

WOODLOT PROGRAM EXPANSION

The Comox Valley Regional District board, on occasion, elects to support province-wide concerns and issues in the form of a board resolution. These resolutions are normally forwarded first to the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) for consideration but may also be forwarded directly to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). Based on the nature of the concern, UBCM will either endorse or not endorse the recommendation and if endorsed, will present the concern to the provincial or federal government on behalf of all BC municipalities and regional district.

Date of Board meeting: November 27, 2006

Board Resolution: WHEREAS the long-planned expansion of the woodlot program has been suspended by the Ministry of Forests and Range for an indefinite period; AND WHEREAS Comox Strathcona Regional District recognizes woodlot licences as effective tools for community-based forest stewardship; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Comox Strathcona Regional District encourages the Minister of Forests and Range to give priority effort to resolving any administrative obstacles that might be inhibiting expansion of the woodlot program; AND FINALLY THAT the letter be copied to Stan Hagen, MLA for the Comox Valley, Claire Trevena, MLA for the North Island, Mr. Rory Annett, District Manager of the Campbell River Forest District, all regional districts, the North Island Woodlot Association, the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations and the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) for the 2007 spring convention.

This resolution was referred to AVICC on, February 7, 2007

A response was received on May 1, 2008

Response from AVICC: Referred to UBCM

Additionally this resolution was referred to UBCM The Resolutions Committee notes that UBM members have, in the past, supported an expansion of the woodlot program. In 2002 the UBCM's Forest Policy Paper put forward the following recommendation:
"UBCM encourages the expansion of a small business program, woodlot licence program and community forests that are economically viable."
The Committee would also note that resolution 2006-B43 in part called for the Province to reinstate agricultural sector woodlots.

Additionally this resolution was referred to the Provincial Government A new woodlot pricing system is being developed in cooperation with the Federation of B.C. Woodlot Associations (Federation). We hope it will be in place soon. The new system will change woodlot operating conditions and economic models.