

Subject: Principles of Effective Regional Board Governance	
Category: CVRD Board	Policy Reference: 0530-00

Policy Statement: The board of the Comox Valley Regional District believes in conducting its affairs in such a manner that they reflect the principles of good governance. To that end, the board endorses by policy the following principles:

Clear Mandate

1. The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) board members and councillors of participating municipalities will be provided with a thorough briefing on roles, authority, and jurisdiction of the CVRD following the local government elections and at least once during the three-year term of office.

Independent authority

2. The CVRD board will exercise its independent authority in each of the following processes:
 - (a) Hiring/evaluating/compensating the chief administrative officer
(board's exclusive authority)
 - (b) Retaining legal counsel
(board's authority after considering the advise of the chief administrative officer)
 - (c) Meeting with the external auditor
(board's authority to meet twice annually; at the beginning of the fiscal year and at the conclusion of the auditor's engagement)
 - (d) Passing resolutions/bylaws
(board's authority after considering the advice of the chief administrative officer)

Orientation

3. The CVRD board views its tri-annual orientation process as very significant and requires:
 - (a) All regional board members attend
 - (b) All councilors of participating municipalities be invited to attend
 - (c) Orientation be planned in advance
 - (d) Three components of board orientation: Regional governance roles and responsibilities; board / CAO relationship; and regional organization structure/administrative processes. These processes are designed to help board and staff:
 - (i) Understand strength and opportunities of region
 - (ii) Understand challenges of urban members
 - (iii) Understand challenges of rural members

Decision-making

4. The CVRD board will exercise (to the extent practical) its decision-making based on a three step comprehensive, sound and transparent process and will seek to ensure:
 - (a) Clear and complete information
 - (b) Opportunity for discussion/questions
 - (c) Opportunity for reflection.

Full disclosure of relevant information

5. The CVRD board will have equal access and timely, comprehensive information prior to meetings.

Leadership

6. The CVRD board will lead through the following effective governance leadership processes:
 - (a) Development of a business plan to establish clear goals, objectives, priorities and targets for the term.
 - (b) Focus on board policies.
 - (c) Focus on the future and what is best for the region.
 - (d) Regular in-camera meetings with the CAO to provide for a discussion opportunity of members' relationship to each other and to the CAO.
 - (e) The promotion of ethical standards such that they are understood, promoted and lived.
 - (f) Awareness of all board members to all community events to which they are invited to attend.
 - (g) A respect for differences and a focus on issues with the objective that negative personal comments are not tolerated by chair.

Development

7. The CVRD board will provide members' development opportunities by encouraging attendance at annual conferences and training sessions including:
 - (a) Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC)
 - (b) Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM)
 - (c) Federal Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
 - (d) UBCM – leadership forum
 - (e) And other related conferences/seminars as provided for in the budget for this purpose.

Approval History

Policy adopted:	September 30, 2008
Policy amended:	