

Date February 13, 2020
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Subject Columbia Lake Management Plan

REQUEST

Authorization to prepare a new Columbia Lake Management Plan as outlined in this Request for Decision.

OPTIONS

1. THAT preparation of the Columbia Lake Management Plan proceed generally as outlined in the February 13, 2020 Request for Decision.
2. THAT preparation of the Columbia Lake Management Plan proceed as directed by the Board.
3. THAT no further work on the Columbia Lake Management Plan proceed at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

Option 1

BACKGROUND

Staff is prepared to proceed with a review and update of the Columbia Lake Management Plan, identified as one of the Boards 2020 strategic priorities.

ANALYSIS

The Columbia Lake Management Strategy was produced by Urban Systems with the assistance of Agra Earth and Environmental in 1997. Since 1997 land around Columbia Lake has seen residential development, conservation initiatives and updated land use plans adopted by the Village of Canal Flats and the RDEK.

Administratively, Columbia Lake falls within both the RDEK and the Village of Canal Flats boundaries. The Fairmont Hot Springs and Columbia Lake Area OCP and the Village of Canal Flats OCP both contain policies supporting an update of the 1997 Columbia Lake Management Strategy.

The RDEK will lead the process to develop a new Columbia Lake Management Plan with the goal of producing a plan that will be adopted as policy by the RDEK and the Village of Canal Flats. A presentation to Village of Canal Flats Mayor and Council will be made in March to introduce the process and invite them to participate at their chosen capacity.

The plan will be developed through a collaborative process involving input from a technical committee and the public. The purpose of the technical committee is to provide operational and management perspectives from government. Invitations to participate on the technical committee will be extended to staff from the Ktunaxa, Shuswap, a variety of Provincial agencies and the Village of Canal Flats.

The Columbia Lake Stewardship Society (CLSS) is a citizen-based group with representation from communities around Columbia Lake interested in stewardship of Columbia Lake. The CLSS prepares annual reports summarizing water quality and quantity data they collect. In order to develop a robust understanding of the current state of water quality and quantity for Columbia Lake, the CLSS will be invited to present to the technical committee.

SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

Regional Sustainability Strategy

Planning

6.3.3 Partnerships

Strong interagency partnerships will be developed to assist with policy development and support the implementation of plans.

Strategic Priority

The Columbia Lake Management Plan is included on the Priority Project list.

Policy

(Resolution No. 28302, 01/1998)

That the recommendations set out in Section III of the Columbia Lake Management Strategy dated August 1997 be adopted as policy with the exception of the Boating Recommendation outlined in Subsection 3.7.1 which is amended to be consistent with the 10 horsepower restriction recently implemented as part of the Columbia Wetlands Wildlife Management Area Regulation, and that the RDEK Planning Department initiate the formation of a Citizen Steering Committee and apply for a 10 horsepower boating restriction.

Upon adoption of the Columbia Lake Management Plan, the above referenced policy will be rescinded and replaced to reflect updated management strategy recommendations.

Official Community Plan

Undertaking a process to create an updated Columbia Lake Management Plan is supported in both RDEK and Village of Canal Flats OCP's:

Fairmont Hot Springs and Columbia Lake Area OCP (2017)

Columbia Lake Policies

11.3 (10) A review and update of the Columbia Lake Management Strategy (1997) is supported.

Village of Canal Flats OCP (2019)

Environmental Policies

- 3.1.6 Participate with local municipal partners including the Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) to review and update the Columbia Lake Management Strategy (1997).

Financial – Budget

The budget for this plan is included in the current year financial plan. Costs outside of staff time are generally related to community consultation, communications and advertising.

Public Engagement and Communications

Public engagement will be ongoing throughout the Columbia Lake Management Plan process. The public will be engaged through public meetings and using the online engage@rdek.bc.ca platform. The Communications department will take a lead role in developing press releases, mail outs, managing social media and adding graphic design to presentation material and the final report.

Assembling a technical committee is anticipated during this planning process. The purpose of the technical committee will be to provide professional input on the project and will be made up of land managers and from government and First Nations. Since the technical committee is essentially an invited peer network, selection will not need to be authorized by Board such as when selecting a group from public expressions of interest.

A preliminary general timeline for the project is:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Project Kick Off			X									
Establish AG			X									
Background Info Prep			X	X	X							
AG mtg 1					X							
Public mtg 1					X							
Canal Days						X						
Prep mgmt options						X	X					
AG mtg 2							X					
Public mtg 2							X					
Fairmont Farmers Market							X	X				
Draft Plan								X	X	X		
Public Open House to Present Plan										X		
Final Draft to Board/ Council											X	

First Nations Partnership

Because Columbia Lake is within the unceded traditional territories of the Ktunaxa and Shuswap First Nations and has spiritual, economic and political significance, representatives from both Nations will be requested to be part of the technical committee.