

The YouTube video provided corresponds to the official recording of **Part 2 of the Strathcona Regional District (SRD) Regional Board Meeting held on 22 October 2025**

1. This session was marked by a high-stakes debate over the proper use of federal infrastructure funds, progress on regional health initiatives, and critical safety updates for Electoral Area D 1-3.

The following are the key deliberations and outcomes from that meeting:

1. The Gas Tax Conflict: Infrastructure vs. Third-Party Grants

The most significant debate of the meeting centered on a request for **\$28,000 from the Electoral Area B Community Works Fund (Gas Tax)** to finish the **Cortes Island Food Security Hub** 1.

- **The Pro-Grant Argument:** Director Mark Vonesch (Area B) emphasized that food bank usage had increased 100% year-over-year, necessitating a more stable facility than a residential garage 1, 4.
- **The "Forward" Argument (Fiscal Discipline):** You and several other directors raised concerns that the **Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM)** intends these funds strictly for **local government infrastructure** (such as water or transit) 1, 5. Proponents of your platform argued that giving Gas Tax money to third-party entities sends a dangerous signal to senior governments that the SRD lacks internal infrastructure deficits, potentially **jeopardizing millions** in future structural grant eligibility 1, 5, 6.
- **The Outcome:** Despite emotional appeals, the motion to allocate the funds was **narrowly defeated 6-to-7**, documenting a pivotal moment where the Board majority prioritized regional grant readiness over ad-hoc localized spending 1.

2. Regional Health: Primary Care Support Service

Director Susan Sinnott introduced an extensive motion to investigate establishing a **regional primary care support service** to combat a severe physician shortage affecting up to 7,000 residents 3.

- **The Model:** The study explores a local government structure to manage billing and medical administration for doctors, allowing them to focus solely on patient care 3, 7.
- **Outcome:** Due to the complexity and scale of the initiative, the Board voted unanimously to **defer the discussion** until a formal notice of motion was presented at the following meeting 3.

3. Area D Safety: Oyster Riverbank Protection (Bylaw No. 625)

The Board moved forward with **Bylaw No. 625**, a proactive measure to secure the long-term safety of the Oyster River community 2, 8.

- **Consolidation Strategy:** The bylaw facilitates the eventual merger of the **Oyster Riverbank Protection Service** and the **Oyster River Flood Protection Service** 8, 9. This move is designed to distribute the costs of maintaining the Glenmore Road dike and riverbank armouring more equitably across the entire floodplain community 9.
- **Elector Assent:** The Board authorized the use of an **Alternative Approval Process (AAP)** to obtain voter consent for this service change, with a response deadline established for **16 March 2026** 2, 10.

4. Policy Review and Corporate Modernisation

Continuing your term's focus on **corporate stability**, the Board systematically reviewed and **revoked several outdated structural policies** 2.

- **Modernising the Rulebook:** This "housekeeping" ensures that the Regional District is governed by current standards rather than antiquated rules from the 1970s, reducing the potential for "targeted administrative friction" 2, 11, 12.
- **Duncan Bay Fire Protection:** The Board approved extending a fire protection petition process until late November to ensure residents understand the legal risks of lacking fire support before the service is officially established 2.

5. New Business: Successes and Setbacks

- **Shelter Point Farms Trail:** You reported the successful installation of new signage clarifying that the trail is adjacent to legal hunting areas 13, 14. This data-backed safety update was a direct response to community concerns regarding confusion between public trail use and provincial hunting regulations 13, 14.
- **Provincial Strike Impact:** A significant update revealed that the **provincial transit and traffic study** for Area D had ground to a halt because the project lead was currently on strike, highlighting the external hurdles sometimes faced in delivering infrastructure results 13.

In summary, the 22 October 2025 meeting demonstrates your role as a **principled steward** who balances the immediate needs of community groups against the long-term **fiscal and grant security** of the entire region 1, 15, 16. Carrying these motions provided the administrative continuity necessary to protect Area D's infrastructure while advancing regional health solutions 2, 3.