



Project No.:08-02 (4720-38)
File No.: 09005

May 28, 2009

Regional District of Central Kootenay
Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive
Nelson, BC V1L 5R4

Via Email: mhorton@rdck.bc.ca

Attention: Mr. Monty Horton, Project Administrator

Re: Smart Planning for Communities Initiative – Supplement to Final Report

The following is a supplement to the Final Report submitted by CTQ Consultants on April 7, 2009.

Inventory of Current Plans within the Regional District of Central Kootenay

The Regional District of the Central Kootenay (RDCK) includes 11 Electoral areas and nine municipalities. The focus of the Smart Planning for Communities initiative was solely on the Electoral Areas and did not include the municipalities. The eleven electoral areas are as follows:

- Electoral Area A (Wynndel / E. Shore-K. Lake)
- Electoral Area B
- Electoral Area C
- Electoral Area D
- Electoral Area E
- Electoral Area F
- Electoral Area G
- Electoral Area H (The Slocan Valley)
- Electoral Area I
- Electoral Area J (Lower Arrow / Columbia)
- Electoral Area K (The Arrow Lakes)

COST

TIME

QUALITY

There are currently numerous planning related bylaws adopted within the RDCK. The following chart provides a brief description of these bylaws and the Electoral Areas they apply to:

Electoral Area	Bylaw	Bylaw Type	Adoption Date
A	Kootenay Lake Portion of Electoral Area A Official Community Plan, Bylaw No. 1978, 2008	OCP	2008
Relative to Sustainability Planning?	This bylaw was recently adopted and contains various policies relating to sustainability including environmental, economic, agricultural, open space and servicing. The document may require updating to ensure adherence to recent revisions to the local government act section 877 (3) requiring the local government to include targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions within their plans.		
A, B, C	Creston Valley Official Community Plan, Bylaw No. 1575, 2002	OCP	2002
Relative to Sustainability Planning?	This bylaw was relatively recently adopted and contains various policies relating to sustainability including environmental, agricultural, open space and servicing. The document may require updating to ensure adherence to recent revisions to the local government act section 877 (2) regarding the inclusion of policy respecting affordable housing, rental housing and special needs housing as well as section 877 (3) requiring the local government to include targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions within their plans.		
D	Ainsworth Rural Land Use Bylaw No. 1189, 1996	RLUB*	1997
Relative to Sustainability Planning?	While rather general in nature this bylaw does include policies encouraging sustainable development practices and the preservation of environmentally sensitive, heritage, or agricultural lands.		
E	None		
F	Electoral Area F Rural Land Use Bylaw No. 951, 1992	RLUB*	1993
	While rather general in nature this bylaw does include policies encouraging sustainable development practices and the preservation of environmentally sensitive, heritage, or agricultural lands.		
G	Electoral Area G Rural Land Use Bylaw No. 1335, 1998	RLUB*	1999

	While rather general in nature this bylaw does include policies encouraging sustainable development practices and the preservation of environmentally sensitive, heritage, or agricultural lands.		
H	None		
I, J	Kootenay-Columbia Rivers Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1157, 1996	OCP	1996
	This bylaw is aging and has undergone a number of amendments. The bylaw does contain various policies relating to sustainability including environmental, agricultural, open space and servicing. The document may require updating to ensure adherence to recent revisions to the local government act section 877 (2) regarding the inclusion of policy respecting affordable housing, rental housing and special needs housing as well as section 877 (3) requiring the local government to include targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions within their plans. It may also be desirable to consider an overall update to this bylaw to ensure the vision laid out within the plan is still pertinent to the residents and the area.		
K	The Arrow Lakes Rural Land Use Bylaw	RLUB*	1997
	While rather general in nature this bylaw does include policies encouraging sustainable development practices and the preservation of environmentally sensitive, heritage, or agricultural lands.		
A, B, C, I, J	Regional District of Central Kootenay Zoning Bylaw No. 1675, 2004	Zoning	2004
	The zoning bylaw currently only applies to 5 of the 11 electoral areas, although 4 of the 11 are served in a similar capacity through Rural Land Use Bylaws. Two electoral areas remain without zoning, E and H.		

*A general note on Rural Land Use Bylaws – Rural Land Use Bylaws were enacted between 1985 and 2000 through the Municipal Act, and were essentially a hybrid OCP and zoning bylaw. While intended for use in rural areas it may be desirable for the Regional District to consider if these bylaws provide the level of direction desired within these areas.

In addition to those planning bylaws currently adopted within the Regional District of Central Kootenay there are also a number of initiatives currently being undertaken by the Regional District. These include the following:

Electoral Area	Initiative	Plan or Bylaw Type	Expected Completion Date	Relative to Sustainability Planning
D	Land Use Planning	OCP	Draft Spring 2009	An Official Community Plan will provide overall direction to the growth and sustainability of the community.
F	Land Use Planning	OCP		An Official Community Plan will provide overall direction to the growth and sustainability of the community. This document will replace the existing Rural Land Use Bylaw when adopted.
F	Liquid Waste Management Plan	LWMP		A Liquid Waste Management Plan will provide detailed direction to treat and dispose of liquid waste within a specified area.
H	Slocan Lake North Land Use Planning	OCP	Public Hearing Spring 2009	An Official Community Plan will provide overall direction to the growth and sustainability of the community.
K	Electoral Area K Planning Review	OCP	Draft Spring 2009	An Official Community Plan will provide overall direction to the growth and sustainability of the community. This document will replace the existing Rural Land Use Bylaw when adopted.

In addition to current planning initiatives in place and being undertaken within the Regional District there are many other aspects of the operation of the Regional District that contribute to more sustainable practices. These include the existing recycling programs and waste disposal systems as well as the operation and maintenance of the drinking water systems.

Overall the Regional District of Central Kootenay has a comprehensive system of planning in place, and is making an ongoing effort to ensuring planning is maintained as current. It is important for any planning document to remain valid in the community and be reviewed periodically to ensure awareness and validity.

Another important aspect of planning is implementation of initiatives that will contribute to sustainability. These initiatives must be considered in day-to-day decision making as laid out within a community vision or Official Community Plan. Even small initiatives such as the identification of community compost areas can contribute significantly to the sustainability of a community.

Inventory of Provincial Regulations

There are a number of initiatives of the Province of British Columbia aimed at increasing the sustainability of small rural communities. Many of these are outlined within the BC Climate Action Plan, the BC Energy Plan and through the Climate Action Secretariat. A valuable source of information for Provincial initiatives for both individuals and municipalities is the LiveSmart BC web portal available at www.livesmartbc.ca. This portal provides information on available grants, new requirements and regulations, as well as information on what other communities are doing to become more sustainable.

Preservation and protection of drinking water is also an incredibly important aspect of sustainability. Recognizing this, the Provincial government has developed the Living Water Smart Plan. This plan is comprehensive in nature and includes initiatives that both individuals and communities can undertake to become more "Water Smart".

The Columbia Basin Trust is a very valuable resource available within the Regional District of Central Kootenay and has also undertaken many initiatives aimed at creating a more sustainable region. These initiatives include a wide range of topics from literacy, business prosperity to clean drinking water. Most recently the Columbia Basin Trust has initiated a program aimed at decreasing water consumption within Basin communities.

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Overall there are any number of initiatives a community can undertake to become more sustainable. A key first step will be to identify the area of highest priority, and from there the resources available and required to address this issue can be identified. Any initiatives undertaken should be reviewed to ensure complementary implementation with the recent Greenhouse Gas Emission Baseline project being undertaken by the Regional District, as well as the previously mentioned Water Conservation Strategy initiated by the Columbia Basin Trust. Policy development and implementation of initiatives should be harmonious with these initiatives to ensure effective implementation, reduction of duplication of efforts, and an overall synergy in moving the region towards meeting the GHG Emission reduction set in place by the Province and encouraged through the Smart Planning Process.

Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Horning', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Darwin Horning, MCIP
Senior Planner
CTQ Consultants Ltd.