

April 30, 2025

RDKB Board Highlights

A general overview of discussion items & major decisions from the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (RDKB) Board of Directors' meeting held on Wednesday, April 30, 2025

The next board meeting will be held on **Wednesday**, **May 14, 2025** at **1 p.m.** online via Teams.

FortisBC talks Wildfire Safety

The Board received a delegation from FortisBC, who stated that Fortis has been expanding efforts to mitigate wildfires. To that end, they are initiating the Public Safety Power Shutoff Program (PSPS) whereby the utility could shut off power for up to 72 hours during periods of extreme wildfire risk and extreme weather. They are trying to avoid tree contacts, which could result in wildfire. This decision would be done after consultation with the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR), the BC Wildfire Service, and other agencies. The delegates emphasized that such an action would be a last resort. A study identified the following communities as having the highest risk: Greenwood and Rock Creek. RDKB staff and the Board have concerns about the program and its potential impacts on residents so will send a letter to the Province of BC and the BC Utilities Commissions.

RDKB to Lease its Land in Rock Creek

The RDKB will lease its property in Rock Creek (3526 Hwy 3) to the Boundary Community Ventures Association for a term of 20 years for the development of Food Hub infrastructure and activities. The lease rate payable to the RDKB shall be $1.00 for the term.

RDKB Continues to Advocate for Longer Hours at Beaver Crk and Champion Lakes Provincial Parks

The RDKB continues to correspond with BC Parks about extending the operating hours of Beaver Creek and Champion Lakes Provincial Parks.

Boundary Integrated Watershed Grants

The following BIWS grants were awarded: Boundary Forest Watershed Stewardship Society ($3,169); Grand Forks Wildlife Assoc. ($2,621); Okanagan Nation Alliance ($6,210); and School District 51 ($10,000).

RDKB Grand Forks Administration Building

Staff will continue to evaluate alternate new building scenarios for the Grand Forks administration building and report back to the Board in late May 2025.

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Regional District of Kootenay Boundary

South Kootenay Green Link Active Transportation Plan

Based on a recommendation from the East End Services, the Board of Directors endorsed the South Kootenay Green Link Active Transportation Plan. A financial strategy will be developed. No financial commitment has been made at this time.

Recommendation to Reject Liquor License Application

The Board recommended that the Liquor Primary application for the Fourth Ace Bard & Smokehouse in Big White be rejected after several residents expressed opposition to the application.

Grants

The following grants-in-aid were approved:

Area A:

BC Rural Centre – Keeping It Rural Conference: **$2,500**
Okanagan Nation Alliance – Fish in School: **$1,000**

Area B:

BC Rural Centre – Keeping It Rural Conference: **$2,500**
Okanagan Nation Alliance – Fish in School: **$1,000**
Rossland Gold Fever Follies – production costs: **$1,500**
BC Old Time Fiddlers, Kootenay #9 Chapter – Old Time Fiddler Camp: **$700**

Area C:

BC Rural Centre – Keeping It Rural Conference: **$2,500**
Okanagan Nation Alliance – Fish in Schools: **$2,500**
Boundary Invasive Species Society – 4x4 truck: **$5,000**

Area E:

BC Rural Centre – Keeping It Rural Conference: **$2,500**
Okanagan Nation Alliance – Fish in School: **$1,000**
Beaverdell Community Club – Easter Time Food Share: **$1,000**
Kettle River Food Share Society – Easter Time Food Share: **$1,000**
Midway Social Centre Society – 10'x12' Shed Foundation: **$1,765.61**
Kettle River Museum Society – student support: **$6,000**
Westbridge Recreation Society – community reader board sign: **$2,500**
Trails to the Boundary – BC Rural Conference: **$1,600**
Beaverdell Community Club – Faithful Hands and Hearts: **$500**
Greenwood Recreation Association - Soapbox Derby: **$2,500**

These highlights exclude confidential information such as business negotiations, personnel issues and legal matters. For full meeting agendas/minutes visit rdkb.civicweb.net. For a list of upcoming board meetings, visit rdkb.com.

For other information or to provide feedback, please contact Anitra Winje, our Corporate Officer, at 250-368-0225 or corporate@rdkb.com