



**Date:** 06/01/2021

**To:** Chair and Directors, Cariboo Regional District Board

**And To:** John MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer

**From:** Alice Johnston, Manager of Corporate Services/Deputy CAO

**Date of Meeting:** Cariboo Regional District Board\_Jan15\_2021

**File:** 550-01

---

## Short Summary:

Request from Director Forseth for CRD to Host Virtual Public Engagement Events in 2021

## Voting:

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

## Memorandum:

The following item is hereby brought forward for discussion by Director Forseth:

### ***"PURPOSE:***

*To initiate a discussion with the Board in regards to support for holding of public meetings in a virtual world, given the current BC Public Health Orders on the holding of public meetings.*

### ***BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:***

*As the Board is currently aware, current BC Public Health Orders prohibits the public from attendance at a meeting of a local government (Municipal Council/Regional District Board) at this time. As of the writing of this memo – this order is in place until **midnight on Friday, January 8th, 2021**. Based on currently known COVID-19 numbers provincially – I would expect the order will be extended for an additional period of time*

*I would suggest that the current "Events/Gatherings" Public Health Order would also cover any in-person public engagement session(s) hosted by the Regional District*

*Traditionally – the Regional District has hosted/budgeted for both sub-regional "Multi Agency Forums" and "Meet the Electoral Area Director" events – both of which can not occur at this time under current Provincial Health Orders. However, virtual sessions of these events could still occur – should the Board authorize that ...*

*The 2 virtual platforms available to the Board, for its' consideration, would be:*

- 1) Microsoft Teams*
- 2) Zoom*

*I am personally familiar with both tools and I respectfully suggest, to the Board, that Zoom is the better option for both virtual public engagement events as it has better flexibility for those that want to participate by video or phone but open to discussing either option with the Board... however the Board will want to consider costs and which budget to expense to before making any decisions including support for those Area Director(s) that want to host online meetings in their own Electoral Area(s)..."*

### **Attachments:**

None

### **Financial Implications:**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

### **Policy Implications:**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

### **Alignment with Strategic Plan:**

- Communication:** Facilitate communication strategies throughout the entire Cariboo Regional District that meet the needs of residents, community stakeholders, and other levels of government.
- Planning:** Intentionally plan services and activities of the CRD to prepare for future needs of residents and community stakeholders.
- Economic Sustainability:** Foster an environment to ensure the economic sustainability of CRD communities and the region.
- Governance:** Ensure that CRD governance policy and practices are intentional, transparent, and respectful.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

### **CAO Comments:**

I don't disagree with anything that the Director has raised, as we are in fact at the time of my writing in an extension of the current Medical Health Officer orders. I would recommend that the Board refer this matter to staff for study and analysis, to ensure that the Board has good, reliable information in making a decision as to how much resources need to be dedicated.

### **Options:**

- 1) Receipt
- 2) Receipt and other action
- 3) Defer

### **Recommendation:**

That the agenda item summary from Alice Johnston, Manager of Corporate Services/Deputy CAO, dated January 6, 2021, regarding a request from Director Forest for the CRD to consider hosting virtual Public Engagement Events in 2021 due to the current BC Public Health Order

prohibiting public attendance at meetings, be received. *Further action at the discretion of the Board.*