RDOS Electoral Area "D" Services & Boundary Configuration Study

Open House Meeting Overview

MEETING 1

Date:	February 16, 2022
Community Focus:	Eastside Road South, including Skaha Estates
Attendance:	Online 15, In person 33 ** Does not include Committee members, RDOS staff, or consultants*

Questions/Comments (online and in person):

- Question about the sewer capacity, and whether upgrades are needed before Skaha Estates could be connected
- Comment that there was no reference in the study to the park provided by Skaha Estates Improvement District
- Governance – comments that the EA director does not have a lot of influence
- Comment that Area D is a large and diverse area to cover and represent with one director
- Request for examples from the director on where the RD system of governance has been advantageous and where it hasn't
- Road issues – school bus routes (snow plowing)
- Road to the landfill is poor
- Local contractor previously did an awesome job, but now the asphalt condition is poor. So at times, we have had good service, but now the road surface is poor
- Road maintenance is terrible and embarrassing, not to mention snow removal
- Note that Eastside Road has no shoulder for walking
- Disappointment that sewer is not imminent
- Desire for street lighting
- Another resident noted that winter snow clearance is even worse in Penticton – so you can't assume service would be better in a municipality
- Safety along Eastside Road is a concern – especially with no shoulder
- Question raised about paying for a municipal hall
- Question about whether municipality would give them the ability to change their BC Transit service
- Question about how many people from Skaha Estates wanted to be part of ok falls (asked for a raise of hands – 1 person did)
- Questions about comparison of service levels between municipality and RD
- Several questions clearing up who has jurisdiction for roads (i.e. not an RDOS service)
- Questions about timing for when sewer would be extended to the Skaha Estates area
- Question whether property taxes from OK Falls stay within OK Falls? Area D? Or are they shared across the region?
- Can you tell me if incorporation will address our water quality issues?
- Can you tell me if incorporation will help with development and the local economy?
- Note that incorporation is more relevant for OK Falls and the need to upgrade infrastructure to support new construction/development

- We clearly fall within the boundaries of Skaha Estates, but recently asked Skaha Estates if we can connect to their well system, and they (SEID) told us no. Can they just say no when we actually live within the boundaries?
- Where I am located I pay for my own garbage collection and I don't have water or sewer so I don't think i am getting value for my taxes.

Online poll:

- What community best describes where you live?

  Upper Carmi (0%), Eastside Rd N (6%), Eastside Rd S (41%), Okanagan Falls (18%), South of Okanagan Falls (6%), None of the above (12%), No Answer (18%)

- In general, do you receive good value for the taxes you pay for your local RDOS services?

  Yes (24%), No (12%), Undecided (24%), No Answer (41%)

- Does one electoral area director for Area “D” provide sufficient representation and influence in decision-making for your community?

  Yes (11%), No (42%), Undecided (0%), No Answer (47%)

- Do you view your community as one that has shared goals and priorities with surrounding Area “D” communities?

  Yes (11%), No (6%), Undecided (0%), No Answer (83%)

MEETING 2

Date:	February 17, 2022
Community Focus:	Upper Carmi and surrounding area
Attendance:	Online 13, In person 8 ** Does not include Committee members, RDOS staff, or consultants*

Questions/Comments (online and in person):

- Garbage/recycling doesn't come if road isn't plowed – went 6 weeks without garbage collection this winter
- Road maintenance is terrible
- Poor water at the bottom of the hill
- Water in lower Upper Carmi is an issue … discussion of whether there may be opportunities to hook into Penticton water (reservoir and line perhaps right there, or to be soon)
- Saliken Road – potential to expand a small portion of Upper Carmi into Penticton to get access to water for this area or address those issues (notes that the City plows the roads close by). Note about disappointment that this hasn't come to fruition already (discussions with the City have occurred in the past, and note that many of the residents along Saliken would like that).
- Can see the value in accessing grants that might not otherwise be options for our community, so maybe there is some value that we would receive through incorporation – ability to collect the same services, but get more value from incorporation
- Some people noted they are content with the level of service they receive
- Water line that Penticton might be running by Saliken – maybe the City of Penticton is for us because of the water source
- We don't have fire protection
- Value in the idea of Upper Carmi (upper portion) being part of an incorporated municipality with Okanagan Falls, and being able to go to our local municipal office to get building permits, etc. and having decisions made more locally for Upper Carmi
- When we moved here I did the research to make sure we had adequate water sources at the top, and I am happy with the way my system works, but can understand the concerns of those living in the lower are to find a solution for them
- Don't think that one electoral area director is enough representation
- I think that one electoral area director is enough
- I think we need representation from more than one person
- Is it hard for an electoral area director to keep track of an area that is so spread out?
- Fire protection is still an issue, but without pipes in the ground, or without a fire hall closer, it doesn't make much sense to have fire protection for them (the response time isn't good, so what are they saving once they arrive?). I think we are wasting our time (for Upper Carmi – not Saliken Drive)
- Our area is built on rock, so not easy to service. When they built the subdivision that is why they didn't service us with water, because its expensive and difficult.
- Trails could be improved

- Our area in Upper Carmi is much different from many of the other areas, because of our large lots, it sets us apart from other parts of Area D. We are not living in the city, and we moved here because this is what we like. We don't need a lot more things – we can live with the services we have, the nature we have.
- I don't see this community as having shared goals with the others.
- Leave me alone, charge me the least tax possible, and I will pay fees for what I use. If we were paying into something, paying more, I would want to be sure we could receive something for that.
- Noted that if the recreation area around us is improved (trails, outhouses, etc.) that would invite more people and encourage more use (and not sure if we want that)
- Policing – are concerned about people living on Crown lands in the bush, people are torching things up there, so if we develop trails and encourage more people up there, not sure we want to do that
- Not sure we have much in common with OK Falls, but we have some problems that need solving. Not sure if incorporation will be the way to address it, but we do have some issues that need addressing (water, fire, roads, garbage)
- How much funding was given for this part of the process
- Regarding water, does it have to be all or nothing? While living on Vancouver Island in East Sooke, we lived in the Capital Regional District and were on septic. However, we received municipal water from the District of Sooke. Might something similar be an option for Upper Carmi?
- Very informative evening. I learned much more than I expected that I would.

Online Poll:

- In general, do you receive good value for the taxes you pay for your local RDOS services?

  Yes (10%), No (20%), Undecided (15%), No Answer (55%)
- Does one electoral area director for Area "D" provide sufficient representation and influence in decision-making for your community?

  Yes (10%), No (20%), Undecided (5%), No Answer (65%)
- Do you view your community as one that has shared goals and priorities with surrounding Area "D" communities?

  Yes (0%), No (27%), Undecided (5%), No Answer (68%)

MEETING 3

Date:	February 23, 2022
Community Focus:	Eastside Road North, including Lakeshore Highlands, Heritage Hills, Vintage Views
Attendance:	Online 10, In person 28 ** Does not include Committee members, RDOS staff, or consultants*

Questions/Comments (online and in person):

- Services – no bylaw enforcement, planning, parks
- Our system is like having to ask for permission to have services (RD model of governance)
- Desire for responsiveness and accountability
- Naming of the local park was an issue
- Comment that even with a municipality won't get "local" representation – it's no different (noting that council members may be elected from other neighbourhoods)
- Questions regarding municipal hall – clarification that really it's just an office space, and that calling it a "municipal hall" can suggest that it is something grander or more expensive than it may be
- Costs of council vs one electoral area director
- Comment that many are happy with the way things are – we don't get all the services – to me costs can only go up
- Transit issues and difficulty in working with the Traffic Committee & BC Transit to change service levels; would have more flexibility as a municipality
- If Area "D" population exceeds 5,000 and stays in the RDOS, do policing costs still go up 70%?
- Thank you for hosting this session. Very informative. Just to clarify, if this process moves to an incorporation study, will amalgamation of part or all of Area D with existing municipalities be considered? For example, would the study explore amalgamating the Carmi area with the City of Penticton given its proximity as opposed to being part of a newly created municipality?

Online Poll:

- What community best describes where you live?

  Upper Carmi (13%), Eastside Rd N (20%), Eastside Rd S (0%), Okanagan Falls (20%), South of Okanagan Falls (0%), None of the above (0%), No Answer (47%)

- In general, do you receive good value for the taxes you pay for your local RDOS services?

  Yes (13%), No (25%), Undecided (13%), No Answer (50%)

- Does one electoral area director for Area "D" provide sufficient representation and influence in decision-making for your community?

  Yes (6%), No (31%), Undecided (6%), No Answer (56%)

- Do you view your community as one that has shared goals and priorities with surrounding Area "D" communities?

  Yes (13%), No (19%), Undecided (6%), No Answer (63%)

MEETING 4

Date:	February 24, 2022
Community Focus:	South of Okanagan Falls, including Sun Valley, Rolling Hills, Vaseux Lake
Attendance:	Online 7, In person 14 ** Does not include Committee members, RDOS staff, or consultants*

Questions/Comments (online and in person):

- Roads have no sidewalks or walking area
- Road maintenance (sweeping, snow clearing) is lacking
- Questions about higher level of bylaw enforcement
- Questions about the amount paid for water system (Sun Valley vs. Vaseux Lake), and what services that entails (hydrants) – why would they be paying so much for their water (comparatively)
- Questions regarding the tax exemptions that Farm Class and ALR properties get residence (that they would not benefit from in the event of incorporation)
- Questions about what funds the area would receive from the Province if incorporation happens, and in particular for roads – what does the province provide
- Availability of grants for roads after incorporation
- How to draw a boundary given the size of Area "D" is there any formula to know we can have a successful community given the large area
- How does a community provide fire service to this large an area
- Is there any opportunity to negotiate the provincial offer?

Online Poll:

- What community best describes where you live?

  Upper Carmi (0%), Eastside Rd N (0%), Eastside Rd S (0%), Okanagan Falls (12%), South of Okanagan Falls (25%), None of the above (0%), No Answer (63%)
- In general, do you receive good value for the taxes you pay for your local RDOS services?

  Yes (0%), No (0%), Undecided (11%), No Answer (89%)
- Does one electoral area director for Area "D" provide sufficient representation and influence in decision-making for your community?

  Yes (0%), No (25%), Undecided (0%), No Answer (75%)
- Do you view your community as one that has shared goals and priorities with surrounding Area "D" communities?

  Yes (20%), No (0%), Undecided (0%), No Answer (80%)

MEETING 5

Date:	February 26, 2022
Community Focus:	Okanagan Falls and surrounding area
Attendance:	Online 14, In person 51 ** Does not include Committee members, RDOS staff, or consultants*

Questions/Comments (online and in person):

- Want to get more businesses, need for more police presence, concern regarding derelict buildings, abandoned vehicles
- Would like a municipality to be able to petition the province for higher level of ambulance services
- Questions regarding ambulance service, discussion about whether a municipality have more control over level of service (note about fire department having callouts primarily for first response to bridge the gap, whether the fire department could request for an ambulance to be located here, etc.)
- Point made that both policing and ambulance services are provided by the province, and would continue to be provided by the province after incorporation, although you would have a council to advocate on behalf of the municipality
- Governance – EA director does not have enough influence with province (over MOTI, RCMP, 911 dispatch and response), control over rural provincial tax
- RDOS board meetings – whether you agree with the EA director or not, he has so little impact due to weighted and unweighted votes – limited ability to do things for this area
- Does the survey get mailed to every residence in Area D?
- Who can vote in a referendum (seasonal residents, who makes an eligible voter) – BC residents and property owners
- Do businesses get a vote?
- I understand if we incorporate we will not have our own policing, is that correct?
- Decision making process – are we providing feedback to help inform the boundary and the committee make the recommendation to the RDOS Board
- Economic development – question about how to invest money when my property isn't protected, and enforcement of bylaws isn't happening, if we do incorporate, will business owners have a sense of confidence that businesses will be more on the radar for bylaws or with RCMP – note that province would still be providing the service while a municipality is below 5,000 population, but have heard from mayors of municipalities with less than 5,000 who noted that they do have input on RCMP servicing and priorities
- Ability to have business licences, business improvement areas when you are a municipality
- Concern that policing is not available now, and noting concerns with protecting their property, and terrorize people on the beach, difficulty in even getting a sign on the beach
- The taxes that go to RDOS from Okanagan Falls, if we are incorporated, the taxes stay in Okanagan Falls
- On the advisory committees, such as the Advisory Planning Committee, we make recommendations but the RDOS Board can overrule us. They can choose to listen to us or not. Same with Parks and Recreation Commission.

- Grants that were supposed to be here, but instead it has ended up in Naramata

Online Poll:

- What community best describes where you live?

  Upper Carmi (0%), Eastside Rd N (0%), Eastside Rd S (0%), Okanagan Falls (41%), South of Okanagan Falls (0%), None of the above (0%), No Answer (59%)

- In general, do you receive good value for the taxes you pay for your local RDOS services?

  Yes (10%), No (26%), Undecided (0%), No Answer (64%)

- Does one electoral area director for Area “D” provide sufficient representation and influence in decision-making for your community?

  Yes (9%), No (28%), Undecided (9%), No Answer (54%)

- Do you view your community as one that has shared goals and priorities with surrounding Area “D” communities?

  Yes (14%), No (23%), Undecided (9%), No Answer (54%)