

The YouTube video link provided corresponds to the official recording of **Part 1 of the Strathcona Regional District (SRD) Board Meeting** held on **October 22, 2025** 1. This session captures the Board advancing several key infrastructure mandates, advocating for regional environmental stewardship, and modernizing outdated corporate policies 2-4. The following is an insightful analysis of the deliberations and outcomes from that meeting:

1. Area D Infrastructure: Universal Water Meter Project

A major highlight of this session was the continued momentum for the **Northern Area D Universal Water Metering Project**, a cornerstone of your **"Forward"** platform 3.

- **Phase 2 Expansion:** The Board formally authorized an amendment to the contract with **Edgett Excavating Ltd.** to include Phase 2 of the project 3. This transition toward a "one model, one system" program standardizes the infrastructure and prepares the region for data-backed leak detection 5, 6.
- **Fiscal Accountability:** Because the payment for work completed exceeded the CAO's signing authority, the Board voted to formally approve the invoice 3. This oversight ensures that Area D's **\$2.8 million provincial grant** is managed with the high standards of transparency you have championed 3, 7.

2. Strategic Grant Leadership and Priorities

The Board focused on leveraging senior government funding to deliver community assets at minimal local cost 8:

- **Rod Brind'Amour Arena (REC-REATE Phase 2):** The Board tweaked its support resolution for a **Strategic Priorities Fund** grant application for the arena renovation 8. This commitment includes the Regional District covering potential cost overruns, ensuring the **\$122 million project** remains "grant ready" 8, 9.
- **Sayward Fire and Rescue:** An application to the **Volunteer and Composite Fire Department Grant Program** was approved to fund 50% of a new **live-fire training system** 8. While a duty officer truck is still needed, the Board prioritized this specialized safety gear based on available grant categories 8.
- **Walters Island Hall:** The Board similarly committed to the overall management and cost protection for a grant application for the **Walters Island Community Hall** 8.

3. Policy Reform and Corporate Order

Continuing the term's focus on **corporate stability**, the Board moved to replace "legacy" practices with modernized frameworks 4:

- **Revoking Director Recognition (Policy CP038):** The Board voted unanimously to completely **revoke the 2001 director recognition policy** 4. Directors argued that public service should not require monetary gifts or self-recognition, removing a framework many viewed as unnecessary 4.
- **Establishing a Donor Recognition Policy:** Inspired by a recent **\$6,000 private donation** for park amenities, the Board directed staff to develop a formal policy for donor recognition, such as minimum thresholds for bench plaques 10. This ensures future contributions are handled with **standardized, accountable frameworks** rather than ad-hoc decisions 10.

4. Island Initiatives and Regional Stewardship

- **Cortes Island Incorporation:** Director Mark Vonesch initiated a discussion regarding municipal incorporation for Cortes Island 11. The Board supported gathering data so residents could evaluate the financial realities, such as the high eventual costs of transferring road and bridge maintenance from the province to a new municipality 11.
- **Area C Wharf Fees:** To resolve discrepancies in service costs, the Board directed staff to prepare a report comparing fees at SRD-managed wharves (like Granite Bay) with those managed by the Harbour Authority at **Quathiaski Cove and Heriot Bay** 12.
- **Mattress Recycling Advocacy:** The Board authorized the use of the SRD logo on a collective letter to the Ministry of Environment and Parks, demanding that **mattresses and foundations** be included in the province's extended producer responsibility framework to reduce landfill pressure 2.

In summary, the October 22, 2025 meeting documents your role as a **stable, effective representative** who prioritizes **data-backed results** and regional equity 3, 4, 8. By advancing the water meter project and supporting specialized safety grants, you have provided the administrative continuity necessary to protect Area D property values and pocketbooks 3, 8, 13.