



Southern Regional District Official Community Plan Review NEWSLETTER

Landworks Consultants Ltd. has been hired by the Powell River Regional District to review the Southern Regional District (SRD) Official Community Plan (OCP) which was adopted in 1994. The OCP sets out a vision as to how the community wishes to evolve in the future by establishing community goals, objectives and policies. The purpose for the OCP is to provide direction to the Regional District and other government agencies, businesses and land owners when making land use decisions. The OCP applies to southern portions of Electoral Areas “B” and “C” and runs from the southern boundary of the City of Powell River down to Elephant Point. This review includes a comprehensive public participation program designed to keep you informed and to ensure that you have numerous opportunities for input throughout the OCP review process.

Rural Sustainability Presentation

- To provide a foundation for discussion, you are invited to attend Landworks’
- “Rural Sustainability Presentation”. A variety of highly qualified speakers
- will inform the public on what rural sustainability principles are and how they
- can be applied in the OCP area. This session is the first step in engaging
- the community and will provide a knowledge base to facilitate discussion
- during the OCP review process.

WHEN: 7:00 p.m. Friday, November 7, 2008

WHERE: Kelly Creek Community School – 2345 Zilinski Road

OCP Review Public Participation Process

The public participation process will include three **information gathering workshops**, three **focus group workshops** and three **public open houses**. Watch the local papers or monitor the Regional District website (www.powellriverrd.bc.ca) for the dates and times of these meetings. All meetings are open to the public.

Information Gathering Workshops

The information gathering workshops will be held to obtain public input from residents and land owners in Electoral Areas “B” and “C” on issues related to the preparation of the revised OCP. The timing of these workshops extends from November, 2008 to January, 2009. The first information gathering workshop is scheduled for **November 8, 2008 at Kelly Creek Community School** at 2345 Zilinski Road from **1:00 to 5:00 p.m.** A detailed outline of the agenda follows on page 2:

Information Gathering Workshop Agenda

Open House/Presentation:

- 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. Public walk-about to view display boards from community profile, survey questionnaire results, mapping, etc.
- 1:30 – 2:00 p.m. Presentation by Landworks on the OCP review process (information sessions, focus groups, open houses) and what can and cannot be addressed in an OCP.
- 2:00 – 2:15 p.m. Refreshment break.
- 2:15 – 2:30 p.m. **Community Mapping Exercise:**
Explanation of the community mapping process - identify important places; discuss why they are important and the actions necessary to preserve, protect or maintain them.
- 2:30 – 2:40 p.m. Participants develop lists of places, justify their importance and determine what actions are required to manage them through the OCP.
- 2:45 – 3:45 p.m. Map places and record reasons for their importance.
- 3:45 – 4:00 p.m. Refreshment break.
- 4:00 – 4:50 p.m. Complete mapping exercise.
- 4:50 – 5:00 p.m. Wrap up mapping session and explain next steps.

Focus Group Workshops

Four focus groups, one each on **Housing & Residential Development; Resources, Environment & Agriculture; Economic Development; and Community Services & Infrastructure**, will be formed from a cross-section of the community to help guide the preparation of the revised OCP. A focus group consists of a small number of individuals who provide information during directed and moderated interactive group discussions. Participants are chosen based on their ability to provide specialized knowledge or insight into the issue under study.

Membership in the focus groups will be made up of members appointed by the Powell River Regional District. No individual will be allowed to sit on more than two focus groups and the membership of each group will be limited to 10 persons who are either residents or land owners in the OCP area. If you wish to participate in one of the focus groups, please e-mail the Regional District at planning@powellriverrd.bc.ca or drop us a line at Powell River Regional District, 5776 Marine Avenue, Powell River, BC V8A 2M4.

The focus group meetings are open to the public. Three meetings will be held on Saturdays in February and March 2009. They will last three hours each; with two, concurrent three-hour sessions from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and two similar sessions from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sessions will be used to:

- ✓ discuss survey questionnaire results;
- ✓ discuss feedback and comment sheets from information gathering sessions;
- ✓ present information gathered by focus group members from the community; and
- ✓ to review and comment on draft policies for the revised OCP.

Public Open Houses

Subsequent to the last focus group session, Landworks will complete a report of findings and a draft revised OCP for presentation at three public open houses. The draft OCP will be based on the information gathered in the OCP review process. The public open houses are proposed for late-March, mid-April and mid-May 2009 at locations yet to be determined.

Landworks will complete the final draft revised OCP by late-May 2009 and will present it to the Powell River Regional District Planning Committee and Board and at the final open house. A statutory public hearing on the revised OCP is proposed to be held in June 2009.