteins.

The Board received the report for information and directed staff to send the report to member jurisdictions, the Minister of Agriculture and Food, and the Minister of Jobs and Economic Growth.

E1.3 Invest Vancouver 2025 Annual Plan Deliverables and KPI Mid-Year Update

RECEIVED

This report provides a summary of results for Invest Vancouver’s deliverables and key performance indicators as set out in the 2025 Annual Plan for the first and second quarters of 2025. The identified deliverables and related activities support Invest Vancouver’s strategic priorities to attract world-class companies, strengthen key industries, increase regional resilience, and provide regional leadership.

Overall, from January 1 to June 30, 2025, Invest Vancouver is managing 151 active leads in its pipeline representing a value of \$4.4 billion in potential investment over three years and 3,048 jobs. So far in 2025, four companies have landed in the region amounting to a value of \$68 million in direct investment over the next three years and 120 high-quality jobs. Invest Vancouver has also secured \$812,925 in grant funding to support investment attraction strategies, representing a revenue source of 19 per cent of Invest Vancouver’s 2025 fiscal budget.

The Board received the report for information and directed staff to send the report to member jurisdictions.

E1.4 Investment Attraction Update Q1-Q2 2025

RECEIVED

Despite increasing global economic instability, tariffs, slowing GDP growth, and tightening capital markets, Invest Vancouver continues to attract international investment and promote the Metro Vancouver region to a global audience. As of Q2 2025, Invest Vancouver is managing 151 active investment leads, representing \$4.4 billion in potential direct investment over three years and over 3,000 projected jobs. Four companies landed in the region in the first two quarters of 2025, contributing \$68.2 million direct investment over three years and 120 high-quality jobs.

Through global events hosted in the region such as Web Summit Vancouver and targeted outbound missions, Invest Vancouver added 63 new leads in Q2, representing \$770 million in potential direct investment over three years and 862 projected jobs. In support of business expansion, Invest Vancouver also supported six firms as a designated referral partner for federal immigration programs as of Q2.

In coordination with multiple orders of government, Invest Vancouver has also increased its efforts to support local expansion and attract capital investment in the Metro Vancouver region given the positive impact this has on employment and prosperity. At Web Summit Vancouver, Invest Vancouver staff held over 100 investor meetings, including approximately 20 with venture capital and corporate venture capital firms. From those meetings it is clear there is value in targeted actions to support growth-stage capital investment in the Metro Vancouver region.

The Board received the report for information and directed staff to send the report to member jurisdictions.

E1.5 2025 Future Skills Centre Award to Launch Invest Talent

RECEIVED

The Metro Vancouver region faces talent shortages in key sectors such as technology, clean tech, and life sciences, posing barriers to innovation and growth. Invest Vancouver secured \$480,000 from the Future Skills Centre, funded through the Government of Canada's Future Skills Program to pilot Invest Talent, an industry-driven initiative advancing inclusive workforce development. Originally set to run from April to September 2025, the project has since been extended to December 2025 to support the achievement of project outcomes. Ultimately, Invest Talent will engage 60 employers and 120 learners through two tested approaches: cross-sector (e.g., cybersecurity) and employer-specific applications.

The pilot is responsive, scalable, and equitable, building short-term learning pathways aligned with industry needs. An application to scale Invest Talent as a sustainable program is underway, proposing a hybrid public-private funding model. If successful, recommendations related to longer-term oversight and sustainability will be presented at a future date.

The Board received the report for information.

E2.1 Contribution Agreement - CTS Youth Society (2026-2028)

APPROVED

The CTS Youth Society (CTS) is a non-profit society that aims to connect youth in Metro Vancouver with their natural environment, their community, and each other through life-changing outdoor experiences. CTS programs are designed and delivered for youth and by youth, providing free and accessible community education through environmental stewardship, leadership programs, and public service.

Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) has a three-year Contribution Agreement with CTS Youth Society totaling \$241,000 which will expire at the end of 2025. A new Contribution Agreement between MVRD and CTS Youth Society in or substantially in the form attached is proposed for the next three calendar years, commencing January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2028. This agreement includes annual contributions of \$84,500 (2026), \$86,500 (2027), and \$88,500 (2028) for a total funding amount of \$259,500. These amounts are similar to the previous agreement and have been adjusted for inflation.

The Board approved the contribution agreement.

E2.2 Natural Asset Management in Regional Parks – Campbell Valley Regional Park Pilot

RECEIVED

The final phase of the Natural Asset Management in Regional Parks project was to undertake a pilot study to develop a natural asset management plan for one park - Campbell Valley Regional Park. This report provides a summary of the approach developed by the pilot study, and the results.

The Campbell Valley Regional Park natural asset management plan guides decision-making by integrating inventory assessment, condition evaluation, and risk analysis, developing measurable objectives to track progress, and identifying management strategies for the park. The plan determined that the current levels of effort are sufficient to sustain Campbell Valley's natural assets and mitigate risks to a reasonable degree. Advancing natural asset management is a key focus of continuous improvement within Regional Parks.

The pilot study approach can be applied to developing asset management plans for other regional parks, as time and resources allow.

The Board received the report for information.

E3.1 Housing and Transportation Cost Burden Study Update

RECEIVED

This report updates Metro Vancouver's Housing and Transportation ("H+T") Cost Burden Study, analyzing how combined housing and transportation expenses affect household affordability across the region. Combined household H+T costs average \$41,000 per year, with wide variation in costs between jurisdictions and in the ratios of housing costs to transportation costs.

Key findings include:

- Transportation costs can rival, and sometimes exceed, housing costs;
- Centres and Corridors, especially those along the SkyTrain network, consistently demonstrate lower combined costs;
- Rental tenure greatly scales the affordability benefits of SkyTrain; and
- Population density alone does not materially affect H+T affordability.

The findings suggest that location and tenure matter; Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing, for example, is unlikely to contribute to affordability if it does not offer transit proximity, rental tenure, and convenient access to jobs and services. Transit-Oriented Areas around SkyTrain, on the other hand, could enable greater levels of affordability if the housing is purpose-built rental.

These insights support policies that promote transit-oriented development (particularly affordable rental housing), strategic housing growth in affordable areas, investment in improved public transit and job creation in transit-accessible locations, all of which can improve regional affordability and guide future growth management.

The Board received the report for information and requested that the Board Chair send the report to member jurisdictions, TransLink, the BC Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, and the Federal Minister of Housing and Infrastructure.

E3.2 Population Projections Update Cover Report

RECEIVED

Metro Vancouver’s average annual net population growth projection has been revised from 50,000 to approximately 42,500 residents per year, reflecting the impact of recent federal policy changes affecting immigration and non-permanent residents. These shifts have introduced increased volatility in population projections, causing both upward and downward swings in regional growth estimates over the past few years. Between 2025 and 2027, growth is expected to temporarily slow due to reduced immigration targets and fewer non-permanent residents, with a modest dip anticipated in 2026 before returning to more stable growth. Until federal policies stabilize, projections will remain more volatile and subject to change. Under the Medium Growth Scenario, Metro Vancouver’s population is expected to reach 4 million by 2047 and 4.2 million by 2051.

Metro Vancouver updates population projections for the region annually to support long-range planning for housing, infrastructure, utilities, and transit. These projections are developed in collaboration with member jurisdictions and regional agencies, using the latest demographic data, economic indicators, and government policy inputs. The projections inform capital planning across Metro Vancouver’s utilities and guide coordinated regional growth strategies.

The Board received the report for information and requested the Board Chair to send the report to member jurisdictions.

E3.3 Housing 2050: Affordable Housing Gap Analysis

RECEIVED

There has been a significant increase in support for affordable housing in recent years, however, the scale of the current and projected need for non-market housing in the region far exceeds these efforts. Over the past five years, between 12,500 and 19,500 affordable rental housing units have been initiated across the region through a combination of federal, provincial, and local government programs, including approximately \$1.2 billion in contributions from regular federal and provincial funding programs, and significant support from local governments through planning tools, incentives, and land contributions.

The Affordable Housing Gap Analysis identifies a need for between 29,250 and 54,500 affordable rental units over the next five years, requiring a \$10.1 billion to \$19.3 billion investment, inclusive of all government tools, to both address current underhoused need and to repair historic underinvestment in the sector. While this scale of investment is unattainable in the short term, all efforts to build on recent progress towards closing the gap are critical and will yield meaningful improvements in housing outcomes and community well-being. Taking steps to address this gap requires coordinated action across all orders of government. The primary responsibility for funding rests with senior governments whose sustained and scaled investment is essential to meeting the region’s affordable housing needs. And, local governments play a critical enabling role by implementing land use policies, streamlining development approvals, and offering financial and regulatory incentives that improve project viability.

The Board received the report for information and requested that the Board Chair send the report to member jurisdictions, the BC Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, and the Federal Minister of Housing and Infrastructure.

E3.4 Metro 2050 – 2024 Annual Performance Monitoring Report

RECEIVED

The 2024 Annual Performance Monitoring Report provides the annual update on the 29 key performance indicators established in *Metro 2050*, the regional growth strategy. These indicators track progress across a range of policy areas and offer a comprehensive view of how the region is advancing toward its long-term vision. The Metro 2050 Performance Monitoring Dashboard supports this report by offering detailed data, visualizations, and status updates for each measure.

It serves as a transparent and accessible tool for the Metro Vancouver Board, member jurisdictions, TransLink, regional agencies, and the public to monitor implementation, evaluate outcomes, and inform collective decision-making.

Highlights include:

- 41% of dwelling unit growth (2016–2021) occurred in Urban Centres (target is 40%);
- Area inside the Urban Containment Boundary reduced by 391 ha, primarily due to the removal of Lions Bay;
- Vehicle km travelled by auto drivers declined from 43.6M km/day (2017) to 41.4M km/day (2023);
- Walking trips increased from 14.2% to 18.2% of all trips (2017–2023);
- Only 2.3% of newly completed units (2018–2023) in growth areas were affordable rentals (target: 15% by 2050);
- Office space in Urban Centres remained stable at 55M sq ft, despite a regional decline in total office space; and
- Five amendments to *Metro 2050* were approved in 2024, reflecting ongoing implementation and refinement of the regional growth strategy.

The Board received the report for information and directed staff to forward the report to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Citizen’s Services.

E4.1 Supporting Board Effectiveness: Board Self-Evaluation Tool

APPROVED

The Governance Committee is positioned to support the Board in developing an annual Board performance self-evaluation to increase Board effectiveness, as recommended by Deloitte Canada in the Metro Vancouver Board Governance Review. It is recommended that Board hire an independent facilitator to undertake an annual process of interviews with targeted performance questions to evaluations and to report the findings to the Board to help clarify expectations, encourage reflection on responsibilities, and promote accountability.

At the September 12, 2025 Governance Committee meeting, members suggested that the recommendation in the report did not provide the flexibility needed and that a hybrid model for Board self-evaluation, incorporating both individual interviews and surveys, may be more appropriate. The Governance Committee passed an amended motion without prescribing the inclusion of individual interviews.

The Board endorsed initiating an annual Board self-evaluation process by an external facilitator starting in 2026.

E4.2 Prioritization of Deloitte's Metro Vancouver Board Governance Review Recommendations

APPROVED

To maintain high standards of governance, the Governance Committee supports the MVRD Board by ensuring that all governance priorities, policies, and frameworks are compliant and aligned with Metro Vancouver's strategic objectives. At the inaugural Governance Committee meeting on July 16, 2025, the Committee considered its workplan for 2025 and 2026, and requested that all 49 recommendations from the Metro Vancouver Board Governance Review be provided for discussion and prioritization at the September 2025 Governance Committee meeting. In response, the recommendations are attached to this report noting for each recommendation whether it is completed, underway, or a short-, medium- or long-term opportunity or legislative change, whether it is currently in the Governance Committee's workplan, and whether it is in the purview of the Governance Committee. The attachment is meant to support the Committee's discussion on additional Work Plan priorities.

At its meeting on September 12, 2025, the Governance Committee discussed the recommendations and identified the following priorities:

- Review the size and structure of the Board (#2)
- 17 - Review bylaws, policies and procedures to ensure they are current and appropriate, and simplify them for ease of use, understanding and adoption
- 22 - Define & document decision-making processes to improve efficiency & manage conflict
- 26 - Review Board materials to streamline information in a way that enhances the ability of directors to better read, understand and govern.
- 27 - Consider supporting more complex or controversial decisions with staff presentations at the Board with options considered, implications and risks.
- 29 - Board reports to include multiple options for the Board to consider, where practical.
- 30 - Leverage Metro Vancouver staff as the key source of information.
- 31 - Ensure, for large complex and capital-intensive projects, that management continue to provide regular updates to the Board as the project progresses.

The Board added the proposed priorities to the Governance Committee's 2026 and 2027 work plan.

E4.3 Committee Chair Remuneration

APPROVED

The *Metro Vancouver Regional District Remuneration Bylaw No. 1425, 2025* establishes a structure consisting of a standard meeting fee and a fixed monthly stipend for Committee Chairs. Committee Chairs currently receive a monthly payment equivalent to 0.5% of the Board Chair's annual salary for meetings and other routine committee business, in addition to the Board and committee members' payments of 0.5% of the Board Chair's annual salary for each meeting attended. This framework was designed to provide consistent compensation while acknowledging the time and expertise contributed, in line with other comparative organizations.

Recommendation #40 of the Metro Vancouver Board Governance Review report suggests that the "Board should consider replacing the monthly retainer for Committee Chairs with a double meeting fee for any committee meetings held. This would eliminate payment for committee meetings that do not occur, but still provide Chairs with a preparation and attendance meeting stipend for meetings held." At the May 23, 2025 Board meeting, this recommendation was referred to the Governance Committee for consideration. The amendment would result in minor cost savings.

The Board directed staff to bring forward a bylaw to amend the remuneration bylaw to replace the committee chair monthly stipend with a per-meeting stipend.

E5.1 Climate 2050 Progress Report 2025

RECEIVED

Despite regional economic and affordability challenges, Metro Vancouver and its member jurisdictions continue to successfully implement climate policy and initiatives. The Climate 2050 Progress Report highlights a range of impactful projects, such as the implementation of EV-ready bylaws in 15 member jurisdictions, a collaborative project with Vancouver Coastal Health to create a Local Government Policy Toolkit for Thermal Safety in Apartment Buildings, and municipal incentives for homeowners to make clean energy upgrades.

As of 2023, regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were still above 2010 levels, but year over year emissions decreased across several sectors, including personal transportation (due to the uptake of EVs and more active transportation use) and waste management. Per capita emissions have decreased by 16% from 2010. Underlying key performance indicators also signal a potential downward trend in emissions over the next few years. Continued implementation of existing climate policies and additional targeted policies, programs and investments can support progress while improving health, affordability, and economic growth in the region.

The Board received the report for information and directed staff to bring *Climate 2025* back to the Board for review and revision.

E5.2 Corporate Climate and Energy Performance Report

RECEIVED

Metro Vancouver is on track to meet its 2030 target of reducing corporate energy-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 45% below 2010 levels. In 2024, Metro Vancouver emitted 24,888 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e), a 7% reduction from the 2010 baseline, while also decreasing energy purchased and GHG emissions per capita by 2% and 3% respectively from 2023. These improvements were largely driven by increased self-generated renewable energy and the transition to renewable fuels in operations. Metro Vancouver is also implementing projects to proactively manage climate risk, which helps to ensure that infrastructure and facilities remain strong and viable into the future.

At its September 12, 2025 meeting, the Air Quality and Climate Committee considered the report titled “Corporate Climate and Energy Performance Report”, dated August 28, 2025. Subsequent to the Air Quality and Climate Committee meeting, staff notified the Committee that the population growth values for 2023-2024 were recently updated and the per capita key performance indicators in the report and attachment would be revised before the report came to Board to reflect this update. Additional information was also added to the Solid Waste Services section of the report.

The Board received the report for information.

E6.1 Recommended Updates to Metro Vancouver Development Cost Charge Categories and Definitions

APPROVED

Metro Vancouver is reviewing its Development Cost Charge (DCC) program through a series of coordinated projects. As an initial step, a report was presented to the Finance Committee and the MVRD Board in June 2025, outlining best practices, proposed updates to DCC categories and definitions, and a framework for engagement. Throughout July, Metro Vancouver engaged member jurisdictions, industry representatives, and the public. Overall feedback was generally supportive of proposed updates, and specific comments were used to help refine definitions and develop resources to support implementation.

This report summarizes feedback received and presents draft definitions and recommendations for Board review and approval. If the Boards approve the revised categories and definitions, they will be integrated into the planned 2027 DCC Program update, alongside updated population projections and capital plans, to inform new rate structures effective in 2028.

The Board approved the recommended updates to Development Cost Charge categories and definitions.

E6.2 2026 Schedule of Board Meetings

RECEIVED

The 2026 schedule of board meetings has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *MVRD Procedure Bylaw No. 1368, 2023* (Procedure Bylaw). The schedule includes the date, time, and place for thirteen (13) board meetings, mostly to be held on Fridays at the end of most months, which will avoid conflicts with the standing committee schedule, municipal council meetings, and other conflicting events. Additional special board meetings may be scheduled if required. Meetings on the 2026 Schedule of Meetings will be conducted as in-person meetings or hybrid electronic meetings.

The Board received the report for information.

G1.1 Metro Vancouver Regional District Park Dedication Removal of Certain Land in Deas Island Regional Park Bylaw No. 1382, 2025 **APPROVED**

The Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT), through the Transportation Investment Corporation (TI Corp), plans to replace the aging George Massey Tunnel with an eight-lane tunnel (the “Project”). To accommodate the Project, MOTT requires parts of the Deas Island Regional Park (the “Park”) being approximately 1,846 square metres for permanent highway expansion (the “Highway Land”) and approximately 42,791 square metres for temporary construction laydown and working space during construction of the Project (the “Lease Land”, and collectively with the Highway Land the “Park Dedication Removal Lands”). Following the completion of the Project, the Lease Lands will be restored at the cost of MOTT, and rededicated. The Park Dedication Removal Lands are shown on the map in Attachment 2 of the report.

To dispose of the Park Dedication Removal Lands, Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) must first remove park dedication from these lands. Park dedication removal can be achieved by way of the bylaw set out in Attachment 1 of the report. The adoption of the Bylaw requires approval of the electors, which can be obtained by means of an alternative approval process. After the park dedication has been removed, the lands can be disposed of in accordance with the Real Estate Authority Policy.

The Board gave three readings to *Metro Vancouver Regional District Park Dedication Removal of Certain Land in Deas Island Regional Park Bylaw No. 1382, 2025* and directed staff to undertake an alternative approval process to obtain elector approval for the bylaw.

I 1 Committee Information Items and Delegation Summaries

The Board received information items and delegation summaries from standing committees as follows.

Regional Parks Committee – September 10, 2025

Information Items:

E3 Natural Resource Management Restoration Program Update

In 2025, 42 restoration projects are planned across the regional parks system. These planned restoration projects include stream daylighting and maintaining wetland habitats, removal of invasive species, improving forest resilience, improving habitat diversity, restoring disturbed areas, buffer plantings, creating wildflower meadows, as well as restoring forested and riparian areas. This report highlights selected projects for 2025. This work improves the health of regional parks ecosystems contributing to improved regional resilience and provides opportunities for residents to engage in environmental stewardship, deepening their connection with nature.

Regional Planning Committee – September 11, 2025

Information Items:

E4 Housing 2050 Engagement Update

This report provides an update on the engagement for Housing 2050 from January to August 2025. Engagement was focused on individuals and organizations directly involved in non-market housing policy, planning, and delivery, including municipalities, First Nations, senior governments, housing providers, and sectoral organizations. Engagement included 16 facilitated meetings, one workshop, and an online questionnaire with 79 participants. Over 750 comments were received. Participants shared insights on regional priorities, opportunities for alignment, and strategies to advance affordable housing outcomes.

Key themes included:

- Advocacy and funding: Calls for increased senior government investment, flexible financing, and access to land and supports;
- Collaboration and coordination: Emphasis on cross-sector partnerships and regional alignment;
- Policy and implementation: Input on optimizing delivery, protecting tenants, and addressing homelessness;
- Data and engagement: Interest in shared research tools and ongoing, responsive engagement; and
- First Nations priorities: Desire for continued dialogue and stronger relationships around housing policy.

This input will be used in developing potential policy alternatives and advocacy strategies that will be presented to engagement audiences at the next stage.

Governance Committee – September 12, 2025

Information Items:

E1 2026 Board Calendar: Annual Flow of Information to the Boards

The Governance Committee requested that the development of a Board Calendar be part of the committee's 2025 Work Plan. The draft 2026 Board Calendar is being shared with the Governance Committee for input and consideration. Once finalized, it will be provided to the Boards for information at a future meeting. The intent is to offer the MVRD, MVHC, GVWD, and GVS&DD Boards (the Boards) a calendar that identifies expected regular reporting cycles through the year for efficient tracking and clarity. This is best practice for many boards. The calendar includes financial reporting such as the annual budget process, audit, and capital program reviews, in addition to reporting on the capital program, utilities, communication / intergovernment relations and management plans. The draft 2026 Board Calendar reflects a structured cadence with an outline of the flow of information and engagement that the Boards can expect. As recommendations in the report dated May 20, 2025 from Deloitte Canada are implemented, the calendar will evolve to incorporate additional items, such as the annual use of a Board Self-Evaluation Tool.

Greater Vancouver Water District

E1.1 Recommended Updates to Metro Vancouver Development Cost Charge Categories and Definitions APPROVED

Metro Vancouver is reviewing its Development Cost Charge (DCC) program through a series of coordinated projects. As an initial step, a report was presented to the Finance Committee and the MVRD Board in June 2025, outlining best practices, proposed updates to DCC categories and definitions, and a framework for engagement. Throughout July, Metro Vancouver engaged member jurisdictions, industry representatives, and the public. Overall feedback was generally supportive of proposed updates, and specific comments were used to help refine definitions and develop resources to support implementation.

This report summarizes feedback received and presents draft definitions and recommendations for Board review and approval. If the Boards approve the revised categories and definitions, they will be integrated into the planned 2027 DCC Program update, alongside updated population projections and capital plans, to inform new rate structures effective in 2028.

The Board approved the recommended updates to Development Cost Charge categories and definitions.

I 1 Committee Information Items and Delegation Summaries

The Board received information items and delegation summaries from standing committees as follows.

Water Committee – September 17, 2025

Information Items:

E1 Current Water Use Metrics and Status of Metering in the Region

With the ongoing significant increase in population forecasted, combined with the impacts of climate change on water supply and amount of rainfall in summer months, the demand for drinking water will increase.

Understanding current and historical water use patterns in the Metro Vancouver region informs effective infrastructure planning, policy development and strategic planning such as the update to the Drinking Water Management Plan (DWMP). Metro Vancouver’s water use metrics demonstrate a high total per capita water and residential water consumption together with a relatively low level of universal metering. Unmetered water use (residential unmetered and leakage) accounts for over half the water delivered to the region. Water metering is an effective way of identifying leakage both on the system and on the private side. Proposed strategies in the DWMP update focus on advancing residential water metering to enable accurate, data-driven decision making, address leakage and support reductions in per capita residential water demand.

E2 GVWD Electrical Energy Use, Generation, and Management

The GVWD Electrical Energy Use, Generation, and Management report outlines electrical usage by the water utility, as well as energy generation and energy management projects. A total of \$274,000 in cost savings was achieved in 2024; \$238,000 by generating electrical energy at four facilities and approximately \$36,000 in savings from energy management projects. Overall, of the

total emissions reduced at Metro Vancouver since 2010, 21 per cent of the total reduction is attributed to efforts and implementation within GVWD. Since 2015, a total of 2.6 Gigawatt-hour (GWh) in cumulative electrical energy savings resulted from energy management projects completed by GVWD.

E3 Palisade Lake – Outlet Works Rehabilitation

GVWD’s Palisade Lake Facility was built in 1926 and is a critical component of Metro Vancouver’s water supply. Following one of the regular inspections in 2021, some components within the facility were identified as nearing the end of their expected service life and the facility required rehabilitation and upgrades to meet current and future operational needs and new seismic design criteria.

Due to the criticality of the water reserves in Palisade Lake, the remote location and limited available work window the Palisade Lake Outlet Works Rehabilitation Project was split into two phases. Phase 1 of the project included undertaking urgent repairs to extend the service life of the facility. This work was completed in 2025 using an innovative approach that limited the loss of the water reserves in Palisade Lake and enhanced worker safety. Phase 2 of the project, which includes seismic upgrades, is planned to commence in mid-2030s and is strategically timed to be implemented following completion of the Coquitlam Lake Water Supply Project.

Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District

E1.1 Updated Extended Producer Responsibility Five-Year Action Plan

APPROVED

British Columbia is a leader in extended producer responsibility, and the Province’s *Advancing Recycling in B.C. Extended Producer Responsibility Five-Year Action Plan 2021-2026*, identified priority product categories for addition to the program including automotive products, compressed canisters, additional battery categories, medical sharps used at home, and mattresses and foundations. In July 2025, Metro Vancouver was advised that due to consumer affordability challenges, the Ministry of Environment and Parks are not recommending inclusion of mattresses and foundations in the program at this time, but that the other product categories are expected to be added as originally proposed.

If mattresses and foundations are not added to the extended producer responsibility program, municipalities and users of the regional solid waste system will continue to subsidize management of the mattresses and foundations. As part of the 2026 budget, phased increases in the fee charged for mattress and foundations at regional solid waste facilities will be recommended, starting with an increase from \$15 to \$20 per unit for January 2026.

This report recommends the Board Chair write to the Minister of Environment and Parks reiterating the importance of including mattresses and foundations in the extended producer responsibility program.

The Board authorized the Chair to send a letter to the Minister of Environment and Parks highlighting the benefits that will be achieved through the inclusion of new products in the extended producer responsibility program,

E2.1 Additional Information on Alternative Approach to Deliver the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Projects

APPROVED

Metro Vancouver is required to upgrade the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant to meet federal and provincial regulatory requirements, which require a minimum of secondary level treatment.

In March 2022, the GVS&DD Board approved the Project Definition Report (PDR) for the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Projects (Iona Projects) with an estimated cost of \$9.9 billion and a target of meeting secondary compliance by 2035. Within the PDR, the approach was to build an entirely new treatment plant and complementary environmental projects in a condensed timeline. That anticipated completion date would now be approximately 2040 due to market and population changes, negotiating federal funds, and review of alternate options to deliver the Iona Projects. In July 2024, the contract for preliminary design work was awarded to Fraser Delta Group. A key scope of work for the designer was to explore the phasing options of the Iona Projects components while prioritizing secondary treatment and assessing delivery strategies, cost sustainability, and associated risks.

The resulting recommended approach reflects updated project design information and assessment of market capacity. With the approach recommended in this report, the majority of secondary treatment would be delivered by 2039 with a cost estimate of \$6 billion. This would be done by rehabilitating the existing plant and reprioritizing other components not essential for secondary treatment. This approach changes the sequence of the components outlined in the PDR to deliver secondary treatment earlier. Other components would be delivered as future projects. This allows all components to be delivered over time, with the flexibility to adapt to changing environmental conditions, funding availability, population projections, regulatory requirements, and addresses concerns regarding annual costs for ratepayers in the short-term. However, delivery of all components outlined in the PDR will cost more over a longer time frame.

The proposed approach will allow Metro Vancouver to meet all regulatory requirements from the federal government and the majority of requirements set out in the provincial regulations by 2039. The provincial regulations have an additional requirement above what is required by the federal regulations related to the quantity of treated effluent. Metro Vancouver will be able to achieve a portion of this requirement with the recommended approach and the opportunity to request that the Province align provincial wastewater effluent regulations with federal wastewater effluent regulations.

A key risk of this approach is that the Province may not accept aligning with federal regulations and delays will be incurred with associated risks of regulatory non-compliance. Another risk in changing the sequence of delivery and deferring primary plant upgrades post-secondary treatment is increased operability risk of the primary plant in a seismic event.

Additional information requested by the GVS&DD Board at the Special GVS&DD meeting of July 24, 2025 is included in a cover report and its attachments.

The Board directed staff to undertake upgrades to the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant with an approach that: prioritizes secondary treatment as quickly as possible; and changes the sequence of the components outlined in the 2022 Project Definition Report and defers other components. The Board also directed staff to request that the Province align provincial wastewater effluent regulations with federal wastewater effluent regulations.

E2.2 Liquid Waste Management Plan Phase 3 Engagement

RECEIVED

During the third and final phase of engagement on the *Liquid Waste Management Plan* update, Metro Vancouver engaged councils of member jurisdictions and sought input from First Nations and the public to finalize a plan for submission to the provincial Minister of Environment and Parks. Member councils emphasized the importance of cost fairness, support for wet weather and rainwater management, and opportunities for Metro Vancouver to assist with plan implementation. First Nations expressed strong interest in having co-decision making authority on regional and municipal projects and plans, alongside a desire to see actions that result in measurable water quality improvements resulting in a return to shellfish harvesting. Comments received from the public focused on capital project cost increases, concerns about the impacts of increasing population and urban growth on the region's wastewater infrastructure, and support for enhanced rainwater management and expanded green infrastructure. Broadly, engagement results show support for the plan's focus on conservation and reduction of system demands at the source. Nearly 1,000 comments received through all phases of plan engagement have been considered or incorporated into the plan, with effort to strike a balance between financial sustainability, environmental management, and First Nations' priorities.

The Board received this report for information.

E3.1 Recommended Updates to Metro Vancouver Development Cost Charge Categories and Definitions

APPROVED

Metro Vancouver is reviewing its Development Cost Charge (DCC) program through a series of coordinated projects. As an initial step, a report was presented to the Finance Committee and the MVRD Board in June 2025, outlining best practices, proposed updates to DCC categories and definitions, and a framework for engagement. Throughout July, Metro Vancouver engaged member jurisdictions, industry representatives, and the public. Overall feedback was generally supportive of proposed updates, and specific comments were used to help refine definitions and develop resources to support implementation.

This report summarizes feedback received and presents draft definitions and recommendations for Board review and approval. If the Boards approve the revised categories and definitions, they will be integrated into the planned 2027 DCC Program update, alongside updated population projections and capital plans, to inform new rate structures effective in 2028.

The Board endorsed the recommended updates to Development Cost Charge categories and definitions.

I 1 Committee Information Items and Delegation Summaries

The Board received information items from standing committees.

Zero Waste Committee – October 3, 2024

Information Items:

E1 Multi-Family Residential Waste Reduction Initiatives Update

A summary of multi-family recycling Metro Vancouver and member jurisdiction initiatives was provided to the Zero Waste Committee at its January 9, 2025, meeting. Zero Waste Committee members had several questions related to the report. This report provides additional information with respect to multi-family recycling specifically comparing disposal quantities for multi-family and single-family sources, providing examples of tenant engagement programs, multi-lingual resources, building design and operations, and innovative programs and technologies within the Metro Vancouver region and other jurisdictions. Multi-family home residents have lower recycling rates and higher per capita disposal rates than single family home residents. This data reflects that organic recycling systems are more convenient for single-family home residents, and single-family homes generate large quantities of yard trimmings that increase recycling rates. Engagement with multi-family building managers and tenants, culturally relevant education, contamination detection technology and updated building design requirements are among the many action options being considered in the updated solid waste management plan to close this performance gap.

E2 Waste-to-Energy Facility District Energy System Project Update

The Waste-to-Energy Facility District Energy System will provide heat and hot water for up to 50,000 homes and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 70,000 tonnes per year. Agreements are now in place with River District Energy and the City of Burnaby for the sale of heat from the District Energy system. A street access agreement is now in place with the City of Burnaby, and a similar agreement is being finalized with the City of Vancouver.

Project procurement initiatives have begun with a contract awarded for the preloading of the energy centre site with work expected to begin in coming weeks. Completion of the construction of the infrastructure to provide heat to River District is expected in mid-2028.

The expected cost of the district energy system is within the approved funding allocation of \$217 million, with the cost-recovered over the life of the infrastructure through energy sales. The \$2.5 million funding from the Federal Low Carbon Economy Fund will assist with the project's debt financing needs ultimately lowering the cost of energy to the City of Burnaby and River District energy utilities.

E3 Waste-to-Energy Facility 2024 Financial Update

This report provides the annual financial update for the Metro Vancouver Waste-to-Energy Facility. The facility continues to be an environmentally sound, cost-effective disposal option. In 2024 the Waste-to-Energy Facility processed 243,168 tonnes of municipal solid waste at an overall net unit cost of \$99 per tonne for operation, maintenance and debt service. Waste-to-Energy Facility electrical revenues in 2024 continued to be impacted by the 2023 generator failure because the generator was not back in service until July 2024. Insurance claims related to the generator failure were resolved in 2024 with the insurance recoveries roughly balancing out the combination of the cost of the generator repair plus lost electrical revenue.

Waste-to-Energy Facility unit costs are consistent with the cost of managing waste at the Vancouver Landfill and roughly half the cost of managing waste through Metro Vancouver's contingency disposal contracts. Waste-to-Energy Facility costs are funded through garbage tipping fees paid by all solid waste system users.

E4 Programs and Policies for Waste Reduction at Public Events

At its April 3, 2025 meeting, the Zero Waste Committee requested information on the work of Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions to reduce waste at community public events. This report is a summary of Metro Vancouver initiatives, member jurisdiction programs and policies, and emerging trends across Canada that support event organizers in waste prevention and recycling. Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions support waste reduction at events through a variety of programs, policies and resources, including event planning guidance and support, setting recycling requirements as part of municipal permitting, and supplying zero waste stations and vendor education. Further support for waste reduction at events includes a move towards reusable cups and containers at event venues, and additional actions are being considered as part of an updated solid waste management plan.

E6 2025 Textiles Waste Reduction Campaign Results

The 2025 “Repair and Re-Wear” campaign ran from March 24 to May 18, 2025. The objective was to reduce textiles waste by encouraging people to do small, easy repairs to their clothing so that they last longer. The new creative platform, “Repair and Re-Wear,” harnessed the feeling of pride felt from bringing clothes back to life. It ran across the region through paid media placements. The campaign performed strongly, with 22.4 million impressions, 3.7 million video views, and over 22,000 website visits. Compared to the previous version, the updated campaign received a 650% higher volume of click throughs on Facebook/Instagram and website sessions more than doubled.

E7 Single-Use Item Waste Composition Results

Since 2018, the quantity of single-use items disposed in Metro Vancouver including bags, cups, straws, utensils and takeout containers, has been estimated using waste composition studies. Data from 2024 indicated:

- A measured significant increase in single-use items disposal in 2024 compared to 2023 and
- a probable upward trend in single-use item disposal since 2020
- A shift from plastic bags to paper
- Emergence of a new single-use item category - molded fiber utensils
- A decrease in foam takeout containers

In 2024, overall single use items made up approximately 3.0 per cent of the total waste stream compared to 2.1 per cent in 2023. Given the small overall portion of the waste stream, there is more potential for data collection anomalies to significantly affect the relative quantities. On this basis, it will be important to understand to what extent the 2024 data is representative of the overall portion of single use items in the waste stream, by comparing to data from 2025 and subsequent years. Despite various actions to reduce single use items, it is reasonable to expect single use items are increasing in the waste stream given the increased use of food delivery services.