

Boundary Integrated Watershed Service (the proposed service) Referendum – FAQ

The Service

Q What is the Boundary Integrated Watershed Service?

A This service would pay for a full time Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (RDKB) employee to coordinate and support activities that sustain Boundary watersheds for the environmental, economic and social well-being of the region.

Q Why is the service needed?

A Well before and now following the 2018 Boundary Flood, the RDKB Board of Directors identified the need to sustainably fund watershed management across the Boundary region. Without long-term funding to coordinate management of our rivers, streams, lakes and aquifers it will be a challenge to implement the goals that the community has identified over the last several years. The priority goals include:

1.	Increase community understanding, support and capacity for stewardship of our watersheds	This will be done by education and outreach
2.	Encourage land use decisions that protect water quality	This will involve working with communities, planners and administrative staff in the smaller municipalities to ensure that goals, objectives and policies in land use plans align with the goals of the watershed management plans
3.	Protect and enhance shorelines to help prevent erosion and improve fish and wildlife habitat	This is not intended to be regulatory. The approach would be through outreach and public engagement

		regarding the value of riparian areas and actions that can be taken to enhance and restore them for economic, environmental and social benefit of the community
4.	Manage our limited water resources during periods of drought.	This would also be accomplished through education and outreach rather than through regulations.

Q What would the role of the coordinator be?

A Coordinate projects that would benefit all Boundary watersheds including the West Kettle and Kettle Rivers; Boundary Creek; the Granby River; Christina Lake and portions of Electoral Area 'E'/West Boundary in the Okanagan watershed.

Promote watershed management planning in Boundary communities

Assist in projects pertaining to drought, flood and other natural hazards

Engage and collaborate with stewardship organizations, other stakeholders and First Nations to conduct research and report on Boundary watersheds

Communicate and coordinate with various levels of government and government agencies involved with water use and management

Provide input to local governments to help ensure that policy development aligns with watershed management plans

Define priorities, economic feasibility, responsibility, necessary support legislation and required action related to Boundary watersheds

Present proposals and recommendations to appropriate agencies, including but not limited to First Nations, municipalities or governments, according to jurisdiction and responsibility

Participate in surveys, investigations, engagement processes and projects on behalf of municipalities, or electoral areas

Q How much will the proposed service cost per household?

A The annual overall requisition across the Boundary equates to \$0.0485/\$1000 net taxable value of lands and improvements. Below is the estimated requisition broken down by assessed property value:

The value of your house, land & other improvements from your tax assessment	What would you pay each year for the proposed watershed service?
\$100,000	\$ 4.85
\$300,000	\$ 14.56
\$500,000	\$ 24.27

Q Will the \$160,000 maximum tax requisition for the service ever increase?

A The \$160,000 is the maximum requisition for the service for the next five years unless the Regional District holds another referendum to raise it. At the end of five years the requisition may increase by up to 25%, which could not increase again for another five years.

Q Is there a time limit on how long the service will be in place?

A The service will expire on December 31, 2024 unless two thirds of the participating local governments support extension to the service prior to that date.

Q Will this service result in more regulation?

A It is not the intent to increase regulation, but to improve our watershed by sharing information on how to conserve water and protect

shorelines. Regulations for the electoral areas would be developed and adopted by the RDKB Board and similarly it would be the councils of the municipalities.

Q Will this service result in the RDKB regulating or charging residents or businesses for well water use?

A The RDKB does not regulate or charge for water use in BC. The Province of BC is responsible for issuing water licences in BC and for any related fees, whether for groundwater (wells) or surface water (creeks, lakes and rivers). Water metering is up to individual water purveyors such as improvement districts. The RDKB happens to be the licence holder and water purveyor for Christina Lake residents, but this is the only circumstance in the region in which we are involved in water usage. We are also regulated by the Province of BC.

Q We already have stewardship groups so why do we need this new watershed coordinator position?

A This position and related project funds would further support the work existing stewardship groups do now.

There are three very active stewardship societies in the Boundary Area: Boundary Invasive Weeds Society, Granby Wilderness Society and the Christina Lake Stewardship Society, all of which work closely together.

The Referendum

Q What is the referendum question that I will be asked during the October 20 General Local Election?

A Are you in favour of the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary adopting Bylaw No. 1678, 2018 establishing a service for the promotion of watershed management planning in all parts of RDKB Electoral Areas C/Christina Lake, D/Rural Grand Forks, E/West Boundary and all parts of the City of Grand Forks, the City of Greenwood and the Village of Midway to be known as the Boundary Integrated Watershed Service

which if approved will result in an annual overall requisition of up to \$160,000 on the net taxable value of land and improvements?

Q How many votes for the referendum to pass?

A If more than 50 percent vote “Yes” the referendum passes and the service will be created, while if 50 percent or more vote “No” it fails and the service will not be created.

Q If the referendum passes or fails in one community, does it pass or fail overall?

A No. Our watersheds affect all of us and are closely connected, so this is a collective vote. Referendum votes are tallied together from all municipalities and electoral areas in the Boundary to determine whether the referendum passes or fails.

The number of eligible voters in each electoral area and municipality does differ, and voter turnout will vary too, so electoral area and municipality will cast a different number of votes toward the overall result. Below is an estimate of the number of eligible voters:

Area	Estimate of # of Eligible Voters
Electoral Area ‘C’/Christina Lake	1480
Electoral Area ‘D’/Rural Grand Forks	2840
Electoral Area ‘E’/West Boundary	2430
City of Grand Forks	3370
City of Greenwood	580
Village of Midway	555

Q If the referendum passes, when will the proposed service start?

A Current staff would begin budget planning and a work plan for the service this fall. A coordinator would be hired in the new year to begin carrying

out the many tasks and responsibilities associated with the proposed service.

Q What happens if the referendum fails?

A If the referendum fails, watershed management work will continue, within the scope of the existing stewardship societies. There will not be a coordinated effort by the RDKB to bring the various stakeholders together to collaborate on watershed issues because there will be no resources to do so.

Q When and where will the referendum take place?

A It will take place on October 20, 2018 as part of BC General Local Elections. The referendum question will appear on its own ballot. On that ballot, you can select whether you vote “yes” (assent) or vote “no” (dissent).

You can participate in the referendum at your local polling station, or as part of the advance polling process:

Location	Advance Polls	Regular Polls
Grand Forks	Wednesday October 10, 2018 and Wednesday, October 17, 2018 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. City of Grand Forks Council Chambers 7217-4 th Street, Grand Forks, B.C.	Saturday October 20, 2018 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Dr. D.A. Perley Elementary School 1200 Central Avenue, Grand Forks, B.C.
Greenwood	Wednesday, October 10, 2018 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Greenwood City Hall 202 S. Government Avenue, Greenwood, BC	Saturday, October 20, 2018 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Greenwood City Hall 202 S. Government Avenue, Greenwood, BC
Midway	Wednesday, October 10, 2018 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Municipal Office 661 Eighth Avenue, Midway, B.C.	Saturday, October 20, 2018 Municipal Office 661 Eighth Avenue, Midway, B.C.
Area C	Wednesday October 10, 2018 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Christina Lake Community Hall 90 Park Road, Christina Lake, BC	Saturday October 20, 2018 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Christina Lake Community Hall 90 Park Road, Christina Lake, BC
Area D	Wednesday October 10, 2018 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. RDKB Grand Forks Office 2140 Central Avenue, Grand Forks, BC	Saturday October 20, 2018 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Dr. D.A. Perley Elementary School 1200 Central Avenue, Grand Forks, BC
Area E	<p>Wednesday October 10, 2018 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenwood City Hall 202 S. Government Avenue, Greenwood, BC • Bridesville Senior Citizen Centre / Community Hall - 5724 Bridesville Townsite Road, Bridesville, BC • Rock Creek Fall Fairgrounds Pavilion 3880 Kettle Valley Rd. S, Rock Creek, BC • Westbridge Community Hall 2935 Highway 33, Westbridge, BC • Beaverdell Community Hall 5841 Highway 33, Beaverdell, BC • Inn at Big White 5340 Big White Road, Big White (Ski Resort), BC 	<p>General Voting Day for all Electoral Area E/West Boundary Locations: Saturday October 20, 2018 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenwood City Hall 202 S. Government Avenue, Greenwood, BC • Bridesville Senior Citizen Centre / Community Hall - 5724 Bridesville Townsite Road, Bridesville, BC • Rock Creek Fall Fairgrounds Pavilion 3880 Kettle Valley Rd. S, Rock Creek, BC • Westbridge Community Hall 2935 Highway 33, Westbridge, BC • Beaverdell Community Hall 5841 Highway 33, Beaverdell, BC • Inn at Big White 5340 Big White Road, Big White (Ski Resort), BC

Other

Q What is the Kettle River Watershed Authority (KRWA)?

A The KRWA is an advisory committee of the RDKB Board of Directors. Collective Roots Consulting Ltd. is a consulting firm owned by Jessica Mace and Nicole McCallum hired to do watershed management work on behalf of the Regional District. The Kettle River Watershed Authority Committee is a group of stakeholders that represent a wide diversity of social, economic and environmental interests in the watershed

Q How does the KRWA fit into this new service?

A The KRWA Committee will continue to exist. If the proposed Boundary Integrated Watershed Service is established, the RDKB Board will review the committee's governance structure.

Contractors who work for the RDKB, including Collective Roots Consulting Ltd., may choose to apply for other work or projects related to Boundary watersheds as those projects are developed and funded.

At present, the coordination work Collective Roots Consulting Ltd. does for the RDKB is project based. The RDKB does not have a source of sustainable funding to pay for a continuing coordinator role.

More Information

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