



metrovancouver

Water Committee

Terms of Reference

The Water Committee is the standing committee of the Metro Vancouver (MV) Board which provides advice and recommendations to the GVWD Board on water programs.

The GVWD is directly responsible for the regional systems for storage, treatment and distribution of water fit for drinking. The GVWD Board adopted a Drinking Water Management Plan in 2005. The Water Committee's scope of work is focussed on how the implementation of this plan, including regional drinking water policies, projects and programs can contribute to the livability and sustainability of the region as part of the Sustainable Region Initiative.

The Water Committee is the forum to which staff report on water programs, projects and policies. The Committee's responsibilities are:

- To review and monitor the annual work program for programs assigned to the committee and make recommendations to the GVWD Board, as necessary, on any changes in program scope and priorities;
- To consider staff reports on policies, projects and programs and make recommendations to the GVWD Board on the appropriate actions;
- To hear and consider public delegations on matters within the scope of the committee's purview and, where appropriate, make recommendations to the GVWD Board arising out of such delegations;
- To pursue matters referred to the committee by the GVWD Board and report back to the Board expeditiously, as required.

In carrying out these responsibilities, the Committee may provide advice, guidance or direction to staff as to the scope and priority of work to be carried out, including new tasks to be undertaken. However, where such direction represents a sufficiently significant change in the previously approved work program, or a significant expenditure of funds, or runs contrary to the advice of professional staff, the Committee shall refer the matter to the Board, with appropriate recommendations, for decision by the Board.

The Committee Chair, or in the absence of the Committee Chair, the Committee Vice-Chair, will usually be the chief spokesperson on matters of public interest under the committee's purview. Some matters may be of such public profile that it will be appropriate for the Board Chair or Vice-Chair to be the chief spokesperson; on technical matters or where the status is still at the staff proposal level, the Commissioner or senior staff may be the chief spokesperson. Where necessary and practical, the Board Chair, the Committee Chair and the Commissioner (or vice-chairs and deputy) will confer to determine the appropriate course of action.

The Commissioner will assign a departmental manager to be 'duty manager' to the Committee. The duty manager will be responsible for coordinating agendas and be the principal point of contact for committee members.

Committee Meetings

The Water Committee meets monthly, except for August and December and has special meetings as required. A quorum of 50% plus one of the Committee membership is required to conduct Committee business.

Relationship with Other Board Committees

Matters of overall budget and financing of the programs are the purview of the Finance Committee. Expenditures within the approved budget remain the purview of the Water Committee, but items which entail significant changes to the approved budget should be referred to the Finance Committee for their recommendation to the Board as well as the recommendation of the Water Committee.

Matters considered by the Water Committee may have implications for issues considered by other committees, in particular the Environment Committee, the Waste Management Committee, and the Land Use and Transportation Committee. Similarly matters considered by other committees may have relevance for the Water Committee.

The duty manager will attempt to keep the committee apprised of significant reports with inter-committee implications.

Committee Membership

The Chair, Vice Chair, and members are appointed annually by the Chair of the MV Board of Directors.