

The Cultus Lake Park Board requested a current overview of the *Cultus Lake Park Act* amendments through the course of the governance study dated from 2001 to 2019. Currently, the Ministry is in favor and supports the park working with the Fraser Valley Regional District with respect to water, sewer, and additional services as required or permitted.

The governance study highlighted the following options:

Option 1 – To consider amalgamating with the City of Chilliwack

- Act would be repealed, City becomes governing body and assumed responsibility for services and levying taxes
- City provides services through FVRD contract
- City can borrow to finance capital projects and apply City tax rates
- Province could potentially provide financial support in the transition for five (5) years through grants
- Loss of local Commissioners
- Potential for residents to purchase land

Option 2 – To include Cultus Lake Park within the Fraser Valley Regional District's boundaries

- CLP becomes a specified area; each service would be charged to those who benefit
- FVRD could borrow to fund capital projects
- Province likely would not provide financial assistance
- Higher tax rates
- CLP would be its own electoral area and could produce a representative on the FVRD Board
- CLP Community Commission responsible for operating some or all current services for residents
- Province and Chilliwack residents likely indifferent

***FVRD not in favor of this option*

Option 3 – To hold Village status (Village Municipality)

- Could include or exclude public areas
- Services continue by the Park Board
- Policing responsibility of new municipality
- Village can borrow funds for capital projects
- Potential financial assistance from province for five (5) years
- Opportunity to receive a \$150,000 community grant every year
- Lowest tax option
- City of Chilliwack will no longer have a say in long term planning
- Province only interested if land tenure addressed not solely comprised of land owned by City of Chilliwack

***City of Chilliwack not in favor of this option*

Below is a timeline summary of the governance study and amendments that have been made to the *Cultus Lake Park Act* up to 2019.

November 2001

- Board approved participation in the governance study
- Terms of Reference finalized for the study of CLP governance
- TOR released to (4) four consultants – Urban Systems Ltd, Gary Williams & Associates, Peter Adams, Sussex Consultants

January 2002

- Joint Committee struck (residents and council of City of Chilliwack, FVRD, CLPB)
- Consultant proposals received and reviewed by members of the Joint Committee (residents and council of City of Chilliwack, FVRD, CLPB)

August 2002

- Urban Systems' Phase 1 – Financial Review
- Urban Systems' Phase 2 – Governance Review

Recommended Next Steps

- Real estate lawyer to negotiate removal of conditions on original Crown grants
- Review compensation issues
- Joint committee to explore restructuring funding from Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services
- Approach province on governance, repeal act.
- Public information campaign required for all residents
- Governance Committee struct (CLPB 4 residents, 1 council / City 4 residents; 1 council / FVRD 1)
- First year spent enlisting the support of the Province

Phase 1 – Land Discussions and Negotiations with the Province (Feb to June 2004)

Phase 2 – Analysis (June to October 2004)

Phase 3 – Public Consultation (October to November 2004)

February 2004

- Governance Committee commissioned the Local Government consultant Neilson-Welch Consulting Inc. and Urban Systems Ltd. to update the financial analysis (2002) of Cultus Lake Park governance options
- Barry Penner, MLA Chilliwack/Kent sent a letter to Land and Water BC Inc. regarding issues of federal and provincial Crown land ownership in Cultus Lake

March 2004

- City of Chilliwack, CLPB Governance Committee and Land Water BC Inc. met / agreed to retain services of Ministry of Attorney General to assist with legalities surrounding governance options
- Received \$40,000 Restructure Planning Grant from the City of Chilliwack
- Letter to Land & Water BC Inc. regarding removal of the Park covenants on all lands within CLP
- Neilson-Welch concluded that the amalgamation and village municipality options would have the best impact on the park's financial position
- Urban Systems Ltd. updated the Infrastructure Servicing Document (Class C cost estimates infrastructure improvements from 2004 to 2011 totaled \$3,563,000 in 2002 and \$2,761,000 in 2004) \$27,000 budgeted for this project

March 2005

Land and Water BC Inc. issued a letter to Sto:lo and Soowahlie Chiefs and Council regarding the City of Chilliwack proposal to subdivide the Park and transfer residential parcels to the current lessees at cost

May 2005

Neilson-Welch letter to CLPB regarding City of Chilliwack's perspective that it would not be beneficial to amalgamate

June 20, 2005

Letter from CLPB to Minister of Agriculture and Lands, Minister of Community Services and Minister Responsible for Senior's and Women's Issues, Minister of Environment and Minister Responsible for Water Stewardship and Sustainable Communities regarding land tenure and future governance

*** City withdraws its support of boundary extension option*

September 2007

Letter from Ministry to CLPB regarding repealing of the Act to incorporate Village Status (next opportunity to propose legislation 2009)

December 2007, February 2008 and March 2008

Letter from CLPB to Ministry regarding governance options for the park

April 2011

CLPB letter to Ministry requesting amendment to the Act

July 2011

Ministry letter noting it is not considering amendments to the Act

October 2013

Letter from MLA Chilliwack / Hope to Ministry requesting seven (7) amendments to the Act

April 2014

Letter from Ministry to CLPB regarding *Bill 27 – 2014 the Cultus Lake Park Act Amendment Act*, amendments to the Act to reduce Board Commissioners from seven (7) to five (5) with majority to be chosen by CLP residents and leaseholders. The letter also reinforced the Ministries lack of interest in developing municipal status for CLPB.

Following election of new Board members

June 2015

Letter from CLPB to Ministry requesting an additional six (6) amendments to the Act

July 2015

Letter from Ministry to CLPB directing the request for Act amendments to another department

November 2015

Letter from Ministry to CLPB regarding CLPB working with FVRD to provide local government services and noted interest in understanding FVRD's position on Act amendments

December 2015

- Letter from FVRD of Chilliwack to Ministry regarding support of amendments to the Act
- Letter from Ministry noting reception of the correspondence and that staff will respond accordingly

March 2016

Letter from CLPB to Ministry following up on amendment requests

April 2016

Letter from Ministry to CLPB noting they received the correspondence and will reply accordingly

July 2016

Letter from Ministry to CLPB noting willingness to bring multiple amendments: amendments to Board procedure, limited enhancements to corporate, regulatory and bylaw enforcement powers, enabling non-resident leaseholders to participate in elections. Ministry noted continued efforts for changes related to incorporating meeting procedures from Community Charter, establish corporate powers, powers to refuse camping facilities, prescribe the Board as a local government and increasing fine amounts

March 2019

Bill 3 – Proposed Changes to the Cultus Lake Park Act received Royal Assent from the Legislative Assembly of BC; provided the Board corporate powers under Community Charter: hold in-camera meetings, set own remuneration, adjudication, municipal ticketing and ability to impose fines up to \$2,000.

There have been no additional changes considered or presented since March 2019 with respect to the *Cultus Lake Park Act*.