

The YouTube video provided corresponds to the official recording of **Part 1 of the Strathcona Regional District (SRD) Regional Board Meeting held on 24 April 2024** 1. Chaired by Mark Baker, this session focused on regional data collection, the expansion of green infrastructure, and community grant allocations 1, 2.

The following are the key highlights and deliberations from this portion of the meeting:

1. Delegation: Campbell River Community Foundation

Michaela Aruda, Executive Director of the foundation, presented an update on their philanthropic impact and a request for regional support 1.

- **Financial Growth:** The foundation's endowment fund has grown to approximately **\$3.5 million**, with more than \$1.5 million already dispersed back into the community 1.
- **Vital Signs Request:** Aruda requested a **\$5,000 grant** to support the publication of the upcoming **October 2024 Vital Signs report**, which tracks metrics across 13 sectors, including senior needs and the economic impact of local non-profits 1.
- **Board Deliberations:** Directors questioned potential geographic overlap with newer foundations on Quadra and Cortes Islands and discussed how data editor selection can influence findings 1.
- **Outcome:** The Board **approved the \$5,000 grant** from the Regional Grants-in-Aid budget 1.

2. EV Charging Station Expansion Strategy

Staff delivered a report on scaling public electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure to meet provincial targets requiring 100% zero-emission new vehicle sales by 2035 2.

- **The Partnership Model:** The proposal suggested investigating a partnership with **BC Hydro** to design, build, and operate stations, which would minimize financial and operational risks to the SRD 2.
- **Differing Perspectives:**
- **Director Whalley** opposed the move, labeling it a national security risk and citing concerns over long-term grid reliability 2.
- **Director Lott** supported the expansion, noting that existing stations in Gold River have successfully boosted eco-tourism and local business access 2.
- **Director Dahl** suggested the SRD should also evaluate independent networks like **ChargePoint or Flo** if the goal is to capture revenue from station usage 2.
- **Outcome:** The Board carried an amended motion to **investigate partnership options** with both BC Hydro and private suppliers 2.

3. Operational and Technical Developments

- **Community Hall Funding:** During this session, the Board successfully passed three readings for **Bylaw No. 548**, a legislative change initiated by Director Mark Vonesch to allow regional capital funding for **Cortes Island community halls** 3, 4. This removed a previous "operating-only" restriction to allow for projects like the **Manson's Hall heat pump** 3, 4.
- **Technical Recess:** The meeting was briefly suspended for a 10-minute recess due to technical connectivity issues affecting remote board members 5.

The substantive debates regarding **Fire Administration Support** and **Cortes Island Dog**

Control continued in **Part 2** of the same meeting 6.