



May 3, 2021

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Strategic Plan Review and Update – Final Report

Please find below a summary report from the strategic plan review workshop with the Board of Directors and staff on April 27, 2021.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Peace River Regional District and I wish you all the best with continued implementation of the strategic plan objectives through the balance of the term.

Best regards,

Brian

Strategic Plan Review and Update Workshop – Final Report

The PRRD Board of Directors convened a workshop on April 27, 2021 for the purpose of reviewing the status of the 2019 -2022 Strategic Plan with the Chief Administrative Officer and senior staff. The workshop also included the identification of any new and emerging issues and initiatives to be recommended to the Board for inclusion in the strategic plan for the balance of the term.

1. Round table input from Directors – objectives of strategic plan review

- Identify key priorities for the balance of the term in consideration of capacity and the impacts of COVID-19
- Focus on advocacy efforts and opportunities with the Province that have been impacted as a result of COVID-19
- Focus on strategic objectives – First Nations engagement, Solid Waste Management, Asset Management, funding of new functions
- Identify opportunities to address electoral area issues such as agriculture

2. Strategic Plan Status Report – Chief Administrative Officer

The CAO and senior staff provided an update on the status of all strategies and associated actions within the strategic plan. In general, significant progress has been made on all aspects of the plan. Some activities have been curtailed to some degree due to impacts of COVID-19 but progress continues to be made on all fronts.

Some specific activities impacted by COVID-19 include First Nations and local government collaboration due primarily to the inability to hold in-person meetings which are critical for relationship development and the nature of discussions.

Advocacy efforts have also been impacted due to inability to meet with Provincial Cabinet Ministers of critical issues. More specifically, pending amendments to the Emergency Program Act will require further advocacy efforts in order to mitigate anticipated cost and resource downloading to regional districts, further impacting emergency response and recovery capacity.

The CAO is not recommending any deferral or postponement of strategic objectives and actions. Staff are fully invested in the implementation of the strategic plan and will continue to make progress in all areas and provide ongoing progress reporting to the Board of Directors.

3. New and Emerging Issues – the following issues were identified by Directors during the workshop. These issues need to be formally considered by the Board to determine if they will be added to the Strategic Plan through the balance of the term.

1. COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan – regular updating of the plan is required to address changes in public health orders and resulting impacts on operations and restoration of services. During this period, it was expressed that the organization needs to be flexible and nimble and focus on immediate needs vs discretionary requests.
2. Gap in public engagement – develop strategies to address current challenges with in-person engagement and communication with constituents resulting from COVID-19.
3. Embracing ‘new normal’ opportunities – consider strategies/policies associated with alternative work arrangements, engagement practices and other adaptive measures resulting from COVID-19.
4. New Financial Contribution Services – establish new services that will provide dedicated funding for programs that have been impacted by elimination of grant in aid. Includes drafting and consideration of service establishment bylaws and determining elector approval processes.
5. Sub-regional governance – investigate options for a sub-regional governance structure to enhance the effectiveness of sub-regional services and governance.