

The YouTube video link provided corresponds to the official recording of the **Strathcona Regional District (SRD) Regional Board Meeting** held on **July 23, 2025** 1. This session featured significant progress on regional infrastructure partnerships, formalization of Area D emergency services, and high-level debates regarding corporate transparency and administrative flexibility.

The following is a comprehensive summary of the key deliberations and outcomes from that meeting:

1. Infrastructure and Inter-Governmental Partnerships

The Board advanced several files aimed at resolving long-standing utility and waste management issues:

- **Quathiaski Cove Wastewater Integration:** In a move aligned with your focus on government-to-government collaboration, the Board approved directing staff to continue working with the **We Wai Kai First Nation** to pursue a shared wastewater service integration plan for Quathiaski Cove 1.
- **Quadra Island Solid Waste:** The Board formally referred the Quadra Island Solid Waste Collection Study Report to the Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) board to assist in establishing a formal **waste transfer station**, intended to lower ferry emissions and costs 1.
- **Cortes Island Multi-Use Sports Court:** The Board approved a preliminary lease agreement with the Southern Cortes Community Association (SCCA) to commit **Gas Tax (Community Works) funding** for the construction of a multi-use court at Manson's Hall 2.

2. Public Safety and Fire Protection

This meeting marked a major milestone for your **"Forward"** platform regarding the professionalization of Area D services:

- **Area D Fire Protection:** The Board officially approved **converting the Electoral Area D fire protection function into a regular service** under proper bylaws 2. This transition ensures that the service is governed by a modern, accountable framework rather than a temporary administrative function.
- **Out-of-Jurisdiction Response:** The Board approved amendments allowing the **Sayward Fire Protection Service** to provide road rescue and wildfire responses outside established boundaries, with the costs to be reimbursed by the province 2.

3. Governance, Transparency, and Policy Reform

The Board engaged in significant debates aimed at modernizing regional operations and increasing public accountability:

- **Public Disclosure of Remuneration:** The Board voted to have staff prepare a comprehensive report on options for the **public disclosure of director and elected official remuneration**, including compensation received via external agency appointments 3.
- **Policy Revocation:** In a victory for corporate efficiency, the Board passed a motion to **rescind several outdated and overly detailed internal administrative policies** 3. This reform is designed to reduce "administrative red tape" and provide the CAO with the flexibility necessary to manage the district's professional staff effectively 3.

- **FOI Deposit Fees:** A debate occurred regarding the SRD's policy of charging a **\$25 deposit for Freedom of Information (FOI) requests**. After the province indicated this might not be authorized by current legislation, the Board voted to seek a formal legal opinion 3.

4. Regional Connectivity and Transportation

- **West Coast Transportation Study:** Building on earlier sub-regional discussions, the Board approved a deeper operational examination into **regional air, ship, and land transportation partnerships** 4. The goal is to better connect outer West Coast communities, such as Gold River, Tahsis, Sayward, and Zeballos, back to the central regional hub in Campbell River 4.

In summary, the July 23, 2025 meeting documents your role in **stabilizing Area D's emergency services** while supporting the **broad regional alliances** necessary to deliver infrastructure and transparency results for your constituents 1, 2.