



STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 17, 2024 **FILE:** 0550-04 Board

TO: Chair and Directors,
Regional Board

FROM: Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: **BYLAW NO. 522 – CORTES ISLAND DOG CONTROL SERVICE**

PURPOSE

To consider the results of the alternative approval process (AAP) for Bylaw No. 522 which proposes that a dog control service be established for Cortes Island.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The attached report was considered at the February 28, 2024 meeting of the Regional Board at which time the Board approved the elector response form, the estimate of eligible electors and the elector response deadline for Bylaw No. 522. Following the meeting, public notices regarding the AAP were displayed prominently on the Regional District's website and public notice posting board, and in local Cortes Island community newsletters in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act*.

The elector response period ran for 47 days in total and closed on April 15, 2024. It had been previously calculated that a minimum of 97 elector responses would be required to prevent adoption of Bylaw No. 522 without first obtaining approval of the electors by voting. At the conclusion of the elector response period a total of 221 elector response forms had been received, the large majority of which have been accepted as valid by the corporate officer. The results confirm that the Board may not proceed with the adoption of Bylaw No. 522 without first obtaining elector assent by voting. Should it choose to do so, the vote on Bylaw No. 522 must be held not later than June 22, 2024 to meet statutory requirements.

The attached certificate provides additional information about the process of seeking elector approval via AAP and the results of that process.

ALTERNATIVES

Option A – THAT the Regional District proceed with seeking elector assent by voting for Bylaw No. 522, and

THAT general voting day for Bylaw No. 522 be established as Saturday, June 22, 2024, and

THAT the question to be asked on the ballot be as shown attached to the April 17, 2024 report from the Chief Administrative Officer, and

THAT Thomas Lloyd Yates and Edith Elizabeth Watson be appointed as the Chief Election Officer and Deputy Chief Election Officer respectively for the voting process.

Option B – THAT the Regional District decline to seek elector assent by voting for Bylaw No. 522 at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.

Respectfully:



David Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by: *T. Yates, Corporate Services Manager*

Attachments: Corporate Officer certificate re AAP results
Bylaw No. 522
Copy of February 16, 2024 report to the Board

Appendix A – Question to be decided by a vote of the electors:

“Are you in favour of Bylaw No. 522 which proposes to establish a dog control service for the entirety of Electoral Area B (Cortes Island) and which would authorize the Regional District to regulate and prohibit the keeping of dogs and to recover the costs of the service through fees, charges and other revenues, including the imposition of property value taxes in accordance with s.378 of the Local Government Act provided that the maximum amount that may be requisitioned annually does not exceed \$0.03 per \$1,000 of property assessments within the service area?”

Yes _____

No _____



BYLAW No. 522

CORPORATE OFFICER'S CERTIFICATION

I, Thomas Lloyd Yates, Corporate Officer for the Strathcona Regional District, hereby certify as follows with respect to Bylaw No. 522, being Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishing Bylaw 2023:

1. THAT Bylaw No. 522 was given third reading at a regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors of the Regional District held on February 28, 2024.
2. THAT the Board of Directors has, by Res. SRD 821/23, authorized the approval of the electors for Bylaw No. 522 to be obtained by an alternative approval process.
3. THAT the total number of electors within the area affected by Bylaw No. 522 was fairly determined to be 961.
4. THAT notice of the alternative approval process was published on March 5, 2024 and March 13, 2024 in accordance with the requirements of the *Community Charter*.
5. THAT supplementary notices of the alternative approval process for Bylaw No. 522 were published on social media channels and in community newsletters on Cortes Island during the elector response period.
6. THAT elector response forms were made available to the public via the Regional District's website and at the Regional District corporate office from March 5, 2024 until April 15, 2024.
7. THAT 221 elector response forms were submitted to the Regional District prior to the April 15, 2024 deadline for receiving elector response forms.
8. THAT 204 of the elector response forms that were received prior to the deadline have been accepted as being validly completed by qualified electors, and
9. THAT more than 10% of the estimated number of eligible electors affected by Bylaw No. 522 have submitted elector response forms prior to the above noted deadline.

In accordance with s.86 of the *Community Charter*, I hereby declare that the approval of the electors with respect to Bylaw No. 522 has not been obtained.

DATED this 15th day of April, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Yates", written over a horizontal line.

Corporate Officer



BYLAW NO. 522

A BYLAW TO ESTABLISH A SERVICE FOR THE CONTROL OF DOGS WITHIN ELECTORAL AREA B (CORTES ISLAND)

WHEREAS the Regional District may, pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, operate any service that it considers necessary or desirable for all or part of the Regional District;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Board wishes to establish a dog control service for the benefit of Electoral Area B (Cortes Island);

AND WHEREAS approval of the electors has been obtained in accordance with s.345 of the *Local Government Act*;

NOW THEREFORE the Board of Directors of the Strathcona Regional District, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

Service Established

1. There is hereby established a service to be known as the Cortes Island dog control service.

Participating Area

2. The participating area for the service is Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

Service Area Boundaries

3. The boundaries of the service area include all of Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

Service Described

4. The service hereby established includes the regulation or prohibition of dogs in accordance with Division 5 of Part 9 of the *Local Government Act*.

Cost Recovery

5. The costs of the service may be recovered by one or more of the following methods:
 - (a) property value taxes imposed in accordance with s.378 of the *Local Government Act*;
 - (b) fees and charges imposed under s.397 of the *Local Government Act*;
 - (c) revenues received by way of agreement, enterprise, gift, grant or otherwise; and

(d) revenues raised by other means authorized under the *Local Government Act* or another Act.

Annual Requisition Limit

5A. The maximum amount that may be requisitioned annually for the service is the equivalent of \$0.03 per \$1,000 of property assessment in the service area.

Citation

6. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as Bylaw No. 522, being Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishing Bylaw 2023.

READ A FIRST TIME ON THE 13TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023

READ A SECOND TIME ON THE 13TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023

READ A THIRD TIME ON THE 24TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2024

APPROVED BY THE INSPECTOR OF MUNICIPALITIES ON THE 16TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024

APPROVAL OF THE ELECTORS OBTAINED ON THE DAY OF , 2024

RECONSIDERED, FINALLY PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THE DAY OF , 2024

Chair

Corporate Officer



STAFF REPORT

DATE: February 16, 2024 **FILE:** 0550-04 Board

TO: Chair and Directors,
Regional Board

FROM: Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: **BYLAW NO. 522 – CORTES ISLAND DOG CONTROL SERVICE**

PURPOSE/PROBLEM

To consider moving forward with seeking elector approval by alternative approval process (AAP) for Bylaw No. 522 which proposes to establish a service for the control of dogs on Cortes Island.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The attached report was considered at the January 24, 2024 meeting of the Regional Board at which time an annual limit on requisition was incorporated into Bylaw No. 522. The bylaw was subsequently forwarded for further approval by the Inspector of Municipalities which has now been obtained.

In order to seek elector approval via alternative approval process it will first be necessary for the elector response form and elector response deadline to be approved by resolution of the Board, as well as an estimate of the total number of electors eligible to participate in the AAP. At the conclusion of the elector approval process a further report will be prepared for the Board's consideration that confirms the results of the AAP and the next steps that the Board may wish to take with respect to Bylaw No. 522

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT the total number of electors within the area affected by Bylaw No. 522 be fairly determined to be 961 for purposes of the alternative approval process.
3. THAT the deadline for submission of elector responses in respect of the alternative approval process for Bylaw No. 522 be established as 12:00 noon on Monday, April 15, 2024.
4. THAT the elector response form attached to the February 16, 2024 report from the Chief Administrative Officer be approved for use with the alternative approval process for Bylaw No. 522.

Respectfully:



Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by: T. Yates, Corporate Services Manager

Attachments: Bylaw No. 522
Copy of January 11, 2024 report to the Board

Table: Schedule of Milestones for Creation of Electoral Area B Dog Control Service

Schedule	Action
August 16, 2023	Regional Board considers report on dog control service and authorizes preparation of service establishing bylaw.
September 13, 2023	Regional Board gives first 3 readings to Bylaw No. 522, being Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishing Bylaw 2023, and authorizes approval of the electors to be obtained by alternative approval process (AAP).
September 19, 2023	Bylaw No. 522 submitted to Inspector of Municipalities for approval under s.342 of <i>Local Government Act</i> .
October 5, 2023	Inspector of Municipalities approval received for Bylaw No. 522.
January 24, 2024	Regional Board amends Bylaw No. 522 to include annual requisition limit.
February 16, 2024	Amended Bylaw No. 522 approved by Inspector of Municipalities
February 28, 2024	Regional Board approves elector response form, elector response deadline and determines a fair estimate of electors able to participate in AAP.
March 6, 2024	Public notice of AAP for Bylaw No. 522 published on Regional District website and other social media websites.
March 13, 2024	Public notice of AAP for Bylaw No. 522 published in Campbell River newspaper.
April 15, 2024	Deadline for receipt of elector response forms for Bylaw No. 522.
April 24, 2024	If elector approval received Regional Board adopts Bylaw No. 522, being Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishing Bylaw 2023, and authorizes preparation of bylaw to regulate dogs within Electoral Area B..
May 8, 2024	Electoral Areas Services Committee considers Electoral Area B Dog Control Regulations Bylaw No. [REDACTED].
May 22, 2024	Regional Board considers recommendations from Electoral Areas Services Committee and adopts Dog Control Regulations Bylaw No. [REDACTED].



ELECTOR RESPONSE FORM

Bylaw No. 522 (Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishment)

I, the undersigned, being a duly qualified elector of Electoral Area B, being the proposed service area for the Cortes Island Dog Control Service, am **opposed to** the adoption of Bylaw No. 522, being Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishing Bylaw 2023, by the Board of Directors for the Strathcona Regional District without first obtaining the assent of the electors by voting, and by affixing my signature below, I hereby certify that:

- I am eighteen years of age or older;
- I am a Canadian citizen;
- I have resided in British Columbia for at least the last six months;
- I am a resident of the Electoral Area B of the Strathcona Regional District,

OR

I have been a registered owner of real property within Electoral Area B of the Strathcona Regional District for at least the last 30 days;

- I am not disqualified by law from voting in local elections; and
- I am entitled to sign this elector response form and have not previously signed an elector response form in relation to Bylaw No. 522.

ELECTOR'S FULL NAME (please print legibly including first, last and middle names)
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
MAILING ADDRESS (if different than residential address)
CHOOSE ONE:
<input type="checkbox"/> I am a resident elector within Electoral Area B of the Strathcona Regional District. <input type="checkbox"/> I am not a resident elector within Electoral Area B of the Strathcona Regional District but own real property within the area described above that is legally described as follows: <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> _____ _____ </div>
<small>(Please attach page 3 if property is owned by more than one person)</small>
SIGNATURE OF ELECTOR

See the reverse side of this form for further information regarding the alternative approval process.



ELECTOR RESPONSE FORM

Bylaw No. 522 (Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishment)

The Board of directors for the Strathcona Regional District is seeking the approval of the electors by alternative approval process for Bylaw No. 522, being Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishing Bylaw 2023. If adopted, Bylaw No. 522 would authorize the Regional District to establish a dog control service for the benefit for Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

INSTRUCTIONS

1. If you qualify as an elector within the proposed service area for the Cortes Island Dog Control Service and are opposed to the adoption of Bylaw No. 522 without first seeking assent of the electors by voting, you can sign and submit an elector response form by mail or hand delivery to the address shown at the bottom of this form not later than 12:00 noon on April 15, 2024.
2. If you are **NOT opposed** to the adoption of Bylaw No. 522 you need not do anything.
3. To submit an elector response form you must qualify as a resident elector or a non-resident property elector within Electoral Area B (Cortes Island) of the Strathcona Regional District.

[Note: Only one non-resident property elector may submit an elector response form per property regardless of the number of owners for that property. If a property is owned by more than one person, the elector appointed by a majority of the owners is the only person able to complete and submit a response form on behalf of the property. See Page 3 of this form.]

4. Only one elector per elector response form is permitted.

1.

Elector response forms must be received by the Regional District not later than 12:00 noon on Monday, April 15, 2024.

Emailed or faxed elector response forms cannot be accepted; forms **must** be submitted with original signatures.

2.

The total number of electors in the service area for the Cortes Dog Control Service has been fairly determined to be 961. Unless at least 10% of those electors submit an elector response form to oppose the adoption of Bylaw No. 522, the Regional District may adopt the bylaw without first obtaining the assent of the electors by voting.

3.

For further information please contact:

Thomas Yates
Corporate Officer
Strathcona Regional District
990 Cedar Street
Campbell River, BC
V9W 7Z8

250-830-6700
corporate@srd.ca

**NON-RESIDENT PROPERTY ELECTOR
AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT A RESPONSE FORM*
Bylaw No. 522, Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishment**

*To be used only for property having multiple owners.

APPOINTMENT AND CONSENT		
We the undersigned persons, together with the person named as our appointee, constitute a majority of registered owners of the real property described below and we hereby appoint that person and give consent for them to act as the designated non-resident property elector for the purposes of this alternative approval process.		
NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPOINTEE		
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME(S)	
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS		
CITY/TOWN	B.C.	POSTAL CODE
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION		
LEGAL DESCRIPTION	or	CIVIC ADDRESS (if applicable)
OWNER SIGNATURES		
1. _____ (PRINT NAME)	_____ (SIGNATURE)	_____ (DATE)
2. _____ (PRINT NAME)	_____ (SIGNATURE)	_____ (DATE)
3. _____ (PRINT NAME)	_____ (SIGNATURE)	_____ (DATE)
4. _____ (PRINT NAME)	_____ (SIGNATURE)	_____ (DATE)
5. _____ (PRINT NAME)	_____ (SIGNATURE)	_____ (DATE)
6. _____ (PRINT NAME)	_____ (SIGNATURE)	_____ (DATE)

Note:

- If more than one person owns the above property the person wishing to submit a response form for that property must provide, at the time of submission, written consent from a majority of the property owners.
- The person appointed as the non-resident property elector must be one of the registered owners of the property.
- The only persons who are registered owners of the real property, either as joint tenants or tenants in common, are individuals who are not holding the property in trust for a corporation or another trust.
- A non-resident property elector may not submit more than one response form regardless of the number of properties owned.

Cortes Island Dog Control Service
Establishing Bylaw No. 522

Determination of Total Number of
Electors for Purposes of an Alternate Approval Process

- Purpose:** To make a fair determination of the total number of electors within the area affected by Bylaw No. 522, being Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishing Bylaw 2023. An elector is defined as a person who would qualify to vote on the question of approving Bylaw No. 522 if such a vote was to be held on the date this report was prepared.
- Area Affected:** The area affected by Bylaw No. 522 is the entire area included within Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).
- Approval Process:** The Regional District intends to proceed with an alternative approval process to determine whether Bylaw No. 522 may be adopted without first obtaining the assent of the electors by voting. Should it be determined that less than ten percent of the eligible electors within the affected area file a written objection to Bylaw No. 522 prior to the deadline for responses, the Regional Board may proceed to adoption without the requirement to obtain elector assent by voting in accordance with the provisions¹ of the *Local Government Act*. In the event that ten percent or more of eligible electors object to adoption of Bylaw No. 522 prior to the response deadline, the Board would need to consider the options that may be available for adopting the bylaw or, alternatively, defeating the bylaw.
- Authority:** The use of an alternative approval process for obtaining the approval of the electors for Bylaw No. 522 is authorized by section 407 of the *Local Government Act*.
- Elector Eligibility:** For the purposes of this report the criteria used for determining the eligibility of persons to vote as electors is based on Part 4 [*Assent Voting*] of the *Local Government Act* of British Columbia. That statute defines electors to include persons who meet the following criteria:
- Canadian citizen
 - 18 years of age or older
 - resident of British Columbia for the last 6 months
 - resident of Electoral Area B (or owner of real property within Electoral Area B for the last 30 days)
 - not otherwise disqualified from voting
- Corporate entities are not permitted to qualify as electors in British Columbia.
- Methodology:** This report will attempt to make a fair determination of the total number of electors within the area affected by Bylaw No. 522. The number of electors will be the

total of those persons who qualify to vote as resident electors and those who qualify to vote as non-resident property electors.

Resident Electors

Both the Federal and Provincial election authorities maintain lists of registered voters, but the databases are not necessarily aligned with local government jurisdictional boundaries and are therefore not particularly useful for purposes of this report. Since there is no reliable information available using existing voter enumeration data, it is necessary to consider the use of other data for the purpose of preparing an estimate of eligible electors.

BC Stats, Elections BC and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs are public agencies that maintain comprehensive databases of population, population distribution, voter eligibility, voter participation rates and other demographics. The following data are supplied by those agencies:

Demographic	Estimate	Source
Population of British Columbia	5,319,324	BC Stats (July 1, 2022)
Population of Strathcona Regional District	48,150	Municipal Affairs (December 31, 2022)
Population of Electoral Area B	1,119	Municipal Affairs (November 1, 2017)
Provincial electors in British Columbia	3,618,796	Elections BC (September 20, 2023)

Using the above data, it can be determined that just over 68% of the population of British Columbia would likely qualify as provincial electors. Notwithstanding minor variations in regional demographics, it is believed that this ratio would be sufficiently accurate for estimating the number of provincial electors within the Electoral Area B of the Strathcona Regional District. Once this number has been determined and, since the majority of qualifications required for voting in provincial elections are the same as those required for voting as a resident in local elections, this total should provide a reasonable estimate of the number of resident electors within the area affected by Bylaw No. 522.

To summarize, the number of resident electors within the service area for the proposed regional housing service may therefore be estimated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Step 1: } & 3,618,796 \text{ (eligible provincial electors)} \\ & \div 5,319,324 \text{ (total population of B.C.)} \\ & = 68.03\% \text{ (B.C. average \% of electors)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Step 2: } & 48,150 \text{ (Regional District population)} \\ & \times 68.03\% \text{ (B.C. average \% of electors)} \\ & = 32,757 \text{ (Regional District resident electors)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Step 3:} & \quad 32,757 \text{ (Regional District resident electors)} \\
 & \times 2.32\% \text{ (percentage of SRD residents in Electoral Area B)} \\
 & = 761 \text{ (Electoral Area B resident electors)}
 \end{aligned}$$

It may therefore be concluded that a fair estimate of the number of resident electors within Electoral Area B, based on the above data, is 761.

Non-Resident Property Electors

Unlike Provincial elections in British Columbia, persons who do not reside within the local voting jurisdiction may qualify to vote in local elections solely on the basis of real property ownership³. These non-resident property electors (NRPE's) must be qualified in all other respects (ie. Canadian citizen, 18 years of age or older, resident of BC, etc.) before they may be considered eligible electors. It is important to reiterate that persons who qualify as resident electors within a voting jurisdiction cannot also qualify as non-resident property electors for the same voting jurisdiction.

The following information has been extracted from the database of the Assessment Authority for BC and is useful for estimating the number of NRPE's who may exist within the proposed service area.

Demographic	Count	Source
Total properties within Electoral Area B	1,023	BC Assessment Authority (March 24, 2023)
Total registered owners of Electoral Area B properties	932	
Registered owners resident within Electoral Area B	493	
Registered owners resident outside of British Columbia	148	
Corporate and public owners of real property	91	

In order to estimate the number of NRPE's within the boundaries of the proposed dog control service area, the database of the BC Assessment Authority was queried, and it was determined that there are 1,023 separate properties within Electoral Area B and 932 unique registered owners of those properties.

From this total of 932 potential electors the following were eliminated in order:

- 493 owners of property who reside within the proposed service area;
- 148 owners of property who reside outside of British Columbia; and
- 91 owners who are corporate or public entities;

It may therefore be concluded that a reasonable estimate of the number of persons who would qualify to vote solely on the basis of ownership of real property would be 200. It may also be noted that this estimate does not account for age, citizenship or other factors that may affect voting entitlement since that information is not generally available to the Regional District.

Summary: The total number of eligible electors within Electoral Area B has been fairly determined to include 761 resident electors and 200 non-resident property electors for a total of 961.

Conclusion: For the purpose of the alternative approval process for Bylaw No. 522, being Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishing Bylaw 2023, the total number of eligible electors has been fairly determined to be 961. The number of valid elector responses required to ensure that approval for the adoption of Bylaw No. 522 is not given without first obtaining elector assent by voting is therefore 97.

- References:
1. S.86 *Community Charter* and s.342 *Local Government Act*
 2. S.65(1)(d) *Local Government Act*
 3. S.66 *Local Government Act*



BYLAW NO. 522

A BYLAW TO ESTABLISH A SERVICE FOR THE CONTROL OF DOGS WITHIN ELECTORAL AREA B (CORTES ISLAND)

WHEREAS the Regional District may, pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, operate any service that it considers necessary or desirable for all or part of the Regional District;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Board wishes to establish a dog control service for the benefit of Electoral Area B (Cortes Island);

AND WHEREAS approval of the electors has been obtained in accordance with s.345 of the *Local Government Act*,

NOW THEREFORE the Board of Directors of the Strathcona Regional District, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

Service Established

1. There is hereby established a service to be known as the Cortes Island dog control service.

Participating Area

2. The participating area for the service is Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

Service Area Boundaries

3. The boundaries of the service area include all of Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

Service Described

4. The service hereby established includes the regulation or prohibition of dogs in accordance with Division 5 of Part 9 of the *Local Government Act*.

Cost Recovery

5. The costs of the service may be recovered by one or more of the following methods:
 - (a) property value taxes imposed in accordance with s.378 of the *Local Government Act*;
 - (b) fees and charges imposed under s.397 of the *Local Government Act*;
 - (c) revenues received by way of agreement, enterprise, gift, grant or otherwise; and

(d) revenues raised by other means authorized under the *Local Government Act* or another Act.

Annual Requisition Limit

5A. The maximum amount that may be requisitioned annually for the service is the equivalent of \$0.03 per \$1,000 of property assessment in the service area.

Citation

6. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as Bylaw No. 522, being Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishing Bylaw 2023.

READ A FIRST TIME ON THE 13TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023

READ A SECOND TIME ON THE 13TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023

READ A THIRD TIME ON THE 24TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2024

APPROVED BY THE INSPECTOR OF MUNICIPALITIES ON THE 16TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024

APPROVAL OF THE ELECTORS OBTAINED ON THE DAY OF , 2024

RECONSIDERED, FINALLY PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THE DAY OF , 2024

Chair

Corporate Officer



STAFF REPORT

DATE: January 11, 2024 **FILE:** 0550-04 Board

TO: Chair and Directors,
Regional Board

FROM: Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: **BYLAW NO. 522 – CORTES ISLAND DOG CONTROL SERVICE**

PURPOSE/PROBLEM

To consider amending Bylaw No. 522 which proposes to establish a service for the control of dogs on Cortes Island.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The attached report was considered at the January 10, 2024 inaugural meeting of the Electoral Areas Services Committee at which time the following resolution was passed:

Vonesch/Mawhinney: EASC 24/24

THAT the Committee recommend that Bylaw No. 522 be amended to include an annual requisition limit of \$0.03 per 1,000 of property assessments; and

THAT it be resubmitted to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval before proceeding with an alternative approval process.

If the Board amends Bylaw No. 522 as proposed by the Committee, it will be necessary to re-submit the bylaw for approval by the Inspector of Municipalities and, once approved, Bylaw No. 522 will be returned for further consideration by the Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT third reading of Bylaw No. 522 be rescinded.
3. THAT Bylaw No. 522 be amended by deleting the third clause of the preamble and replacing it with the following:

“AND WHEREAS approval of the electors has been obtained in accordance with s.345 of the *Local Government Act*:

4. THAT Bylaw No. 522 be further amended by adding a new section 5A as follows:

Annual Requisition Limit

- 5A. The maximum amount that may requisitioned annually for the service is the equivalent of \$0.03 per \$1,000 of property assessments in the service area.

5. THAT Bylaw No. 522 be given third reading as amended.

Respectfully:



A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Dave Leitch'.

Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by: *T. Yates, Corporate Services Manager*

Attachments: Bylaw No. 522
Copy of January 3, 2024 report to the Electoral Areas Services Committee

COPY



BYLAW NO. 522

A BYLAW TO ESTABLISH A SERVICE FOR THE CONTROL OF DOGS WITHIN ELECTORAL AREA B (CORTES ISLAND)

WHEREAS the Regional District may, pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, operate any service that it considers necessary or desirable for all or part of the Regional District;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Board wishes to establish a dog control service for the benefit of Electoral Area B (Cortes Island);

AND WHEREAS consent on behalf of the electors has been obtained in accordance with s.347 of the *Local Government Act*,

NOW THEREFORE the Board of Directors of the Strathcona Regional District, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

Service Established

1. There is hereby established a service to be known as the Cortes Island dog control service.

Participating Area

2. The participating area for the service is Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

Service Area Boundaries

3. The boundaries of the service area include all of Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

Service Described

4. The service hereby established includes the regulation or prohibition of dogs in accordance with Division 5 of Part 9 of the *Local Government Act*.

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5. The costs of the service may be recovered by one or more of the following methods:
 - (a) property value taxes imposed in accordance with s.378 of the *Local Government Act*,
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(d) revenues raised by other means authorized under the *Local Government Act* or another Act.

Citation

6. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as Bylaw No. 522, being Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishing Bylaw 2023.

READ A FIRST TIME ON THE 13TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023

READ A SECOND TIME ON THE 13TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023

READ A THIRD TIME ON THE 13TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023

CONSENT ON BEHALF OF THE ELECTORS OBTAINED ON THE DAY OF , 2023

APPROVED BY THE INSPECTOR OF MUNICIPALITIES ON THE DAY OF , 2023

RECONSIDERED, FINALLY PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THE DAY OF , 2023

Chair

Corporate Officer



STAFF REPORT

DATE: January 3, 2024 **FILE:** 0550-04 Board

TO: Chair and Directors
Electoral Areas Services Committee

FROM: Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: BYLAW NO. 522 – CORTES ISLAND DOG CONTROL SERVICE

PURPOSE/PROBLEM

To consider Bylaw No. 522 which would authorize the Regional District to establish a dog control service for Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The attached report was considered at the November 8, 2023 inaugural meeting of the Board at which time the following resolution was passed:

Vonesch/Colborne: SRD 942/23

THAT the matter be referred to the Electoral Areas Services Committee.

As noted in the report the following considerations are relevant when considering this initiative;

- the interest in establishing a dog control service for Cortes Island followed the receipt of a petition last June from local residents requesting that the Regional District consider the adoption of a dog control bylaw.
- the Regional District must first establish a dog control service before it can adopt a bylaw to regulate dogs or determine how such regulations will be administered and the penalties to be imposed for bylaw contraventions. The process for development of a regulatory bylaw could be time-consuming and will require community and staff resources for its development, all of which will be for naught if authority to establish a service is ultimately withheld.
- the service establishing bylaw is not required to identify a maximum annual requisition but could if so desired. For example, the inclusion of an annual limit of \$0.03 per 1,000 of property assessment would translate to approximately \$20,000 which may cover the anticipated yearly costs for the service depending on the expected level of activity. The Board may include any limit it believes would be appropriate for the service.
- the service establishing bylaw may be approved on the basis of participating area consent given by the elected representative for the area but may also be subject to approval of the electors if desired by the Board. If amendments are made to the bylaw as currently drafted it will need to be re-approved by the Inspector of Municipalities before being submitted for elector approval.
- if approval of the electors is to be obtained before initiating the service it is unlikely that an operating budget can be finalized for inclusion in the 2024-2028 financial plan which must be adopted by March 31, 2024.

When last reviewed by the Committee in July of 2023 it was recommended that the Regional District proceed with the establishment of a service that would allow it to regulate the keeping of dogs considered dangerous or a nuisance to the community. If the Committee has further recommendations that it wishes to offer on this matter, those can be referred to the Board at the January 24, 2024 meeting.

ALTERNATIVES

Option A – THAT the Committee recommend that Bylaw No. 522 proceed via alternative approval process as previously recommended without further amendments.

Option B - THAT the Committee recommend that Bylaw No. 522 be amended to include an annual requisition limit of \$0.03 per 1,000 of property assessments, and

THAT it be resubmitted to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval before proceeding with an alternative approval process.

Option C - THAT the Committee recommend that Bylaw No. 522 be amended to include an annual requisition limit of \$0.06 per 1,000 of property assessments, and

THAT it be resubmitted to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval before proceeding with an alternative approval process.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.

Respectfully,



Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by: T. Yates, Corporate Services Manager

Attachments: Copy of May 31, 2023 petition received by Electoral Areas Services Committee
Copy of October 25, 2023 report to the Board

Edith Watson

From: Edith Watson
Sent: June 9, 2023 2:54 PM
To: Edith Watson
Subject: FW: Request for nuisance dog control on Cortes Island

From: Gerri Davis & George Lerchs <davislerchs@gmail.com>
Sent: May 31, 2023 9:19 AM
To: dleitch@rd.ca <dleitch@rd.ca>; Tom Yates <TYates@srd.ca>; Mark Baker <mbaker@srd.ca>; Mark Vonesch <mvoicesch@srd.ca>
Subject: Request for nuisance dog control on Cortes Island

NOTICE: This email is from an external source.

Gerri Davis and George Lerchs

P.O. Box 13, 1084 Freeman Road

Mansons Landing, B.C. V0P 1K0

250-935-3391

May 31st, 2023

To: CAO David Leitch
and the SRD Board of Directors

We respectfully ask that you take the time to read this entire letter and subsequently to enact some sort of dog control by-law on Cortes, specifically a Dangerous Dog by-law to the effect that in the event a dog injures or kills another dog or any other animal, the Quadra or other police force will be able to contact the owner of that dog with an order that the dog be kept muzzled and on a leash anytime the dog is not on the owner's property and in the event this is not done, to follow up with more action. This would save victims of such an event from having to go through the painful and lengthy process of taking the dog's owners to Court.

We also request that you enact some sort of a leash by-law to the effect that would require dogs to be leashed in public areas - parks, beaches, trails. This would also have to include some provision for an off-leash park where people could take their dogs to a designated area to play/run off leash. This by-law would need to make a provision for some fine or penalty for having a dog reported off leash and a nuisance in writing, more than three times (jumping up on people, acting in an aggressive manner with another dog in a public area or after one report of running deer on Cortes, the by-law officer could levy a fine or penalty on the owner of the dog.

We have a petition signed by ninety members of the public on Cortes Island requesting such a by-law. These signatures were gathered by us at the public market on a Friday afternoon.

Circumstances

Phoebe was a twenty-two month old Yorkie/Papillion Cross, who was loved by everyone who met her. She was a little character, entertaining with her playful and mischievous personality and always happy to see anyone and everyone. She had many little doggie friends. We spent the twenty months before her death in her constant company and grew to love her very deeply with an expectation she would be with us for a great many years to come.



Circumstances

In the fall of 2021, I was in our fenced garden on Freeman Road when Kira MacDuffee walked by with her Rottweiler cross dog (Willow), unleashed, as we were accustomed to seeing her do. I had my five month old puppy in the garden with me, Willow saw Phoebe and ran around the garden at top speed and through the back gate of the garden. Phoebe had seen the dog coming and ran down the stairs to the front door of our house and cowered there. Thankfully, Willow hadn't seen Phoebe escape and came bounding around the garden at top speed. I was terrified as Willow is a large dog and was charging around the garden uncontrollably - I had no idea if she was intent on attacking me. I got to the front gate and opened it and Kira called Willow out. Kira had been calling Willow all along to absolutely no avail. She said Willow was totally harmless and friendly (!). I asked her to keep her dog on a leash when walking in the neighbourhood and she said she would.

On or about **February 1st, 2022**, my husband was out for a walk with Phoebe, at the Q'was Bay Park entrance on South Cortes, when all of a sudden there were two large and very aggressive acting dogs loose on the road who had spotted Phoebe, now six and a half months old and weighing about six pounds, walking beside my husband George. Phoebe ran under a log and the two dogs (Willow and the neighbour's dog, Tessa) ran over to the log and tried to drag Phoebe out - my husband picked up a big stick and ran over to strike the dogs, who immediately left when they saw him coming. He brought Phoebe home, who was in severe shock. She lay on the front door mat for over three hours shaking uncontrollably and refused to be comforted or moved. I called an on-line vet who explained that puppies can easily die of shock and she recommended I get Phoebe to a vet. It was Sunday and I had a lot of trouble finding a vet who would see Phoebe. After agreeing to pay a large sum of money, a vet in Merville agreed to see her, so I took the next ferry to Campbell River and drove to his office where he gave Phoebe a sedative and a muscle relaxant and checked her over carefully. Edward Colley and Kira MacDuffee paid \$200.00 and the owners of the dog, Tessa, paid the other \$200.00 for Phoebe's vet bills and ferries. Both couples assured George and I that their dog would never be off leash again. We believed them. They seemed so sorry and sympathetic.

On **March 20th, 2023**, I was walking in Q'was Bay Park about 10:30 in the morning, near the bridge that spans Gunflint Lake and Hague Lake. I had my friend's dog, a long haired miniature dachshund and my own dog, Phoebe, and had started back along the trail to home through Q'was Bay Park and was about ten yards from the bridge. Phoebe was directly in front of me and Foxy, the dachshund, was directly behind me. All of a sudden, on this very narrow trail, over a rise, came Willow at top speed and grabbed Phoebe out from under me - this happened at lightening speed and Phoebe started screaming. I threw myself on top of Willow and pushed her off of Phoebe, who got up and ran away. Kira came over the path and leashed Willow and 'explained' that she hardly 'ever' let Willow off leash. We had a conversation about how Phoebe was the only dog Willow was ever aggressive with, as if Phoebe was somehow to blame - a seven pound dog and a 50 lb dog - hardly evenly matched. Phoebe had on a padded jacket and a yellow raincoat. I asked Kira to look for Foxy as she too had taken off, although was unharmed. I tried to find Phoebe to no avail, calling and calling her. I went home, she wasn't there and so I walked back to the Park, calling and calling. Along came Edward on the path with Foxy wrapped in his coat and I asked him to put Foxy in our house.

About twenty minutes later Edward came back and said Phoebe was sitting on our porch so I went home to find her there, shaking and crying.

I took her inside, took her coats off and found a huge wound in her left side. I left immediately for the ferry and while on route, called several vets in Campbell River who would see her. I finally found one and he x-rayed her, sedated her and

sewed up her wounds, putting a drain in her tiny body. Again, Kira and Edward paid the \$1,200 bill and said FOR SURE Willow would never be allowed off leash again and Edward also assured me she would have a muzzle on whenever she was off property. We believed them. Again they seemed so contrite and we had no other recourse. As an aside, we have reports from many of Kira and Edward's neighbours about how aggressive Willow was with other dogs in the neighbourhood and how she was often out on the road, bounding around, unleashed and unsupervised.



Now **May 11th, 2023** - I had gone to an art class in the morning and a visiting friend asked George if she could take Phoebe for a walk so off they went, walking down to Hague Lake. My friend Renate and Phoebe (on a leash) were standing looking at the lake and from around a corner, at top speed, came Kira's two dogs, Willow and Shanti. My friend tried to protect Phoebe but the dogs were very fast and killed Phoebe instantly. I include her statement given the day Phoebe was killed.



To say we are still in a horrible state of shock is an understatement. This little Yorkie cross was such a smart, funny, beautiful little dog and had total command of our hearts. **This was totally preventable as the owners of Willow had promised three previous times that Willow would ALWAYS be on a leash but didn't follow through on that promise.** They are decent people and have paid monetarily for their sins but I doubt if other dog owners with aggressive dogs would have been so considerate. Kira and Edward have put Willow down, I believe from the outcry of public pressure after Phoebe's death but they refuse to put the other dog down, who participated equally in the event. They say they can train her. That is exactly what they said when Willow ripped Phoebe's side open in K'was Bay Park. If a dog kills once, it will kill again.

The day Phoebe was killed, I called the Quadra police asking them to intervene with the owners of the dogs and was told, "Because there is no dog control or dangerous dog by-law on Cortes, they could do nothing and said my only recourse was to take them to court.

We need a leash by-law and a dangerous dogs by-law on Cortes. A lot of dogs off leash are probably ok BUT there are many who aren't and you don't know that until another dog or a child is attacked. **I have received many e-mails from people whose dogs have been attacked on Cortes or others who have had dogs run at them and jump up on them (a hazard for elderly people)- which is a sign of a dominant/aggressive dog.**

If a by-law had been in effect the third time our little dog Phoebe was harassed and indeed attacked by the very same dog, as explained below, we could have brought some consequences to bear. Instead we had to rely on the dog owners' word that "the dog would never be off leash again" which they failed to do, and Phoebe could still be alive today.

I propose to launch an on-line site be created so people could post incidents of off-leash uncontrolled and/or aggressive dogs with a description of the incident, the location and the date of the incident with a description of the dog and any interaction with the dog's owner. We are happy to pay for the creation and maintenance of such a webpage. The webpage could also have information about dog control, indications of aggressive behaviour in a pet etc.

Here is one excerpt from an e-mail received the day after Phoebe died:

"I too have had many similar experiences with Kira's dogs, over the years, Unfortunately, it was inevitable this would eventually occur. It was on K'was Park trail near my home at the time with my friend *** and her mini Aussie shepherd, when Kira's dogs were suddenly above us on the trail and started barking and ran towards us aggressively. To the point where *** had to pick her dog up and we shielded her. The dogs were jumping up and barking aggressively and I was yelling at them to get back. I was quite curt with Kira about this incident requesting she follow the rules of the park and have her dogs on leash."

"Fast forward a few months and the dogs are again on the trail, this time right by my home and running barking into my yard from the trail towards my husband. Luckily they kept going. My husband requested of Kira the dogs be on a leash. I called the RCMP, and said there wasn't anything they could do, but recommended I call the owners and express my concerns, which I did. The response was lukewarm, at best. I have also had several other incidents with these dogs in public while off leash. They are simply unruly and the owner has no control over her pets. I had to stop dead still in the PO in Mansons a few weeks ago, so I wouldn't be tripped and injured by the dogs running all over the place in that small space."

Why do we have to wait to find out if a dog is aggressive at the expense of another animal or a child (not to mention running deer while off leash) or until someone shows fear when a large dog approaches at full speed or provokes a dog in some unknown way. Why do we have to wait until another Phoebe is killed.

There are enough incidents of uncontrolled dogs here to say "this needs to be a safe community." There is a man living in 'downtown' Mansons Landing who flaunts letting his Rottweilers off leash. They have jumped up on a small senior citizen several times on the Sisken Lanes where he allows them to run off leash uncontrolled and at one point, blamed this woman for the dogs barking and frightening her because she had an umbrella! Another woman said she asked him to move his dogs on Hague Lake beach so they could pass and he sneered at her.

Having no rules ONLY work if people can police themselves for the good of the whole - not for their own wants and desires.

Other places have leash by-laws - a lot of people on Cortes seem to be living here because there are no rules and no enforcement of anything!

Why should people be afraid to walk on the beaches, roads or trails in parks - why not control your dog when off your property. Kira didn't think her dog was aggressive - even after attacking Phoebe three times! Why not keep the dog on a leash at all times. This is a considerate and civilized thing to do. We have to be an example to each other. I know some large dogs aren't aggressive and don't bark and jump up on people, but it's hard to have some dogs able to run freely when other dogs can't - people will

say that but other places require leashed animals on public property. People have to provide an example for each other.

Please help us resolve this situation on Cortes. Days after Phoebe was killed, a horse, on its owners' property was badly mauled by an off-leash dog, causing it to break its leg and the horse was put down - the dog wasn't.

What is happening here isn't right.

Following are a few of the excerpts from the many e-mails received when Phoebe died after we posted the incident to the Tideline, most of these from people we don't know. Please, take the time to read them:

"It doesn't seem right and needs to be addressed. If you and George get the off-leash bylaw passed, you will benefit the community. Phoebe was a little ball of big love."

"I am so very sorry to hear about the attack on your sweet little dog. I can't imagine how traumatic this has been for you both and for your friend who had to witness the attack. Unfortunately, some folks on Cortes have a very irresponsible attitude towards having their large and aggressive dogs off-leash. I posted on Facebook last year about being sneered at by a man with two large unleashed Rottweillers at Hague Lake, simply for asking him if he would mind hanging onto the dogs while my friend and I went past them and into the water. He said, you don't live on Cortes, do you? When we replied that yes, we did, he said, oh, well people who live here don't have a problem with dogs off-leash. He got very angry at our request and stalked off down the beach with his dogs, swearing as he went. Nothing can bring Phoebe back but I hope your post and the posts of others on the Tideline will make people think more seriously about this issue."

"I feel so bad for Phoebe and you and George. There are no words to ease the loss of unconditional love. I cried all morning and I don't even have "soft eyes."

"We are so sorry to hear of darling Phoebe's death. What a terrible thing to happen AGAIN. What is wrong with owners who allow their dogs to run wild? We are thinking of you dear people."

"I am afraid of big dogs after two attacks in my life on Cortes Island. One on me and one on my son when he was little. Dogs jumping up or giving any unwanted attention is terrifying for me and I'm sure I'm not alone.

Owners making excuses for poorly trained, aggressive dogs is unacceptable.

I think I will buy bear spray and carry it with me from now on.

So sorry for your loss."

"Hope you're okay today. Such good news about Willow being put down. She's a menace to the community.

They promised you that Willow would be on her leash at all times. They broke their promise and can't be trusted. I'd sue them if I were you. You have suffered a great loss and are experiencing emotional pain and suffering. Phoebe was a member of your family and had many years ahead of her. They need to be taken to task for their negligence so it doesn't happen again with their young dog."

"I'm going to email Mark Vonesch about it. It would be a unique bylaw but so necessary. We can't let Phoebe's death be in vain. It could be Phoebe's law."

"I am so sad and angry to hear that your dog Phoebe was killed by two dogs running wild. It is incredible to me that people will allow their dogs to run out of control. I am only hoping that you will report this to the police. **I know of one person on Cortes who had a court order that required them to keep their aggressive dog on their property. Failure to do so would require the dog to be destroyed.**"

"I love dogs, I have a dog, I have made the choice to put down one of my dogs when they became aggressive in the past. I know how hard it is, but it boggles me that people think any other action, or lack of, is being a responsible guardian when a dog becomes a threat to the peace. I now have a very timid dog, and when I walk with her I often carry a big stick. If you know who these dogs are, I would like to know, I would like to know who the owners are and be part of a group that would hold them responsible. I hope you will call the RCMP."

"I was horrified reading your post on the Tideline. I'm so sorry that happened.

I have a small dog and a toddler and I worry about things like that. Please report the incident to the police, if you haven't already. The only legal recourse we have can come when dog attacks are reported. There needs to be a record. So, please, if you feel like you can handle reporting it, that would be really helpful for any future pets who find themselves embroiled in issues with this dog owner.

Also, if you wouldn't mind sharing who's dogs they are and where on the island this happened, that would be helpful. I'd like to avoid the area if possible."

"I'm so incredibly sad and heart broken from what I've just read on the Tideline regarding your little dog, if you wish not to respond I completely understand. My name is **** and am a longtime resident of Cortes that takes pride in our safe and healthy community, I'm wishing to know what dogs are responsible, and whom they belong to so I perhaps can speak with these people. I have many many friends with small dogs, small children and such, and what has occurred is totally and completely unacceptable!!

If you do not wish to share said information (which would be just between us) I again completely understand. This is a safety issue for the island, amongst many other issues."

"My large dog who I put down, I believe became aggressive partly because she was attacked by a Rhodesian ridgeback, down at Smelt Bay. It was her first day out after weeks of whelping and then nursing her puppies. She also became aggressive because I did not train her well, and possibly because of some genetics. But ultimately she was my responsibility and I could not imagine how horrible it would be for someone to be hurt by her. **The peace and safety of a community over-rides the right of an individual person to keep an uncontrolled aggressive animal.** When a dog kills, it will kill again."

"It is so difficult even when a pet has to die for sickness or age but to have such a wicked wicked ending for a puppy can never be forgiven or forgotten.

Before we moved here, so many years ago, some times a group of Cortes men would take the need for "enforcement" into their own hands and "escort" a misbehaving man off the island with the warning not to come back. We are way past that now, of course, but I can not understand how dangerous animals are not covered by the responsibility of the RCMP. It is not only pets that are at risk, so are people, particularly little people."

"I empathize with you in this loss and horrible experience.

I hope that there is some possible legal redress so that the owners of the killer dogs are held to account for their irresponsibility."

Thank you for your time in considering this important matter. Please, help us create some tools so there is some standard of care with respect to off-leash dogs and dangerous dogs for the citizens, domestic pets and deer on Cortes Island.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are happy to deliver the petition to you as well if you would like to see it.

Regards, Gerri Davis and George Lerchs

May 11th, 2023

I was visiting my friend Gerri Davis at 1084 Freeman Road on May 11th, 2023 and about 11:00 am I asked George, Gerri's spouse, if it would be ok to take Phoebe for a walk. We put her on her leash and we set off on the road down to the lake access point, about a ten minute walk from the house. We stood and were looking out at the lake - Phoebe was right by my side, absolutely calm, on her leash.

Around the corner came two large dogs coming towards us at top speed. I crouched down to protect Phoebe - I had a book in my hand and tried to hit them off. In a second, the younger dog had Phoebe in his mouth and in a split second the other dog he also attacked Phoebe and they threw her up in the air but she was dead by the time she hit the ground. Their attack exposed her organs. I started screaming for help and the owner appeared. She had been swimming and her dogs were off leash. Two of the neighbours heard my screams and helped wrap Phoebe up and delivered both of us back to George and Gerri's house. The owner saw Phoebe on the ground and she fell to the ground in horror saying "They are hardly ever off leash - it is my fault".

So say I this 11th day of May, 2023



Renate Schade
250 701 - 5340
saltyrenate@gmail.com

1779 Vee Road, Cowichan Bay, B.C.

COPY

June 2nd, 2023

Gerri Davis
1084 Freeman Road
P.O. Box 13
Mansons Landing, B.C.
V0P 1K0

Edith Watson, CMC
Manager Corporate Operations
990 Cedar Street
Campbell River, British Columbia
V9W 7Z8

FAX to 250 830 6710

Dear Ms. Watson

Enclosed are the pages of the signed petition with one hundred and six signatures, regarding the request for dog control on Cortes Island.

I acknowledge the wording is clumsy but I organized this immediately after Phoebe's death so that the event was still fresh in the public mind. The people that signed the petition were all in favour of the two main points - leash requirement for dogs and a dangerous dog by-law.

These signatures were gathered in a short period of time and had I the resources and energy I have no doubt there would have been many more.

Thank you.

Yours truly,



Gerri Davis

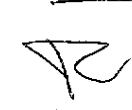
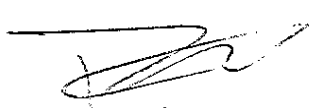



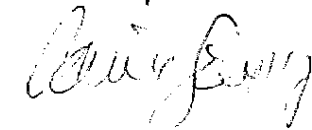
We, the undersigned, being residents of Cortes Island, hereby petition the Directors of the Strathcona Regional District to put into effect a **dog control by-law for Electoral Area B** so that in the event dogs are repeatedly wandering at large off-leash and charging, jumping up on or harassing citizens in public places and being nuisance dogs or in the event a dog is deemed to be dangerous as a result of biting or killing another animal or injuring a person, the Quadra or other police agency can keep a file on nuisance dogs and provide a place to register complaints and will have legal recourse to attend on Cortes and seize a dangerous dog.

And in addition, that citizens of Electoral Area B or visitors to Electoral Area B can walk, hike, cycle, safely on roads, parks, paths, beaches, hiking trails anywhere on Cortes Island without fear of being approached in any aggressive or domineering manner by a dog at large. Even if a dog is not a dangerous dog, we, the undersigned, ask that there be a Control of Dogs by-law to require people to keep their larger dog(s) on a leash while not on the owner's property so that citizens of Cortes have redress from being harassed by dogs. Having a small dog on a leash may also save its life from charging and ~~running~~ jumping larger dogs.

NAME	ADDRESS	Signature	PHONE NUMBER
1 SCHOLFIELD-SWEET	393 SAWMILL RD WHALETOWN	[Signature]	250 935-6464
2 ORIANE LEE JOHNSTON	400 SUTCLIFF PT. RD.	[Signature]	250 935-0255
3 Nathaniel Prussin	524 Pottlatch Road	[Signature]	778 6895151
4 NORTH JOHNSON	398 Smelt Bay Rd	[Signature]	(604) 763-5155
5 Jerry Prussin	398 Smelt Bay Rd	[Signature]	778-995-5909
6 Janey S. Kerdell	1339 Red Granite Rd.	[Signature]	250-935-8508
7 Raymond Kerdell	Manson's Landing, BC & same	[Signature]	"
8 Melanie Boyle	1437 Tran Rd.	[Signature]	604-619-3442 250-935-8541
9 TIBERIO REIS	1079 FREEM RD.	[Signature]	250-650-4747
10 Sandi Reis	1079 Freem Rd SR	[Signature]	250 650-4747
11 LeAnn Reeves	1550 whaletown Rd	[Signature]	250-935-6465


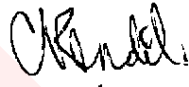

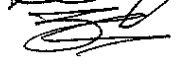



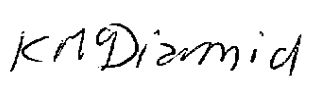

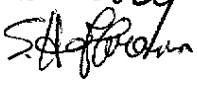
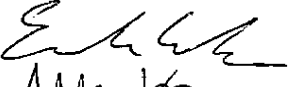

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	NAME	ADDRESS	Signature	PHONE NUMBER
12	Martha Abelson	1081 Seascope Road	Martha Abelson	250-203-7747
13	Yvonne KIPP	9/951 Bear Cay	Yvonne Kipp	250 935 6376
14	Myrna Kerr	206 South Pt Rd		
15	Jessica Pinder	980 Siskin Ln.	Jessica Pinder	250-935-0308
16	Dan Pender	" "		" "
17	Erica Kiphu	960 Siskin Ln		935-0058
18	C. Schellenberg	826 Salt Pt Rd.	C. Schellenberg	250-856-7803
19	GERRI DAVIS	1084 Merman Rd	Man & Ann	935-3391
20	VALERIE WERNET	874 HAMES RD		8583
21	Luan Lybetz	578 Potlatch Rd.		250-202-1478
22	Carnie Saxifrage	Seascope		

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NAME	ADDRESS	Signature	PHONE NUMBER
23	Amy KENZEL 13469 GRANITE RD		250 935 6678
24	Chris Kendel "		"
25	Sandy Keith 890 Hansen		604 845 7067
26	Julie Keith 890 Hansen		"
27	Melanie Kolkeins 921 Siskin		403 862 1107
28	Janiacetomlinson 500 smelt Bay MANSIONS		416-358-0273
29	Thomas Morrison 1531 SEAFORD		250 935 6581
30	Karen McDiarmid 889 Hansen R.		403-762-0916
31	Denise Drury 889 Hansen R.		403-431-0706
32	Sandra Hoffmann 1459 Squirrel Cove Rd		250- 935-0280 935-0280
33	Emilie Wapnick 874 Hayes Road		250-935-8583
34	Shannon Marks 909 Whaletown Rd		416 996 1386

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NAME	ADDRESS	Signature	PHONE NUMBER
35 Dale Thomas	585 Potlatch Rd.	Dale Thomas	250-935-0133
36 Joy Shipway	504 Highfield	Joy Shipway	250-935-6417
37 Helene Aubé	1050 Whaletown	Helene Aubé	250 935-6706
38 Lucile Andrews	530 POTLATCH	J. Andrews	250 935 8228
39 Karen Jones	244 Yakka Way	Karen Jones	250 935-6661
40 RANDY SHANK	CORTES ISL	Randy Shank	250-777-3361
41 Donna Tennant	Tennant	1013 Seascope	(604) 703-8373
42 L. Tennant	LORETTA TENNANT "		250 830-4698
43 Samantha Statton	738 Rexford Rd.	S. Statton	250-935-0276
44 Paul Kahn	778 3481809	Paul Kahn	BOX 293 mansions landing
45 Carolyn Howson	997 Belwood Rd.	Carolyn Howson	250 935 0281
46 Barbara Vorper	671 Sukit H. Rd.	Barbara Vorper	250-935-6420

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	NAME	ADDRESS	Signature	PHONE NUMBER
47	Dana Smith	Box 152 M.L.	Dana Smith	935-6360
48	Jed Solomon	"	Jed Solomon	"
49	Andy Vine	739 Maguae Rd.	Andy Vine	250935 2805
50	f. Ullie	185 Seavista Rd. 343 SAWMILL, WT	f. Ullie	604-518-2403
51	Lynne Barker	Box 203	Lynne Barker	935-0110
52	JANET TURPIN	343 SAWMILL WT P.O. 497	Janet Turpin	935-0110
53	Amaris Daniel	798 beasley Rd. - mansions landing	Amaris Daniel	778-708-0285
54	Claudia Rauer	Box 134	Claudia Rauer	250 935 8547
55	Tom B. Hart	Box 55 S. Cove	Tom B. Hart	250-935-0155
56	Jill Milton	Box 71, Whaletown	Jill Milton	6540
57	Roy L. Hales	Box 78 Squirrel Cove	Roy L. Hales	250 935 0328
58	Bonnie Macdonald	483 Sutil Pt. Rd MANAGAN'S LANDING, B	Bonnie Macdonald	250-935-6549


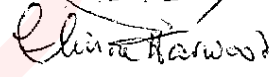
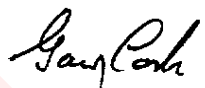
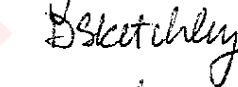
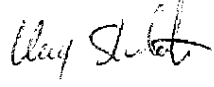

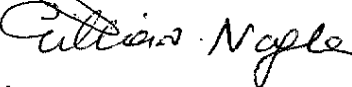
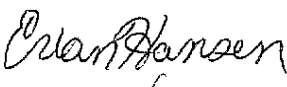
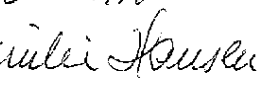


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NAME	ADDRESS	Signature	PHONE NUMBER
59 Elizabeth Kallen	1012 Seaford Rd	[Signature]	250 935 6472
60 BRINA PFEIFER	724 SUTIA PT RD	[Signature]	250-203-1510
61 CARRY DOW	1215 Seaford Rd.	[Signature]	250-935-6800
62 Brigid Weiler	504 Sutil Pt. Rd.	[Signature]	250-935-6623
63 Gloria Schwartz	1171 Colwell Rd.	[Signature]	250-935-6527
64 Eduardo Schwartz	1171 Colwell Rd	[Signature]	250-935-6527
65 Sun Condy	1104 Kwas Bay Rd.	[Signature]	250-919-8793
66 Gene Blue	1819 Tiber Bay Rd	[Signature]	250-935-6712
67 MURRAY Lovell	Box 333	[Signature]	250-203-5363
68 Marion Bennett	Box 101,	[Signature]	250-935-6646
69 Thomas Bennett	Marion's	[Signature]	"
70 Michael Keith	818 Sutil Pt Rd.	[Signature]	6473324085
71 Harriet Quint	895 Hanson Rd.	[Signature]	250-935-0041
72 Michael Brown	659 Olmstead Rd.	[Signature]	250-935-0224

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NAME	ADDRESS	Signature	PHONE NUMBER
73 BRIAN SCOTT	542 SIERZEN Rd		780 902 1584
74 KLINORE HARWOOD	553 SIERREEN RD.		250-935-8536
75 Gary Cork	553 Sierreen Rd.		250-935-8536
76 Deb Sketchley	544 Potlatch Rd.		250-203-0523
77 clay Sketchley	544 Potlatch		250-203 3207
78 C. WADDELL	1454 MILSTEAD		250-935-6333
79 Gillian Nagle	415 Whaletown Rd.		250.935.0286
80 Sue Ellinger	1195 Seaford Rd		250 935 6505
81 Evan Hansen	591 Potlatch Rd		250 886 7252
82 Emilie Hansen	591 Potlatch Rd		250 935 6584
83 Jerzy TRZESICKI	772 Lowe Rd.		250-935-0080
84 Grazyna TRZESICKA	772 Lowe Rd.		250-935-0080

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NAME	ADDRESS	Signature	PHONE NUMBER
85 George Lavichs	1084 Freeman Rd		250-935-3391
86 Camina Verhoeve	615 Whaletown Rd		250-935-6792
♡ WOOOF woof ♡ A-f?			
87 Dea' Currell	522 Sireen Road		250-204-3126
88 Seren Webster	1160 Bea. Tholomeu Rd		250 935-8555
G R R R - -			
89 Anna McCabrey	PO Box 427 Mansons Landing, BC V0R 1K0		250 935 6336
90 FAWN BARON	PO Box 258 WHALETOWN BC V0P 1Z0		250-935-8533

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NAME	ADDRESS	Signature	PHONE NUMBER
91	Toni Smorodin 814 Austin Dr.	<i>Toni Smorodin</i>	250 935 8547
92	Don & Deb FRIESEN 773 LOWE RD	<i>Don Friesen</i>	250 895 1654
93	Deb Friesen 773 Lowe Rd	<i>Deb Friesen</i>	778 348-2675
94	ARDEN GREEN 769 LOWE RD. MANSONS	<i>Arden Green</i>	250-935-6487
95	Brian Green 769 LOWE RD MANSONS	<i>Brian Green</i>	250-935-6487
96	Greg Berkson 725 SUTILL PRD MANSONS Landing	<i>Greg Berkson</i>	
97	Jean Campbell 1118 HOWAS BAY Rd.	<i>Jean Campbell</i>	250 935 - 6394
98	Joe Grassi 814 Austin Dr.	<i>Joe Grassi</i>	250-935-8547

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NAME	ADDRESS	Signature	PHONE NUMBER
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99	Gabriel Dinim	Box 205 Whatstoun	Gabriel Dinim	9350318
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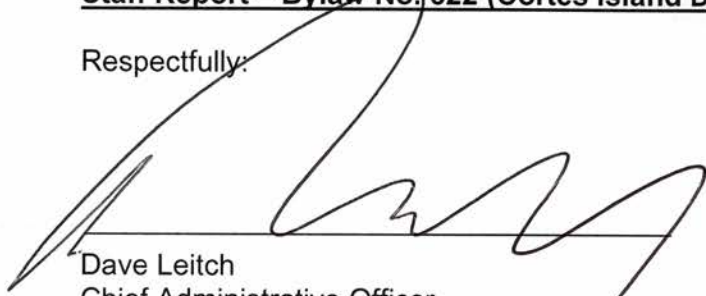
100

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	NAME	ADDRESS	Signature	PHONE NUMBER
100	Leanne Bohart	1527 Sgeant Lane Rd	Leanne Bohart	250-935-0185
101	ELIZABETH ANDERSON	1433 TAN RD	Elizabeth Anderson	935 8559
102	DE CLARKE	640 Whaletown Rd	[Signature]	935-0305
103	Mark Christian	504 Sutil Pt Rd	[Signature]	935 5145
104	LORNA KENDAL	1487 SQUIRREL COVE RD	Lorna Kendal	935-46988
105	Jane Newman	542 Siereen Rd.	Jane Newman	250-204-4343
106	Kate Welch	1 Ward Rd. (Chanasaska)	Kate Welch	250-372-4828

Respectfully:



Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by: T. Yates, Corporate Services Manager

Attachments: Bylaw No. 522
Elector Response Form for Bylaw No. 522 AAP
Estimate of Eligible Electors within proposed service area
Copy of September 5, 2023 report to the Regional Board

Table: Schedule of Milestones for Creation of Electoral Area B Dog Control Service

Schedule	Action
August 16, 2023	Regional Board considers report on dog control service and authorizes preparation of service establishing bylaw.
September 13, 2023	Regional Board gives first 3 readings to Bylaw No. 522, being Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishing Bylaw 2023, and authorizes approval of the electors to be obtained by alternative approval process (AAP).
September 19, 2023	Bylaw No. 522 submitted to Inspector of Municipalities for approval under s.342 of <i>Local Government Act</i> .
October 5, 2023	Inspector of Municipalities approval received for Bylaw No. 522.
November 8, 2023	Regional Board approves elector response form, elector response deadline and determines a fair estimate of electors able to participate in AAP.
November 15, 2023	Public notice of AAP for Bylaw No. 522 published on Regional District website.
November 22, 2023	Public notice of AAP for Bylaw No. 522 published in Campbell River newspaper.
January 2, 2024	Deadline for receipt of elector response forms for Bylaw No. 522.
January 10, 2024	If elector approval received Regional Board adopts Bylaw No. 522, being Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishing Bylaw 2023, and authorizes preparation of bylaw to regulate dogs within Electoral Area B..
February 28, 2024	Electoral Areas Services Committee considers Electoral Area B Dog Control Regulations Bylaw No. [redacted].
March 13, 2024	Regional Board considers recommendations from Electoral Areas Services Committee and adopts Dog Control Regulations Bylaw No. [redacted].
March 27, 2024	Regional Board adopts 2024 operating budget for Electoral Area B dog control service.



STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 25, 2023 **FILE:** 0550-04 Board

TO: Chair and Directors,
Regional Board

FROM: Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: **BYLAW NO. 522 – ESTABLISHMENT OF CORTES ISLAND DOG CONTROL SERVICE**

PURPOSE/PROBLEM

To consider proceeding at this time with an alternative approval process for Bylaw No. 522 which proposes to establish the service of dog control for Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its September 13, 2023 meeting the Board gave third reading to Bylaw No. 522 and authorized approval of the electors to be obtained through an alternative approval process (AAP). Bylaw No. 522 was subsequently forwarded to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval which has now been obtained. The Board may therefore proceed at this time to seek elector approval.

Before proceeding with public notification for the AAP, the Board will need to establish the elector response form to be used, the deadline for elector responses and the total number of electors eligible to participate in the AAP. All of that information will be available to the public as part of the approval process. It is recommended that the deadline for elector responses be confirmed as noon on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 which will meet all of the statutory requirements for public notification and give sufficient time for submission of elector responses as required by the *Community Charter* and the *Local Government Act*. At the conclusion of the elector response period a further report will be presented to the Board confirming the total number of valid responses and the results of the AAP.

In the event that less than 10% of the electors submit responses to the Regional District prior to the deadline the Board may proceed with adoption of Bylaw No. 522 without further approvals. On the other hand, if at least 10% of the eligible electors respond in the negative, the Board will need to consider whether to defeat the bylaw or consider other options for seeking approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT the total number of electors within the area affected by Bylaw No. 522 be fairly determined to be 961 for purposes of the alternative approval process.
3. THAT the deadline for submission of elector responses in respect of the alternative approval process for Bylaw No. 522 be established as 12:00 noon on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.
4. THAT the elector response form attached to the October 25, 2023 report from the Chief Administrative Officer be approved for use with the alternative approval process for Bylaw No. 522.



BYLAW NO. 522

A BYLAW TO ESTABLISH A SERVICE FOR THE CONTROL OF DOGS WITHIN ELECTORAL AREA B (CORTES ISLAND)

WHEREAS the Regional District may, pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, operate any service that it considers necessary or desirable for all or part of the Regional District;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Board wishes to establish a dog control service for the benefit of Electoral Area B (Cortes Island);

AND WHEREAS consent on behalf of the electors has been obtained in accordance with s.347 of the *Local Government Act*,

NOW THEREFORE the Board of Directors of the Strathcona Regional District, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

Service Established

1. There is hereby established a service to be known as the Cortes Island dog control service.

Participating Area

2. The participating area for the service is Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

Service Area Boundaries

3. The boundaries of the service area include all of Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

Service Described

4. The service hereby established includes the regulation or prohibition of dogs in accordance with Division 5 of Part 9 of the *Local Government Act*.

Cost Recovery

5. The costs of the service may be recovered by one or more of the following methods:
 - (a) property value taxes imposed in accordance with s.378 of the *Local Government Act*,
 - (b) fees and charges imposed under s.397 of the *Local Government Act*,
 - (c) revenues received by way of agreement, enterprise, gift, grant or otherwise; and

(d) revenues raised by other means authorized under the *Local Government Act* or another Act.

Citation

6. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as Bylaw No. 522, being Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishing Bylaw 2023.

READ A FIRST TIME ON THE 13TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023

READ A SECOND TIME ON THE 13TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023

READ A THIRD TIME ON THE 13TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023

APPROVED BY THE INSPECTOR OF MUNICIPALITIES ON THE 5TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023

APPROVAL OF THE ELECTORS RECEIVED ON THE DAY OF , 2023

RECONSIDERED, FINALLY PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THE DAY OF , 2023

Chair

Corporate Officer



ELECTOR RESPONSE FORM

Bylaw No. 522 (Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishment)

I, the undersigned, being a duly qualified elector of Electoral Area B, being the proposed service area for the Cortes Island Dog Control Service, am **opposed to** the adoption of Bylaw No. 522, being Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishing Bylaw 2023, by the Board of Directors for the Strathcona Regional District without first obtaining the assent of the electors by voting, and by affixing my signature below, I hereby certify that:

- I am eighteen years of age or older;
- I am a Canadian citizen;
- I have resided in British Columbia for at least the last six months;
- I am a resident of the Electoral Area B of the Strathcona Regional District,

OR

I have been a registered owner of real property within Electoral Area B of the Strathcona Regional District for at least the last 30 days;

- I am not disqualified by law from voting in local elections; and
- I am entitled to sign this elector response form and have not previously signed an elector response form in relation to Bylaw No. 522.

ELECTOR'S FULL NAME (please print legibly including first, last and middle names)
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
MAILING ADDRESS (if different than residential address)
CHOOSE ONE:
<input type="checkbox"/> I am a resident elector within Electoral Area B of the Strathcona Regional District.
<input type="checkbox"/> I am not a resident elector within Electoral Area B of the Strathcona Regional District but own real property within the area described above that is legally described as follows: _____ _____ _____
(Please attach page 3 if property is owned by more than one person)
SIGNATURE OF ELECTOR



ELECTOR RESPONSE FORM

Bylaw No. 522 (Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishment)

The Board of directors for the Strathcona Regional District is seeking the approval of the electors by alternative approval process for Bylaw No. 522, being Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishing Bylaw 2023. If adopted, Bylaw No. 522 would authorize the Regional District to establish a dog control service for the benefit for Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

INSTRUCTIONS

1. If you qualify as an elector within the proposed service area for the Cortes Island Dog Control Service and are opposed to the adoption of Bylaw No. 522 without first seeking assent of the electors by voting, you can sign and submit an elector response form.
2. If you are **NOT opposed** to the adoption of Bylaw No. 522 you need not do anything.
3. To submit an elector response form you must qualify as a resident elector or a non-resident property elector within Electoral Area B (Cortes Island) of the Strathcona Regional District.

[Note: Only one non-resident property elector may submit an elector response form per property regardless of the number of owners for that property. If a property is owned by more than one person, the elector appointed by a majority of the owners is the only person able to complete and submit a response form on behalf of the property. See Page 3 of this form.]

4. Only one elector per elector response form is permitted.
-

1.

Elector response forms must be received by the Regional District not later than 12:00 noon on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

Emailed or faxed elector response forms cannot be accepted; forms **must** be submitted with original signatures.

2.

The total number of electors in the service area for the Cortes Dog Control Service has been fairly determined to be 961. Unless at least 10% of those electors submit an elector response form to oppose the adoption of Bylaw No. 522, the Regional District may adopt the bylaw without first obtaining the assent of the electors by voting.

3.

For further information please contact:

Thomas Yates
Corporate Officer
Strathcona Regional District
990 Cedar Street
Campbell River, BC
V9W 7Z8

250-830-6700
corporate@srd.ca

**NON-RESIDENT PROPERTY ELECTOR
AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT A RESPONSE FORM***
Bylaw No. 522, Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishment

*To be used only for property having multiple owners.

APPOINTMENT AND CONSENT	
We the undersigned persons, together with the person named as our appointee, constitute a majority of registered owners of the real property described below and we hereby appoint that person and give consent for them to act as the designated non-resident property elector for the purposes of this alternative approval process.	

NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPOINTEE	
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME(S)
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS	
CITY/TOWN	POSTAL CODE

B.C.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	
LEGAL DESCRIPTION	CIVIC ADDRESS (if applicable)
or	

OWNER SIGNATURES		
1. _____ (PRINT NAME)	_____ (SIGNATURE)	_____ (DATE)
2. _____ (PRINT NAME)	_____ (SIGNATURE)	_____ (DATE)
3. _____ (PRINT NAME)	_____ (SIGNATURE)	_____ (DATE)
4. _____ (PRINT NAME)	_____ (SIGNATURE)	_____ (DATE)
5. _____ (PRINT NAME)	_____ (SIGNATURE)	_____ (DATE)
6. _____ (PRINT NAME)	_____ (SIGNATURE)	_____ (DATE)

- Note:
- If more than one person owns the above property the person wishing to submit a response form for that property must provide, at the time of submission, written consent from a majority of the property owners.
 - The person appointed as the non-resident property elector must be one of the registered owners of the property.
 - The only persons who are registered owners of the real property, either as joint tenants or tenants in common, are individuals who are not holding the property in trust for a corporation or another trust.
 - A non-resident property elector may not submit more than one response form regardless of the number of properties owned.

Cortes Island Dog Control Service **Establishing Bylaw No. 522**

Determination of Total Number of **Electors for Purposes of an Alternate Approval Process**

- Purpose:** To make a fair determination of the total number of electors within the area affected by Bylaw No. 522, being Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishing Bylaw 2023. An elector is defined as a person who would qualify to vote on the question of approving Bylaw No. 522 if such a vote was to be held on the date this report was prepared.
- Area Affected:** The area affected by Bylaw No. 522 is the entire area included within Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).
- Approval Process:** The Regional District intends to proceed with an alternative approval process to determine whether Bylaw No. 522 may be adopted without first obtaining the assent of the electors by voting. Should it be determined that less than ten percent of the eligible electors within the affected area file a written objection to Bylaw No. 522 prior to the deadline for responses, the Regional Board may proceed to adoption without the requirement to obtain elector assent by voting in accordance with the provisions¹ of the *Local Government Act*. In the event that ten percent or more of eligible electors object to adoption of Bylaw No. 522 prior to the response deadline, the Board would need to consider the options that may be available for adopting the bylaw or, alternatively, defeating the bylaw.
- Authority:** The use of an alternative approval process for obtaining the approval of the electors for Bylaw No. 522 is authorized by section 407 of the *Local Government Act*.
- Elector Eligibility:** For the purposes of this report the criteria used for determining the eligibility of persons to vote as electors is based on Part 4 [*Assent Voting*] of the *Local Government Act* of British Columbia. That statute defines electors to include persons who meet the following criteria:
- Canadian citizen
 - 18 years of age or older
 - resident of British Columbia for the last 6 months
 - resident of Electoral Area B (or owner of real property within Electoral Area B for the last 30 days)
 - not otherwise disqualified from voting

Corporate entities are not permitted to qualify as electors in British Columbia.

- Methodology:** This report will attempt to make a fair determination of the total number of electors within the area affected by Bylaw No. 522. The number of electors will be the

total of those persons who qualify to vote as resident electors and those who qualify to vote as non-resident property electors.

Resident Electors

Both the Federal and Provincial election authorities maintain lists of registered voters but the databases are not necessarily aligned with local government jurisdictional boundaries and are therefore not particularly useful for purposes of this report. Since there is no reliable information available using existing voter enumeration data, it is necessary to consider the use of other data for the purpose of preparing an estimate of eligible electors.

BC Stats, Elections BC and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs are public agencies that maintain comprehensive databases of population, population distribution, voter eligibility, voter participation rates and other demographics. The following data are supplied by those agencies:

Demographic	Estimate	Source
Population of British Columbia	5,319,324	BC Stats (July 1, 2022)
Population of Strathcona Regional District	48,150	Municipal Affairs (December 31, 2022)
Population of Electoral Area B	1,119	Municipal Affairs (November 1, 2017)
Provincial electors in British Columbia	3,618,796	Elections BC (September 20, 2023)

Using the above data, it can be determined that just over 68% of the population of British Columbia would likely qualify as provincial electors. Notwithstanding minor variations in regional demographics, it is believed that this ratio would be sufficiently accurate for estimating the number of provincial electors within the Electoral Area B of the Strathcona Regional District. Once this number has been determined and, since the majority of qualifications required for voting in provincial elections are the same as those required for voting as a resident in local elections, this total should provide a reasonable estimate of the number of resident electors within the area affected by Bylaw No. 522.

To summarize, the number of resident electors within the service area for the proposed regional housing service may therefore be estimated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Step 1: } & 3,618,796 \text{ (eligible provincial electors)} \\ & \div 5,319,324 \text{ (total population of B.C.)} \\ & = 68.03\% \text{ (B.C. average \% of electors)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Step 2: } & 48,150 \text{ (Regional District population)} \\ & \times 68.03\% \text{ (B.C. average \% of electors)} \\ & = 32,757 \text{ (Regional District resident electors)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Step 3:} & \quad 32,757 \text{ (Regional District resident electors)} \\
 & \quad \times 2.32\% \text{ (percentage of SRD residents in Electoral Area B)} \\
 & \quad = 761 \text{ (Electoral Area B resident electors)}
 \end{aligned}$$

It may therefore be concluded that a fair estimate of the number of resident electors within Electoral Area B, based on the above data, is 761.

Non-Resident Property Electors

Unlike Provincial elections in British Columbia, persons who do not reside within the local voting jurisdiction may qualify to vote in local elections solely on the basis of real property ownership³. These non-resident property electors (NRPE's) must be qualified in all other respects (ie. Canadian citizen, 18 years of age or older, resident of BC, etc.) before they may be considered eligible electors. It is important to reiterate that persons who qualify as resident electors within a voting jurisdiction cannot also qualify as non-resident property electors for the same voting jurisdiction.

The following information has been extracted from the database of the Assessment Authority for BC and is useful for estimating the number of NRPE's who may exist within the proposed service area.

Demographic	Count	Source
Total properties within Electoral Area B	1,023	BC Assessment Authority (March 24, 2023)
Total registered owners of Electoral Area B properties	932	
Registered owners resident within Electoral Area B	493	
Registered owners resident outside of British Columbia	148	
Corporate and public owners of real property	91	

In order to estimate the number of NRPE's within the boundaries of the proposed dog control service area, the database of the BC Assessment Authority was queried, and it was determined that there are 1,023 separate properties within Electoral Area B and 932 unique registered owners of those properties.

From this total of 932 potential electors the following were eliminated in order:

- 493 owners of property who reside within the proposed service area;
- 148 owners of property who reside outside of British Columbia; and
- 91 owners who are corporate or public entities;

It may therefore be concluded that a reasonable estimate of the number of persons who would qualify to vote solely on the basis of ownership of real property would be 200. It may also be noted that this estimate does not account for age, citizenship or other factors that may affect voting entitlement since that information is not generally available to the Regional District.

Summary:

The total number of eligible electors within Electoral Area B has been fairly determined to include 761 resident electors and 200 non-resident property electors for a total of 961.

Conclusion:

For the purpose of the alternative approval process for Bylaw No. 522, being Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishing Bylaw 2023, the total number of eligible electors has been fairly determined to be 961. The number of valid elector responses required to ensure that approval for the adoption of Bylaw No. 522 is not given without first obtaining elector assent by voting is therefore 97.

- References:
1. S.86 *Community Charter* and s.342 *Local Government Act*
 2. S.65(1)(d) *Local Government Act*
 3. S.66 *Local Government Act*



STAFF REPORT

DATE: September 5, 2023 **FILE:** 0550-04 Board

TO: Chair and Directors,
Regional Board

FROM: Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: BYLAW NO. 522 - ELECTORAL AREA B DOG CONTROL SERVICE

PURPOSE/PROBLEM

To consider Bylaw No. 522 which proposes to establish a dog control service for Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its October 12, 2022 meeting the Board considered the attached report and passed the following resolution:

Vonesch/Whalley: SRD 693/23

THAT a further report and bylaw to establish a dog control service for Cortes Island be prepared for consideration by the Board.

The attached Bylaw No. 522 has been prepared in response to the Board's direction. As shown in the attached timeline, it is anticipated that the Board should be able to have the service in place (as well as the subsequent regulatory bylaw) prior to adoption of the 2024-2028 financial plan.

If the recommendations outlined below are acceptable, Bylaw No. 522 will be forwarded to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval once the written consent of the director for Electoral Area B has been received.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT Bylaw No. 522, being a bylaw to establish a service for the control of dogs within Electoral Area B (Cortes Island), be now introduced and read a first time.
3. THAT the rules be suspended and Bylaw No. 522 be given second and third readings.
4. THAT participating area approval for Bylaw No. 522 be authorized to be obtained by written consent of the director for Electoral Area B in accordance with s.347 of the *Local Government Act*.

Respectfully,



Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by: T. Yates, Corporate Services Manager

Attachments: Bylaw No. 522
Copy of July 25, 2023 report to the Regional Board

Table: Schedule of Milestones for Creation of Electoral Area B Dog Control Service

Schedule	Action
August 16, 2023	Regional Board considers report on dog control service and authorizes preparation of service establishing bylaw.
September 13, 2023	Regional Board gives first 3 readings to Bylaw No. 522, being Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishing Bylaw 2023, and authorizes approval on behalf of the electors to be obtained by director consent.
September 20, 2023	Bylaw No. 522 receives written consent from director for Electoral Area B.
September 22, 2023	Bylaw No. 522 submitted to Inspector of Municipalities for approval under s.342 of <i>Local Government Act</i> .
November 17, 2023	Inspector of Municipalities approval received for Bylaw No. 522.
November 22, 2023	Regional Board adopts Bylaw No. 522, being Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishing Bylaw 2023 and authorizes preparation of bylaw to regulate dogs within Electoral Area b..
January 10, 2024	Electoral Areas Services Committee considers Electoral Area B Dog Control Regulations Bylaw No. █.
January 24, 2024	Regional Board considers recommendations from Electoral Areas Services Committee regarding Dog Control Regulations Bylaw No. █.
February 14, 2024	Regional Board adopts Electoral Area B Dog Control Regulations Bylaw No. █.
March 20, 2024	Regional Board adopts 2024 operating budget for Electoral Area B dog control service.



BYLAW NO. 522

A BYLAW TO ESTABLISH A SERVICE FOR THE CONTROL OF DOGS WITHIN ELECTORAL AREA B (CORTES ISLAND)

WHEREAS the Regional District may, pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, operate any service that it considers necessary or desirable for all or part of the Regional District;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Board wishes to establish a dog control service for the benefit of Electoral Area B (Cortes Island);

AND WHEREAS consent on behalf of the electors has been obtained in accordance with s.347 of the *Local Government Act*,

NOW THEREFORE the Board of Directors of the Strathcona Regional District, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

Service Established

1. There is hereby established a service to be known as the Cortes Island dog control service.

Participating Area

2. The participating area for the service is Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

Service Area Boundaries

3. The boundaries of the service area include all of Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

Service Described

4. The service hereby established includes the regulation or prohibition of dogs in accordance with Division 5 of Part 9 of the *Local Government Act*.

Cost Recovery

5. The costs of the service may be recovered by one or more of the following methods:
 - (a) property value taxes imposed in accordance with s.378 of the *Local Government Act*,
 - (b) fees and charges imposed under s.397 of the *Local Government Act*,
 - (c) revenues received by way of agreement, enterprise, gift, grant or otherwise; and

(d) revenues raised by other means authorized under the *Local Government Act* or another Act.

Citation

6. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as Bylaw No. 522, being Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishing Bylaw 2023.

READ A FIRST TIME ON THE DAY OF , 2023

READ A SECOND TIME ON THE DAY OF , 2023

READ A THIRD TIME ON THE DAY OF , 2023

CONSENT ON BEHALF OF THE ELECTORS OBTAINED ON THE DAY OF , 2023

APPROVED BY THE INSPECTOR OF MUNICIPALITIES ON THE DAY OF , 2023

RECONSIDERED, FINALLY PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THE DAY OF , 2023

Chair

Corporate Officer



STAFF REPORT

DATE: July 25, 2023 **FILE:** 0550-04 Board

TO: Chair and Directors,
Regional Board

FROM: Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: PROPOSAL FOR A DOG CONTROL SERVICE FOR CORTES ISLAND

PURPOSE/PROBLEM

To consider a recommendation from the Electoral Areas Services Committee that a further report and bylaw be prepared to establish a dog control service for Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its July 19, 2023 meeting the Electoral Areas Services Committee considered the attached report and passed the following resolution:

Vonesch/Mawhinney: EASC 190/23

THAT a further report and bylaw be prepared to establish a dog control service for Electoral Area B.

To be clear (and as noted previously) the first step in regulating dogs within an electoral area would be to adopt a bylaw to establish a dog control service. That would be a fairly straightforward process that doesn't require assent of the electors or development of an annual budget. Such a bylaw would not implement rules and regulations applicable to the control of dogs since those would be contained in a regulatory bylaw to be considered once the service has been established.

Accordingly, the following actions are offered in support of the Committee's recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT a bylaw to establish a dog control service for Cortes Island be prepared for consideration by the Board.

Respectfully:



Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by: T. Yates, Corporate Services Manager

Attachments: Copy of July 14, 2023 report to the Electoral Area Services Committee



STAFF REPORT

DATE: July 14, 2023 **FILE:** 0550-04

TO: Chair and Directors,
Electoral Area Services Committee

FROM: Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: PROPOSAL FOR A DOG CONTROL SERVICE FOR CORTES ISLAND

PURPOSE/PROBLEM

To consider preliminary information regarding the process for establishing a dog control service for Electoral Area B (Cortes Island) and the steps required to implement regulations should that service be established.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its June 28, 2023 meeting the Board considered the attached report and passed the following resolution:

Vonesch/Rice: SRD 553/23

THAT a further report be prepared to look at the cost, schedule and operational alternatives for providing a dog control service for Cortes Island.

The regulation of animals is authorized by Division 5 of Part 9 of the *Local Government Act*. Aside from enlisting the assistance of a peace officer to deal with a dangerous dog situation, the Regional District must first adopt a bylaw to establish a dog control service before it may enter the regulatory field. Once this has been done, the Regional District could adopt a regulatory bylaw which would outline the requirements and prohibitions deemed appropriate for Cortes Island (eg. licensing, leashing, muzzles, dogs at large, etc). The regulatory bylaw would also identify the persons or agencies that have authority to enforce the bylaw's provisions, the penalties for various infractions, and the circumstances (if any) under which impoundment would be authorized.

The process for establishing such a service is relatively straightforward in comparison to many other service initiatives and, since the service would be regulatory in nature, it may be established by participating area consent (ie. consent on behalf of the electors) without the usual requirement for assent voting or alternative approval process. However, obtaining the assent of the electors still remains an option for the Board if it is unsure of the degree to which the public supports such an initiative. Also, being regulatory in nature, the Board may authorize the service bylaw to proceed without an annual requisition limit. This exemption is based on the presumption that the costs associated with regulatory bylaws may vary considerably from year to year depending on such factors as enforcement costs.

To summarize, the process for regulating dogs on Cortes Island requires that the Board first adopt an establishing bylaw for the service, following which it can consider a bylaw that confirms the regulatory framework deemed appropriate for the Cortes Island context. In terms of the costs for operating a dog control service, the attached report from 2016 may provide some insight.

Although prepared in response to a service request for Quadra Island that includes costs for a pound facility and an animal control service contractor, there is useful information regarding costs and operational alternatives that may be worth considering as this initiative moves forward. If the desire is to have a fairly straight forward regulatory bylaw for Cortes Island with the intention of having enforcement by a peace officer and/or SRD bylaw enforcement without the requirement for animal seizure and retention, the cost of the service would be a fraction of what was proposed for Quadra Island. It is again worth noting that decisions related to the scope of the service, annual costs and cost recovery are not required to be made in advance of establishing the service but should be considered before finalizing a regulatory bylaw as these will form the basis for annual budget discussions.

A more detailed (albeit hypothetical) schedule for advancing this initiative is included below for the Board’s consideration. The schedule shows the earliest dates that the specified action regarding a dog control service could likely occur. As outlined in the schedule, it would be possible to have the service in place for the 2024 budget discussions if that is the Board’s wish.

ALTERNATIVES

Option A – THAT a further report and bylaw be prepared to establish a dog control service for Electoral Area B.

Option B – THAT no further action be taken at this time to establish a dog control service for Electoral Area B.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.

Respectfully:



Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by: *T. Yates, Corporate Services Manager*

Attachments: Draft dog control service establishing bylaw
Local Government Act extract re animal control
Copy of November 2, 2016 report to the Regional Board

Table: Schedule of Milestones for Creation of Electoral Area B Dog Control Service

Schedule	Action
July 19, 2023	Regional Board considers report on possible dog control service for Cortes Island and authorizes preparation of service establishing bylaw.
August 16, 2023	Regional Board gives first 3 readings to Bylaw No. █, being Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishing Bylaw 2023, and authorizes approval on behalf of the electors to be obtained by director consent.
August 31, 2023	Bylaw No. █ receives written consent from director for Electoral Area B.
September 8, 2023	Bylaw No. █ submitted to Inspector of Municipalities for approval under s.342 of <i>Local Government Act</i> .
November 1, 2023	Inspector of Municipalities approval received for Bylaw No. █.
November 8, 2023	Regional Board adopts Bylaw No. █, being Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishing Bylaw 2023 and authorizes preparation of bylaw to regulate dogs within Electoral Area B..
January 10, 2024	Electoral Areas Services Committee considers Cortes Island Dog Control Regulations Bylaw No. █.
January 24, 2024	Regional Board considers recommendations from Electoral Areas Services Committee regarding Cortes Island Dog Control Regulations Bylaw No. █.
February 14, 2024	Regional Board adopts Cortes Island Dog Control Regulations Bylaw No. █.
March 27, 2024	Regional Board adopts 2024 operating budget for Cortes Island dog control service.



BYLAW NO. [REDACTED]

**A BYLAW TO ESTABLISH A SERVICE FOR THE CONTROL OF DOGS WITHIN
ELECTORAL AREA B (CORTES ISLAND)**

WHEREAS the Regional District may, pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, operate any service that it considers necessary or desirable for all or part of the Regional District;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Board wishes to establish a dog control service for the benefit of the Electoral Area B (Cortes Island);

AND WHEREAS consent on behalf of the electors has been obtained in accordance with s.347 of the *Local Government Act*,

NOW THEREFORE the Board of Directors of the Strathcona Regional District, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

Service Established

1. There is hereby established a service to be known as the Cortes Island dog control service.

Participating Area

2. The participating area for the service is Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

Service Area Boundaries

3. The boundaries of the service area include all of Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

Service Described

4. The service hereby established includes the regulation or prohibition of dogs in accordance with Division 5 of Part 9 of the *Local Government Act*.

Cost Recovery

- 5. The costs of the service may be recovered by one or more of the following methods:
 - (a) property value taxes imposed in accordance with s.378 of the *Local Government Act*;
 - (b) fees and charges imposed under s.397 of the *Local Government Act*;
 - (c) revenues received by way of agreement, enterprise, gift, grant or otherwise; and
 - (d) revenues raised by other means authorized under the *Local Government Act* or another Act.

Citation

- 6. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as Bylaw No. [REDACTED], being Cortes Island Dog Control Service Establishing Bylaw 2022.

READ A FIRST TIME ON THE DAY OF , 2022

READ A SECOND TIME ON THE DAY OF , 2022

READ A THIRD TIME ON THE DAY OF , 2022

CONSENT ON BEHALF OF THE ELECTORS OBTAINED ON THE DAY OF , 2022

APPROVED BY THE INSPECTOR OF MUNICIPALITIES ON THE DAY OF , 2022

RECONSIDERED, FINALLY PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THE DAY OF , 2022

Chair

Corporate Officer

Authority requires animal control service

317. Subject to section 322 [*peace officer authority in relation to dangerous dogs*], this Division applies to a regional district only if the regional district provides a service in relation to animal control.

RS2015-1-317 (B C Reg. 257/2015)

General animal control powers

318. (1) Subject to subsection (2), the board may, by bylaw, do one or more of the following:
- (a) regulate or prohibit the keeping of dogs, horses, cattle, sheep, goats, swine, rabbits or other animals and define areas in which they may be kept or may not be kept;
 - (b) require that the owner, possessor or harbourer of a dog, or any class of dog, must keep it, as the bylaw directs,
 - (i) effectively muzzled while at large or on a highway or public place, or
 - (ii) on leash or under control of a competent person while on a highway or public place.
- (2) For the purpose of subsection (1), "other animals" does not include any animal that the board did not have authority to regulate in respect of, or prohibit the keeping of, under section 703 of the *Local Government Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 323, as it read immediately before its repeal and replacement by the *Community Charter Transitional Provisions, Consequential Amendments and Other Amendments Act, 2003*.

RS2015-1-318 (B C Reg. 257/2015)

Dog licensing requirements

319. (1) Without limiting section 318 (1), a bylaw under that provision may regulate the keeping of dogs by requiring persons who own, possess or harbour a dog to hold a licence for the dog.
- (2) A bylaw referred to in subsection (1) may
- (a) require a separate dog licence for each dog, and
 - (b) vary the amount of the fee according to the sex, age, size or breed of the dog.
- (3) A dog licence issued under this section is for the calendar year in which the licence is issued.
- (4) If a fee is imposed for a dog licence, the board may, by bylaw,
- (a) provide for the payment of compensation, on a scale set out in the bylaw, to the owner of any domestic animal that is killed or injured by a dog over the age of 4 months, the owner of which is unknown and, after diligent inquiry, cannot be found, and
 - (b) provide for the maximum total amount that is available in any one year for the purposes of compensation under this subsection.

RS2015-1-319 (B C Reg. 257/2015)

Animal pounds

320. The board may, by bylaw, do one or more of the following:
- (a) provide for the seizure, impounding and detention of
 - (i) unlicensed dogs, and
 - (ii) animals referred to in section 318 (1) (a) [*general animal control powers*] that are unlawfully at large;
 - (b) establish, maintain and operate facilities as pounds;
 - (c) regulate and establish the fines and fees, including damages for trespassing on private property, to be levied and collected by pound keepers;
 - (d) provide for the sale or destruction of animals impounded if the fines, fees and other charges are not paid within a reasonable time.

RS2015-1-320 (B C Reg. 257/2015)

Dangerous dogs

321. The board may designate a person as an animal control officer as defined in section 49 [*special powers in relation to dangerous dogs*] of the *Community Charter*, and, if the board does so, that section applies to the regional district.

RS2015-1-321 (B C Reg. 257/2015)

Peace officer authority in relation to dangerous dogs

322. Whether or not this Division applies to a regional district under section 317 [*authority requires animal control service*], a peace officer may exercise authority under section 49 of the *Community Charter* within the boundaries of the regional district.

RS2015-1-322 (B C Reg. 257/2015)



STAFF REPORT

DATE: November 2, 2016

FILE: 0550-04 Board

TO: Chair and Directors,
Electoral Areas Services Committee

FROM: Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF A DOG CONTROL SERVICE FOR QUADRA ISLAND

PURPOSE

To consider the establishment of a dog control service for Quadra Island.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its regular meeting on March 24, 2016, the Regional Board received a report (attached) with further information on the costs and feasibility of providing a dog control service for Quadra Island. In response, the Board made the following resolution:

Abram/Anderson: SRD 355/16

THAT a draft bylaw to establish a dog control service on Quadra Island be prepared for consideration by the Board based on an amended Option No.1.

It is understood that the Board's preferred option relied upon the regional district utilizing a combination of service providers to control dangerous dogs, noisy dogs and dogs at large on Quadra Island. The preferred option proposed that the RCMP would attend to complaints, undertake investigations and issue tickets where required and that the regional district would contract directly with Coastal Animal Services (CAS) on a basic fee for service to respond to more complex complaints and handle dangerous dogs. The proposal also required that the regional district contract directly with the City of Campbell River for the use of their pound facility on Merecroft Road, the only known facility available for this purpose.

Since March 2016, staff have had discussions with the proposed service providers and have been unable to secure an arrangement that would facilitate the Board's preferred option. While the RCMP have confirmed their role as proposed, confirmation of the fee for service arrangement from Coastal Animal Services was not able to be obtained in writing. In addition, the attached letter from the City Clerk confirmed that the City is unable to offer use of the pound facility in the absence of a dog control contract with them and proposes two alternative options.

Should the Board be in favour of providing a dog control service, it is recommended that a draft service bylaw be brought back to the Board based on the second option proposed by the City. As the City is the only known local provider of a suitable pound facility at this time, the Board must contract dog control services with the City unless the Board wishes to develop a pound facility for this purpose. The second option proposed by the City provides a comparable level of service to the Board's previously supported option, with higher but comparable costs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT a report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT the Committee recommend that a draft bylaw to establish a dog control service on Quadra Island be prepared for consideration by the Board based on option 2 provided by the City of Campbell River in their letter dated October 21, 2016.

Respectfully:



Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

BACKGROUND

The Quadra Island RCMP has written to the Regional District requesting assistance to deal with dog control issues on Quadra Island. The RCMP reported that they have received numerous complaints in relation to loose or abandoned dogs, dog welfare, nuisance (barking and feces) and aggressive dogs. To quantify this further, Corporal Kevin Christensen of the Quadra Island detachment estimates that per annum they attend to approximately two-three vicious dog incidents, three-four incidents of animals at large and as many as 20 other miscellaneous dog related issues (personal communication, June 22, 2015). The RCMP does not maintain a budget for this purpose and current regulations provide limited legal authority to deal with these issues.

The Regional District does not currently have authority to provide a dog control service or enact other regulations for the control of domestic dogs on Quadra Island. On June 3, 2015, the Board directed staff to prepare a report examining the cost and feasibility of providing a dog control service for Quadra Island.

A report brought to the Electoral Areas Service Committee on July 8, 2015 provided options for a dog control service that varied in the degree of desired regulatory intervention and the level of supporting animal control service. The Committee preferred the option of targeted regulation to deal with dogs at large, noisy and dangerous dogs and any associated issues required by the service including enforcement and penalty rates. There was some discussion on whether or not to mandate licensing. This option was not supported. The Committee requested a further report be prepared detailing the costs, timelines, regulatory and implementation mechanisms for the preferred option.

On August 12, 2015 a second report was prepared for the Committee. This report included research on potential suppliers and preliminary cost estimates. It was found that Coast Animal Services is the only provider of animal control in the local area and the City of Campbell River provides the only impoundment service. The Regional District currently has arrangements in place with the City of Campbell River for dog control in Electoral Area D who subcontracts the enforcement to Coast Animal Services. The report concluded that there is a reasonable case to extend the current arrangements with the City of Campbell River. The Committee recommended that the matter be deferred pending an additional investigation into local options.

An Expression of Interest process was run by the Regional District in October 2015. No additional suppliers came forward. This information was presented to the Committee in November 2015. The Committee deferred the matter to their January 2016 meeting.

In January 2016, the matter was deferred by the Committee to their March 2016 meeting. The purpose of this deferral was to obtain further pricing information from Coast Animal Services. In early March 2016 the Committee heard further information from the Area Director and recommended that this information and a draft bylaw be brought forward to the Board.

On March 24, 2016 a report (attached) was brought to the Board that listed the potential options available. The Board supported that a draft bylaw be prepared for consideration of the Board based on the following Option No 1:

Pound facility – City of Campbell River	\$3,500
Coastal Animal Services retainer (\$600 x 12 months)	\$7,200
Coastal Animal Services fee for service (3 incidents per annum at \$300 each)	\$900
Regional District Bylaw Officer cost-share ¹ (assumes attending Quadra 2 days per month)	\$8,000
Regional District Administration ²	\$3,000
Total	\$22,600

The Regional District currently has no authority to control dogs on Quadra Island. Should the Board be in favour of providing a dog control service, the Board must first authorise staff to draft a service establishing bylaw.

PROPOSED DOG CONTROL SERVICE

The dog control service recommended by EASC includes targeted regulatory control, bylaw enforcement and dog handling. Education and awareness activities may also be included.

Targeted regulatory control

A regulatory bylaw may be drafted to address the following key issues: dangerous dogs, barking dogs and dogs at large. To be effective, the regulation must include enforcement and penalty rates as well as outlining a process for seizing and impounding dogs. Mandatory licensing was not supported by EASC.

Bylaw enforcement and dog handling

Bylaw enforcement and the issuing of penalties may be undertaken by an animal control officer, a bylaw compliance officer or a peace officer if able and authorised to do so under Bylaw No. 119, being Bylaw Contravention Ticket Information System Bylaw 2012.

An agreement with a suitably qualified animal control service is recommended to assist with bylaw enforcement, particularly in situations where a dog needed to be seized and impounded. The animal control service would provide transport, shelter and emergency veterinary care as required for seized and impounded dogs.

The City of Campbell River, which has the only known pound facility, are willing to provide a dog control service for Quadra Island and have outlined the following two service options:

Option 1

- Have an Animal Control Officer available and on call 24/7
- To immediately assist the RCMP during police situations where a dangerous dog could impede their work while they conduct investigations and issue warrants.

- To provide enforcement for barking complaints, dogs at large and to impound or seize a dog.
- Provide 4 trips to the island and 16 hours of enforcement per month.
- All ferry costs are included.
- City of Campbell River pound services and related City administration costs are included.

Option 2

- Have an Animal Control Officer available and on call 24/7
- To immediately assist the RCMP during police situations where a dangerous dog could impede their work while they conduct investigations and issue warrants.
- To provide enforcement for barking complaints, dogs at large and to impound or seize a dog.
- Provide 2 trips to the island and 8 hours of enforcement per month.
- All ferry costs are included.
- City of Campbell River pound services and related City administration costs are included.

Education and awareness

There is an opportunity to increase education and awareness through the Regional District’s website and newsletter. In the absence of licensing, it is important that owners are encouraged to voluntarily identify their dogs.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The provision of a dog control service for Quadra Island will have financial implications. Preliminary cost estimates for the new options provided by the City of Campbell River are provided below.

It should also be noted that there may be an opportunity to recover some costs through enforcement proceedings however these are likely to be minimal.

Preliminary cost estimates:

Option 1: City of Campbell River

City of Campbell River costs for animal control, pound and administration	\$33,800
Regional District Administration for administrative overhead, liability insurance and legal advice/reserves for challenges.	\$3,000
Total Option 1	\$36,800

Option 2 - City of Campbell River

City of Campbell River costs for animal control, pound and administration	\$25,800
Regional District Administration for administrative overhead, liability insurance and legal advice/reserves for challenges.	\$3,000
Total Option 2	\$28,800

Tax implications

For the average residential property on Quadra Island with an assessed value of \$316,000 each \$30,000 of required revenue will result in a tax of about \$19 per year. If the service requires approximately \$40,000 to operate annually, the tax bill for the average home would be closer to \$25 per annum. These amounts do not take into account the possibility of some revenue being

realized from the operation of the service (i.e. through fines, cost-recovery or other contributions).

IMPLEMENTATION

It is envisioned that implementation could occur in late 2017 depending on the community's reaction to the service initiative and the length of time required for negotiating service contracts or building an independent service. This timeframe is sufficient to draft and adopt the necessary regulation, to negotiate a supplier arrangement and for the supplier to be service ready. Communication materials to inform the community about these changes would also be drafted and published during this time.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Regional District does not currently have authority to enact regulations for the control of dogs on Quadra Island. The Board must first adopt an establishment bylaw for the dog control service. Once approved, the Board may direct that a regulatory bylaw be prepared. The Board may also be required to provide approval for any budgetary amendments associated with the implementation of the service.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL/REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed solution involves the Quadra detachment of the RCMP and the City of Campbell River. Both organizations have confirmed their support to the service proposal. It is recommended that the service be evaluated with these providers every 3-5 years.

The level of regulatory intervention and supporting service will have implications for the Quadra Island RCMP as the local enforcement authority. A further discussion with the RCMP will be held in order to confirm their role and responsibility in enforcing any Regional District bylaws. The RCMP has given their support to an increased regulatory response from the Regional District and recommends an agreement be established with an animal control service such as Coastal Animal Services.

CITIZEN/PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPLICATIONS

It is anticipated that there will be mixed views from the Quadra Island Community towards dog control. Some may find that the level of regulation and supporting service being proposed is lacking while others may find it to be too imposing. The cost of the service is another important factor for the community and may be a determining factor when the proposal is offered for ratepayer approval. The creation of a service bylaw will require broad community support.

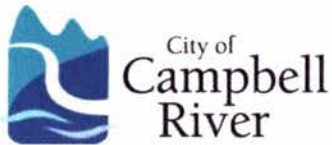
Should the Board proceed with developing a service and accompanying regulatory bylaw, there will be an expectation from the public that the Regional District will be able to enforce the bylaws in a manner that is humane and professional.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS

The development of bylaws requires corporate and legislative staff resources. Any education and awareness initiatives will require assistance from communications and administrative staff.

Prepared by: *V. Smith, Special Projects and Sustainability Manager*

Attachments: Letter from the City of Campbell River dated October 31, 2016
Staff report dated March 16, 2016



October 21, 2014

File No.: Animal Control SRD

Strathcona Regional District
301 – 990 Cedar Street
Campbell River, BC V9W 7Z8
phone: 250-830-6711
Sent via email: vsmith@strathconard.ca

Attention: Victoria Smith, Special Projects & Sustainability Manager

Dear Ms. Smith:

Re: Proposed dog control & pound services for Quadra Island

Further to our discussions I have prepared a formal proposal for your organization's review regarding dog control and pound services for Quadra Island. The proposal is based on the service level laid out in your September 19th & 20th emails which state:

Applicable area: Quadra Island

Service level: Provide a qualified animal control officer on-call 24/7 to respond to requests for assistance from the RCMP in more complicated situations, i.e. where a warrant for investigation was required and/or where a dog needed to be seized and impounded. The RCMP estimate that this may be 2-3 times per year however this is an estimate only. It is possible that once a service and bylaw are in place, the animal control officer may be called upon more often. The service only applies to dogs.

Excluded: Licensing and routine patrols are not required. The service does not apply to other animals.

The Quadra Island detachment of the RCMP have indicated that they are able and willing to assist with issuing warnings and violation tickets as well as attending follow up court proceedings. A qualified animal control person is still required to assist with more complex situations, such as situations where a dangerous dog needs to be seized and impounded. We also require an impoundment facility. Unfortunately, we were unable to find a suitable impoundment facility on the island.

Sep 20th: Thanks for the point of clarification. Yes, your understanding is correct. At present, the RCMP have confirmed that they are willing to assist with issuing warnings and violation tickets for this type of minor incidents. An animal control officer will therefore only be required in more threatening/complex situations.

Legislative Services/Bylaw Enforcement Department

301 St. Ann's Road, Campbell River, B.C. V9W 4C7

Telephone: 250.286.5700; Fax: 250.286.5760

G:\Animal Control\Contracts\Strathcona Regional District\Proposed dog control pound service for Quadra Island Oct 21 2016 letter to SRD.doc

Proposal

Why would service to Quadra Island need to include both dog control and pound services?

As you are aware, Coastal Animal Control Services of BC Ltd is currently under contract to provide animal control and pound services to the City of Campbell River - which includes Area D of the Strathcona Regional District. If the City were to begin providing service to Quadra Island, it would need to include both dog control and pound services similar to Area D. Since the City has hired Coastal and have provided them with a facility to operate from, it is important that the service level they provide City taxpayers is maintained. If the City were to permit Coastal to contract out their services to other jurisdictions while operating from the City facility at Merecroft Road, there would be no way of ensuring that the time spent serving City and Area D residents are being maintained. It is for this reason, that service to Quadra Island would need to include both dog control and pound services. Of course, there is nothing stopping the SRD from contracting directly with Coastal however the service could not include the utilization of City facilities.

Quote from Coastal Animal Control Services of BC Ltd

I contacted Coastal's Chief Executive Officer Trevor Hughes and asked him to provide a quote to provide service to Quadra Island. Trevor implemented a similar service on Gabriola Island while running the operation from his Nanaimo office so he is familiar with these types of arrangements involving new service to an island involving ferry transportation. Here is his reply:

Since no bylaw or service arrangement has existed on Quadra Island, there is no historical predictability on the actual number of impoundments or call volume one should anticipate. The numbers of RCMP attended calls to date may not properly represent the actual number of service calls that may be generated once a bylaw justifies an individual's right to contain an aggressive or wandering dog for impoundment. Therefore, nuisance issues currently below the radar may certainly surface.

I've looked at the numbers for services and have provided two options.

Option 1.

- *Have an Animal Control Officer available and on call 24/7.*
- *To immediately assist the RCMP during police situations where a dangerous dog could impede their work while they conduct investigations and issue warrants.*
- *To provide enforcement for barking complaints, dogs at large and to impound or seize a dog.*
- *Provide 4 trips to the island and 16 hours of enforcement per month.*
- *All ferry costs are included.*
- *\$26,000.00 + GST.*

Option 2.

- *Have an Animal Control Officer available and on call 24/7.*
- *To immediately assist the RCMP during police situations where a dangerous dog could impede their work while they conduct investigations and issue warrants.*
- *Provide enforcement for dangerous dogs only and to impound or seize a dog.*
- *Provide 2 trips to the island and 8 hours of enforcement per month.*
- *All ferry costs are included.*
- *\$18,000.00 + GST.*

Administration costs

In addition to the contractor's costs there would also be the addition of administration costs. The City considered the appropriate charge for animal control services, pound services and related City staff time and administration, and determined that the total price for Option 1 would be \$33,800 and Option 2 would be \$25,800. The allocation of the animal control services was derived based on the incremental increase in the contract price to deliver this additional service given the current resources for Coastal Animal Services are at capacity. The allocation of pound services and related administration and staff time were determined to be the same allocation whether Option 1 or 2 were chosen as the expectation is that the City's time and cost to maintain the service level will not be significantly different under each option. The allocation for pound services and City administration was derived in a review of fairness between the City services, current Area D services and the addition of Area C (Quadra) services with an apportionment to Area C based on hospital assessed values as compared to the two existing service areas.

Please review the proposal and call me at 250-286-5707 if you have any questions or require further clarification.

Yours truly,



Peter F. Wipper
City Clerk

mf/pw



STAFF REPORT

DATE: March 16, 2016

FILE: 0550-04 Board

TO: Chair and Directors,
Regional Board

FROM: Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF A DOG CONTROL SERVICE FOR QUADRA ISLAND

PURPOSE/PROBLEM

To consider the establishment of a dog control service for Quadra Island.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its regular meeting on June 10, 2015, the Regional Board received a report (attached) with letters from the Quadra detachment of the RCMP requesting that the Regional District assess the feasibility of implementing a dog control bylaw on Quadra Island. In response, the Board made the following resolution:

Unger/Evans: SRD 435/15

THAT a report be prepared for further consideration by the Board to examine the cost and feasibility of providing a dog control service for Quadra Island.

A dog control service generally contains a regulatory bylaw and accompanying animal control service. The distinguishing features of the regulatory options are (a) whether or not to include licensing and (b) the number of issues that the bylaw should address. The accompanying animal control service must be commensurate with the complexity of the bylaw. The options for providing an animal control service are limited. Coast Animal Services is the only known supplier in the local area that has staff capable of seizing dogs while the City of Campbell River provides the only impoundment facility. The only remaining option would be to develop the service in-house. Preliminary costs for these options are provided in this report.

Since June 2015, the Electoral Area Services Committee has considered a number of reports on this matter. The Committee has indicated a preference for a dog control service to address dangerous dogs, noisy dogs and dogs at large. Mandatory licensing was not supported by the Committee. The Committee has recommended that a draft bylaw now be brought forward to the Board for consideration.

The Regional District currently has no authority to control dogs on Quadra Island. Should the Board be in favour of providing a dog control service, the Board must first adopt a service establishing bylaw which would describe the service and the method(s) of cost recovery, amongst other things. It is recommended that staff now draft this bylaw for further consideration by the Board based on the cost and feasibility information contained in this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT a report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.

2. THAT a draft bylaw to establish a dog control service on Quadra Island be prepared for consideration by the Board.

Respectfully:



Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

BACKGROUND

The Quadra Island RCMP has written to the Regional District requesting assistance to deal with dog control issues on Quadra Island. The RCMP reported that they have received numerous complaints in relation to loose or abandoned dogs, dog welfare, nuisance (barking and feces) and aggressive dogs. To quantify this further, Corporal Kevin Christensen of the Quadra Island detachment estimates that per annum they attend to approximately two-three vicious dog incidents, three-four incidents of animals at large and as many as 20 other miscellaneous dog related issues (personal communication, June 22, 2015). The RCMP does not maintain a budget for this purpose and current regulations provide limited legal authority to deal with these issues.

The Regional District does not currently have authority to provide a dog control service or enact other regulations for the control of domestic dogs on Quadra Island. On June 3, 2015, the Board directed staff to prepare a report examining the cost and feasibility of providing a dog control service for Quadra Island.

A report brought to the Electoral Areas Service Committee on July 8, 2015 provided options for a dog control service that varied in the degree of desired regulatory intervention and the level of supporting animal control service. The Committee preferred the option of targeted regulation to deal with dogs at large, noisy and dangerous dogs and any associated issues required by the service including enforcement and penalty rates. There was some discussion on whether or not to mandate licensing. This option was not supported. The Committee requested a further report be prepared detailing the costs, timelines, regulatory and implementation mechanisms for the preferred option.

On August 12, 2015 a second report was prepared for the Committee. This report included research on potential suppliers and preliminary cost estimates. It was found that Coast Animal Services is the only provider of animal control in the local area and the City of Campbell River provides the only impoundment service. The Regional District currently has arrangements in place with the City of Campbell River for dog control in Electoral Area D who subcontracts the enforcement to Coast Animal Services. The report concluded that there is a reasonable case to extend the current arrangements with the City of Campbell River. The Committee recommended that the matter be deferred pending an additional investigation into local options.

An Expression of Interest process was run by the Regional District in October 2015. No additional suppliers came forward. This information was presented to the Committee in November 2015. The Committee deferred the matter to their January 2016 meeting.

In January 2016, the matter was deferred by the Committee to their March 2016 meeting. The purpose of this deferral was to obtain further pricing information from Coast Animal Services. The Committee recommended that this information and a draft bylaw be brought forward to the Board.

The Regional District currently has no authority to control dogs on Quadra Island. Should the Board be in favour of providing a dog control service, the Board must first authorise staff to draft a service establishing bylaw.

PROPOSED DOG CONTROL SERVICE

The dog control service recommended by EASC includes targeted regulatory control, bylaw enforcement and dog handling. Education and awareness activities may also be included.

Targeted regulatory control

A regulatory bylaw may be drafted to address the following key issues: dangerous dogs, barking dogs and dogs at large. To be effective, the regulation must include enforcement and penalty rates as well as outlining a process for seizing and impounding dogs. Mandatory licensing was not supported by EASC.

Bylaw enforcement and dog handling

Bylaw enforcement and the issuing of penalties may be undertaken by an animal control officer, a bylaw compliance officer or a peace officer if able and authorised to do so under Bylaw No. 119, being Bylaw Contravention Ticket Information System Bylaw 2012.

An agreement with a suitably qualified animal control service is recommended to assist with bylaw enforcement, particularly in situations where a dog needed to be seized and impounded. The animal control service would provide transport, shelter and emergency veterinary care as required for seized and impounded dogs.

The options for bylaw enforcement and dog handling include:

<p>Option 1: Combination of various service providers and in-house resources</p>	<p>This is a basic service option whereby Coastal Animal Services will attend emergency situations only during business hours subject to their availability. There will be no patrols and they will not be on-call to attend after hours or weekends. This option will rely upon other authorised officers (RCMP and/or the Regional District bylaw officer) to conduct non-emergency enforcement and emergency enforcement after hours/weekends. The Regional District would need to enter into arrangements with the City of Campbell River for use of their pound facility and associated services. This option also requires an allowance for Regional District administration.</p>
<p>Option 2: Cost share arrangement for animal control with the City of Campbell River</p>	<p>This service would extend the existing arrangements with the City of Campbell River to provide dog control in Area D to Quadra Island. There will be no patrols but otherwise attendance as required. The City of Campbell River would provide the impoundment facility and subcontracts the enforcement and animal control to Coastal Animal Services.</p>
<p>Option 3: Regional District to develop an animal control service</p>	<p>The Regional District may choose to develop the service in-house including provision of a pound facility, animal control vehicle and enforcement staff as well as a higher allowance for administrative requirements.</p>

Education and awareness

There is an opportunity to increase education and awareness through the Regional District’s website and newsletter. In the absence of licensing, it is important that owners are encouraged to voluntarily identify their dogs.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The provision of a dog control service for Quadra Island will have financial implications. Preliminary cost estimates are provided below from all known options for animal control. Accurate costing may be obtained through a formal procurement process.

Based on the comparison of preliminary costs below, the non-binding information provided by Coast Animal Services appears to provide the lowest cost option however there are significant limitations on the service that are important to acknowledge and require further investigation.

It should also be noted that there may be an opportunity to recover some costs through enforcement proceedings however these are likely to be minimal.

Preliminary cost estimates:

Option 1: Combination of various service providers and in-house resources

Pound facility – City of Campbell River	\$3,500
Coastal Animal Services retainer (\$600 x 12 months)	\$7,200
Coastal Animal Services fee for service (3 incidents per annum at \$300 each)	\$900
Regional District Bylaw Officer cost-share ¹ (assumes attending Quadra 2 days per month)	\$8,000
Regional District Administration ²	\$3,000
Total Option 1	\$22,600

Option 2: Cost share arrangement for animal control with the City of Campbell River

Animal control cost share with City of Campbell River ³ (assumes a 10% cost share of increased annual operating costs)	\$21,800
Regional District Administration ²	\$3,000
Total Option 2	\$24,800

Option 3: Regional District to develop an animal control service

Pound facility ⁴	\$11,250
Animal transport vehicle ⁵	\$8,500
Travel	\$5,000
Regional District enforcement officer	\$25,000
Regional District Administration ²	\$9,000
Total Option 1	\$58,750⁶

1. This option suggests utilizing the Regional District's bylaw officer to conduct non-emergency enforcement. This is subject to staff capacity considerations and the dog control service would be required to contribute to the cost of the bylaw officer. For the purpose of this report, a cost of \$8,000 has been assumed which equates to approximately 2 days per month. If agreement can be reached with the RCMP to provide all non-emergency enforcement requirements, than the bylaw officer may not be required.
2. Regional District administration is an allowance for administrative overhead, liability insurance and legal advice/reserves for challenges. This figure is higher in option 3 as the provision of a service in-house carries a higher degree of risk.
3. The Regional District currently has an agreement with the City of Campbell River to provide dog control in Area D. The City of Campbell River owns the pound facility and contracts the operations and bylaw enforcement services to Coastal Animal Services. The actual operating cost for the dog program is \$187,985 per annum (2014). These

costs are shared between the City of Campbell River and the Regional District with each local government paying a share according to population. The Regional District's current cost share for the program is 19.5 percent for the service to Area D. Should the Board choose to extend this existing arrangement to provide for a service to Quadra Island, it has been estimated that the City's program cost would increase by approximately \$25-30,000 to provide a responsive service to Quadra Island without compromising their existing service to the City and Area D. A cost sharing agreement would need to be entered into with the City of Campbell River. For the purpose of this report, a population based cost share of 10% has been assumed. This would be subject to negotiation with the City of Campbell River.

4. Development of the service in-house would require an agreement to utilize an existing pound facility and contribute to the operational costs. The City of Campbell River budgets animal shelter operational and minor capital costs to be approximately \$45k per annum. At present, it is unlikely to be viable for the Regional District to establish a dedicated facility granted the high capital costs and limited number of incidents. A ¼ fractional share of costs has been used as a preliminary estimate for the purpose of this report.
5. Assumes adding a vehicle to the corporate fleet and recovering the capital cost over time from services based on the use of the vehicle, per the current support services policy.
6. If a service was established in-house, this service may eventually assume responsibility for animal control in Area D as well as Quadra Island, thereby reducing costs payable to the City of Campbell River for animal control (\$32,846 in 2014).

Tax implications

For the average residential property on Quadra Island with an assessed value of \$316,000 each \$20,000 of required revenue will result in a tax of about \$12.22 per year. If the service requires approximately \$60,000 to operate annually, the tax bill for the average home would be closer to \$40 per annum. These amounts do not take into account the possibility of some revenue being realized from the operation of the service (i.e. through fines, cost-recovery or other contributions).

IMPLEMENTATION

It is envisioned that implementation could occur early in 2017 depending on the community's reaction to the service initiative and the length of time required for negotiating service contracts or building an independent service. This timeframe is sufficient to draft and adopt the necessary regulation, to negotiate a supplier arrangement and for the supplier to be service ready. Communication materials to inform the community about these changes would also be drafted and published during this time.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Regional District does not currently have authority to enact regulations for the control of dogs on Quadra Island. The Board must first adopt an establishment bylaw for the dog control service. Once approved, the Board may direct that a regulatory bylaw be prepared. The Board may also be required to provide approval for any budgetary amendments associated with the implementation of the service.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL/REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Further discussions with the City of Campbell River will be required should the proposed service solution require use of the City pound and/or animal control services.

The level of regulatory intervention and supporting service will have implications for the Quadra Island RCMP as the local enforcement authority. A further discussion with the RCMP will be held in order to confirm their role and responsibility in enforcing any Regional District bylaws. The RCMP has given their support to an increased regulatory response from the Regional

District and recommends an agreement be established with an animal control service such as Coastal Animal Services.

CITIZEN/PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPLICATIONS

It is anticipated that there will be mixed views from the Quadra Island Community towards dog control. Some may find that the level of regulation and supporting service being proposed is lacking while others may find it to be too imposing. The cost of the service is another important factor for the community and may be a determining factor when the proposal is offered for ratepayer approval. The creation of a service bylaw will require broad community support.

Should the Board proceed with developing a service and accompanying regulatory bylaw, there will be an expectation from the public that the Regional District will be able to enforce the bylaws in a manner that is humane and professional.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS

The development of bylaws requires planning and legislative staff resources. Any education and awareness initiatives will require assistance from communications and administrative staff. Should the Board determine that existing Regional District staff be utilised to conduct dog control enforcement, consideration should be given to staff capacity, existing contractual obligations and training requirements.

Prepared by: *Victoria Smith, Special Projects and Sustainability Manager*

Attachments: Staff report dated June 3, 2015



STAFF REPORT

DATE: June 3, 2015

FILE:

TO: Chair and Directors,
Regional Board

FROM: Russ Hotsenpiller
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: REQUESTS FOR DOG CONTROL BYLAW – QUADRA ISLAND

PURPOSE/PROBLEM

To consider requests from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to investigate the feasibility of a dog control bylaw for Quadra Island.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Regional District is in receipt of the attached correspondence from the Quadra Detachment of the RCMP requesting that the feasibility of implementing a dog control bylaw be considered for Quadra Island. The correspondence outlines the problems currently being encountered by the RCMP and the general public in attempting to deal with aggressive, distressed and abandoned dogs, and cites examples of incidents for which the RCMP believes that having a dog control bylaw in effect would have facilitated resolution of the problems encountered.

The Regional District does not currently have authority to provide a dog licensing program or enact other regulations for the control of domestic dogs on Quadra Island but has included provision within the 2015 workplan to investigate the matter. As a first step in that investigation it is suggested that a report be prepared by staff which would allow the Board to consider the costs associated with a dog control service and the various operational elements and alternatives associated with such a program.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT a report be prepared for further consideration by the Board to examine the cost and feasibility of providing a dog control service for Quadra Island.

Respectfully:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russ Hotsenpiller", is written over a horizontal line.

Russ Hotsenpiller
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by: T. Yates, Corporate Services Manager

Attachments: *March 23, 2014 correspondence from Cpl. Shane Worth, NCO/I/C*
May 1, 2015 correspondence from Cpl. Kevin Christensen, Detachment Commander



E-FILED

Non-sensitive

NCO I/C
Quadra Island RCMP Detachment
PO Box 399
Quathiaski Cove, BC
V0P 1N0

Your File

0530-01

Chair Jim ABRAM
Strathcona Regional District
PO Box 278
Quathiaski Cove, BC
V0P 1N0

Our File

285-2-3 2013-2014

2014-03-23

Dear Mr. ABRAM

Dog Bylaw - Quadra Island



As discussed at the March 20, 2014 Quadra Island Safety Committee Meeting, I am requesting the Strathcona Regional District assess the feasibility of the implementation of a dog bylaw on Quadra Island.

On Quadra Island, the police are the de facto agency that respond to and investigate complaints related to annoying and dangerous dogs. The only statute the police can utilize with relation to dog complaints is Division 6 (Animal Control) of the Community Charter. The provisions of the Community Charter allow for police to seize and seek the destruction of a dangerous dog, however there are no provisions related to annoying dogs, licensing, loose dogs and owner's responsibilities regarding the collection of dog faeces.

Considering there is no statute relating to incidents other than for dangerous dogs, the police have no laws on which they can rely when residents complain or ask questions about a loose dog, annoying dog or irresponsible dog owner. This office routinely fields questions from the public regarding dog complaints and the response is typically that there is nothing the police can do regarding the complaint as there are no laws addressing their concerns. As such, dog owners and the community are very aware there are no dog bylaws on Quadra Island.

I am not certain as to what the community sentiment would be to the implementation of a dog bylaw. I can confirm, however, that a dog bylaw would greatly assist this office in addressing dog complaints and would provide a valuable enforcement option that does not currently exist. I would note, in closing, that the implementation of a dog bylaw would require an enforcement mechanism, such as a Municipal Ticket Information.

Sincerely,

Corporal Shane WORTH
NCO I/C
Quadra Island RCMP



0530-01

TO
A

Strathcona Regional District
Attn: Mr. Jim Abram

FROM
DE

NCO I/C Quadra RCMP
738 West Road
P.O. Box 399
Quathiaski Cove, BC
V0P 1N0



SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ
OUR FILE - NOTRE RÉFÉRENCE Admin 285-5
YOUR FILE - VOTRE RÉFÉRENCE
DATE 2015-05-01

SUBJECT
OBJET

RCMP Letter of Support for Dog Bylaw

Over the past number of years, Quadra RCMP has investigated numerous complaints from the community about dogs. These complaints have been about loose dogs wandering around the community. Some of these loose dogs have chased people, vehicles, wildlife and livestock. In some cases, complaints have involved aggressive dogs that have attacked people and/or livestock. There have also been complaints about dogs who have been left in hot vehicles and dogs who were abandoned.

Last year was had a complaint where a women found a dog walking around with no collar. The dog was emaciated and in distress. The woman was unable to bring the dog to the Campbell River SPCA and felt the dog needed mercy and should be put down. She took the dog to a second person in the community, who felt the same, and this person euthanized the dog. Later on in the investigation it was learned that this dog was a family pet who had gotten out of it's yard. The family knew the dog was unhealthy and planned to euthanize the dog when they believed it was time. They knew there was no dog bylaw on Quadra. If there was a dog bylaw that required dogs wear a collar and tag, this incident would not have happened. This has caused some angry feelings between prominent members from the community.

In the past, Quadra RCMP officers have used the Community Charter to seize several dogs that have attacked people and livestock. The dogs were transported to Coastal Animal Services where they were held until a court hearing could take place before a Provincial court Judge. This process has not worked. In each case the Judge ordered the dogs returned to the owner. The Quadra RCMP had to pay the bill for the animal's weeks and months of care and housing while at Coastal Animal Services. The RCMP does not have a budget to pay for these things so the money came from our operations budget.

A solution to this issue facing both the community and the Police is the creation of a dog bylaw and an agreement with Coastal Animal Services. A dog bylaw would give the RCMP an extra tool when investigating dog complaints. A dog bylaw would not cause problems for responsible dog owners, but it would ensure irresponsible owners are held accountable for their animal's behaviour.

I fully support the Regional District in the creation a dog bylaw on Quadra Island.

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Quadra Island RCMP
Detachment Commander