

AREA A FLOOD CONTROL SERVICE



Over the past 25 years, portions of Electoral Area A have experienced considerable flooding, most recently in 2012 and 2013.

The recent Area A flooding occurred along the Elk River between Elkford and Sparwood, adjacent to the Hosmer Septage Ponds, Hosmer area, West Fernie, Hill Road and Thompson Road areas. Flooding also occurred along Hosmer Creek and Mutz Creek.

The RDEK is proposing to create a new Flood Control Service to help fund Area A flood mitigation projects, along with the operation and maintenance of flood-related works or improvements (such as dikes and berms).

FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECTS

Flood mitigation projects have been recently completed in Hosmer and West Fernie. Other mitigation works are underway south of Fernie at the north end of Hill Road and near Thompson Road. These projects were funded through the grant program, Building Canada Fund and the Electoral Area A portion of the Elk Valley Mine Tax Sharing funds.

West Fernie

The engineering consultant on the West Fernie project oversaw the design, approvals, construction drawings, contract administration and construction inspection. The project itself consisted of shaping and sloping the river bank, constructing or increasing the height of the dike, placing rip rap bank protection and installing culverts and flood flap gates. The dike and bank protection was constructed between 2008 and 2013 and is approximately 900 metres long. The dike and bank protection will protect property, residences and infrastructure in West Fernie.

Hill Road

The Hill Road project will consist of constructing an earth berm that will be set back approximately 15 metres from the Elk River. The 220 metre long berm will be one metre high and will provide some protection to properties in the Hill Road area.

If the proposed Flood Control Service proceeds, potential projects identified by the public, river engineering consultants and the RDEK, would be brought forward and prioritized by the RDEK Board.



WANT MORE INFORMATION?

For more information, please contact the RDEK office at 250-489-2791 or 1-888-478-7335:

Project Details

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OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECTS

When flood mitigation projects are completed, it is a requirement to operate and maintain the works.

Operation and maintenance includes inspecting and reporting on the status of the improvement.

Any deficiencies such as vegetation removal or rip rap bank protection replacement must be completed. The inspections occur 2 to 4 times per year depending on climate and condition of the improvement. All mechanical improvements such as culverts, flap gates and slide gates are operated annually to ensure they will work during freshet and flood events.

FINANCING

The intention is to have no overall tax increase in Area A due to this new service. This would be achieved by reducing the taxes collected for the Solid Waste service to offset the taxation for the new Flood Control service, keeping it taxation neutral.

Under the *Local Government Act*, every dollar that is collected by a regional district for a service must stay with that service. Currently, the RDEK has additional industrial revenue from one of our fee-for-service facilities in the Solid Waste Service. Although we have revenue there, we are unable to take that revenue and apply it to flood control, so the intention is to use the revenue to reduce the taxation for the Solid Waste service, which would offset the new taxation for the Flood Control Service.

Funds for the Flood Control Service would be collected through property taxation in order to cover the regular maintenance costs of flood control infrastructure, and to create a reserve fund. The reserve fund would allow the RDEK to have the match funding (community portion) required when grant programs are available from the Provincial and Federal governments, enabling larger projects to be undertaken in Area A.

At the maximum tax rate of 50¢/\$1,000 of assessed value, the actual tax rate for residential properties would be about 38¢/\$1,000 (or about \$115 on a \$300,000 property). As mentioned above, however, the intent is that this would be offset by a reduction of the same amount in the taxation for Solid Waste.



ELECTOR APPROVAL ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS

To receive elector approval to establish a flood control service in Electoral Area A, within the next couple of months the RDEK will be conducting an alternative approval process. Eligible electors in Electoral Area A will be able to submit an Elector Response Form to the RDEK if they are opposed to the proposed Flood Control Service being established.

If, after the deadline, at least 10% of the electors in Electoral Area A have signed and submitted Elector Response Forms, the RDEK Board cannot proceed with establishing the Service unless it receives assent of the electors by voting.

ELECTOR RESPONSE FORMS

Elector responses must be given on the Elector Response Form prepared by the RDEK which will be available from the RDEK office in Cranbrook and on the website at www.rdek.bc.ca. Accurate copies of the form will also be accepted.

Elector Response Forms may be submitted in person or by mail and must be received at the RDEK office in Cranbrook by the deadline. Postmarks will not be accepted as date of submission and forms cannot be submitted by fax or email.

Only eligible electors in Electoral Area A are entitled to sign an Elector Response Form.

ELECTOR QUALIFICATIONS

An elector is a person who meets the following qualifications as defined by the Local Government Act:

RESIDENT ELECTORS:

- age 18 or older; and
- a Canadian citizen; and
- a resident of British Columbia for at least 6 months immediately preceding signing the Elector Response Form; and
- a resident of Electoral Area A for at least 30 days immediately preceding signing the Elector Response Form; and
- not disqualified by any enactment from being a registered elector or otherwise disqualified by law.

NON-RESIDENT PROPERTY ELECTORS:

- age 18 or older; and
- a Canadian citizen; and
- a resident of British Columbia for at least 6 months immediately preceding signing the Elector Response Form; and
- a registered owner of real property (land) in Electoral Area A for at least 30 days immediately preceding signing the Elector Response Form; and
- not entitled to register as a resident elector; and
- not disqualified by any enactment from being a registered elector or otherwise disqualified by law; and
- if there is more than one registered owner of the property, only one of those individuals may, with the written consent of the majority of the owners, submit an Elector Response Form, and the Non-Resident Property Elector Consent Form, found on the back of the Elector Response Form, must be completed.