Notes on CoW October 1, 2026

The meeting started with an excellent presentation from the Sicamous Library highlighting their 'Get them Hooked (on reading) Young' program. Libraries do so much more than just lend books, and the presentation touched on all of it.
This was followed by a portion of the meeting being closed to public as it was 'subject to solicitor-client privilege'
Returning to the public portion of the meeting, there was a report from Jennifer Shram, GM of Corporate Services, which includes Tourism and Film, IT and Communications. Subjects brought up included

- the impact of AI playing a role in the overall workplan for 2027 - Ms. Schram confirmed some AI is fully integrated in their systems;
- Concerns about breaches and hacking = Ms. Schram assured those present that cyber security is the top priority of the IT Department
- The Director for Area F (North Shuswap / Seymour Arm) noted that they had said No to Tourism, but not to Film, **making Area E the only Electoral Area in the CSRD that voted against Tourism AND Film - both multi-million dollar industries.** This will be discussed again post-election.
- A Letter of Intent was presented regarding the Scotch Creek Firehall
- Freedom of Information - there is no application fee for a personal inquiry or for the first 3 hours of a Corporate inquiry, and it is only based on the retrieval of the information, not redaction of private information, preparing for legibility, etc. Director Martin inquired about the cost of staff time, considering this is a free service

Kerri Wirth, HR reported she is doing a big job, and her plans for 2027 include:

- Collective Bargaining for the agreement, which expires December 31, 2027, between the CSRD and the Sicamous Recreation Center
- Recruiting a new CAO
- A health and safety plan which includes mental as well as physical wellness
- Electronic onboarding and timekeeping

Jeremy Sundin, GM of Financial Services reported that over the last 6 years, income and expenses have been as expected, except for a slight raise in Grant-In-Aid applications during COVID. Plans for 2027 include:

- Separate Administration Overhead from Information Technology
- Making Director expenses into a fully-online process, saving time and paperwork
- Onboarding new Directors electronically
- An assessment of transportation between Districts

Ben Van Nostrand, GM Environmental and Utility Services deals with waste management, milfoil control, mosquito control and utilities. The things I noticed in his report were

- '**the stated goal of mosquito control programs is to REDUCE the nuisance, not ELIMINATE mosquitos.'**
- I will be looking up the bylaws relating to Area E for Liquid Waste Management (#5575) and mosquito control (#5013)
- The **OCP** will be getting a lot of attention going forward.

- **‘Resourcing requirements associated with major OCP and zoning bylaw projects, geohazard and floodplain implementation or new Board-directed initiatives, will be identified through the budget process’**
- Director Gibbons from Area C (Sunnybrae/Tappen/to Chase) is adamantly opposed to the OCP
- There will be a review of Farm Building Exemptions in the CSRD Building Bylaws.
- Due to the elections, some of the current items will not be completed until winter 2026, including Planning Applications Procedures Review
- The OCP is being reviewed in the coming Workplan Year
- Planning and Permit applications had a big rise in 2021 and have leveled out since then
- There are 7 planners working on 279 planning applications - that is an average of 40 applications per planner over a year, or 4 per week.
- Dike Management at Sim Creek and Hummingbird Creek did come up. The CSRD is the Diking Authority for Sim Creek, but not for Hummingbird Creek
- Community Water Services were discussed, and it was noted that the hall water systems at six firehalls, including Malakwa and Swansea Point are not operated or maintained by the CSRD. There is a water supply review scheduled for 2027

Derek Sutherland, GM Community and Protective Services is in charge of Fire Services, Emergency Services and Parks and Recreation. Important information:

- The Rail Trail is considered a ‘linear park’, and is one of the largest undertakings in the CSRD parks division
- Fire Services is in the process of hiring a third person to deal with day-to-day management. Currently the Regional Fire Chief deals with Administration, the Deputy Regional Fire Chief deals primarily with training, and there will be one more person hired - an Assistant Regional Fire Chief- Training to take care of training, leadership and mentorship
- Parks - playground safety surfacing in Malakwa and the Rail Trail Connection to the Bruhn Bridge are scheduled to be dealt with in 2027
- There is a desire for Community Wildfire Resiliency Roundtables and Public Education Events in 2027
- The roof replacement for Sicamous Recreation Center has not been estimated yet, but has been tentatively planned for 2028. Grants will be applied for.