



UTILITIES GOVERNANCE OPTIONS

COMOX VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

NEILSON-WELCH
CONSULTANTS TO GOVERNMENT

left*side* partners inc.

WHAT IS THE PROJECT?

Examining governance options for 2 regional district services

- Sewage service – currently governed by Commission
- Water service – currently governed by a Committee

PROJECT DETAILS

- Interviews with staff and elected officials
- Courtenay, Comox, CVRD, K'ómoks First Nation
- Research into practices and experiences elsewhere
- Issues Paper – what we heard, identify options
- Report – expands on options, examples, lessons learned

ISSUES PAPER – WHAT WE HEARD

- Increase the level of technical advice on issues
- Involve the KFN in decision-making on water and sewage
- Address perceived inequities in weighted voting

TECHNICAL ADVICE - OPTIONS

- Corporation
- Commission
- Review Board
- Revamped Management Advisory Committee

CORPORATION

- Owned by the CVRD (or local governments)
- High level of autonomy from politicians
- Governance through a corporate board of experts
- Hire its own CEO and staff
- Shareholder approval required for some items, but not annual budgets

COMMISSION

- Paid members with various technical expertise
- Members appointed by CVRD Board
- Delegated authority for operations and administration of sewer and water
- Political committee retains authority for policy decisions

REVIEW BOARD

- Paid Review Board with technical expertise
- Appointed by water/sewage committee
- Political committee sets policy regarding when projects are forwarded (triggers or threshold)
- Could be used to conduct value engineering review or coordinate peer review of consultant reports

REVAMPED MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Structure almost identical to the current process
- Authority, role and commitment of time and resources for MAC increased
- Decisions don't proceed until approved by MAC
- Budget for peer review

POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING - OPTIONS

- Continue with separate committees with revised membership and voting
- Combined Utilities Committee with revised membership and voting
- Move toward a broader region-wide service in the future

REVISED MEMBERSHIP & VOTING

- Add KFN as full member
- Voting
 - No jurisdiction hold more than 50% of the vote
 - Requiring 2/3 approval on certain issues
 - Some issues could have different voting procedures (policy vs. financial)

NEXT STEPS

- Receive feedback
- Incorporate feedback into final report
- Staff bring the information forward to a new regional board subsequent to the election
- Determine whether to examine one or more options in greater detail

The image features a light blue gradient background with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered in the corners. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The word "QUESTIONS?" is centered in the upper half of the image.

QUESTIONS?