

This YouTube video features **Part 2 of the Strathcona Regional District (SRD) Regional Board Meeting held on 8 November 2023** 1, 2. This session documented a significant "procedural reset" for a controversial land-use file, a high-level briefing on sweeping provincial emergency legislation, and major grant approvals for local social and environmental initiatives 1, 3, 4.

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

1. Legislative Reset: Bylaw No. 519 (Area D Rezoning)

The Board engaged in a lengthy and complex debate regarding **Bylaw No. 519**, an infill housing proposal in Electoral Area D 1, 3.

- **Reconsideration:** The Board voted to reconsider the previously defeated rezoning application, which sought to increase density from roughly five to 32 homes 1, 3.
- **Avoiding Legal Risk:** This move was driven by shifts in the Board's perspective regarding the new **Official Community Plan (OCP)** and a desire to avoid potential bad-faith litigation from the applicants 3.
- **Procedural Integrity:** Because new information had been received after the initial public hearing was closed, the Board voted to **defer the third reading** and schedule a brand-new public hearing to ensure a transparent, legally defensible process 1, 3.

2. Provincial Mandates: Emergency and Disaster Management Act

Staff provided a detailed briefing on the massive transition from the 1993 Emergency Program Act to the new, 180-page **Emergency and Disaster Management Act** 1, 4.

- **Expanded Scope:** The new legislation shifts focus to all four phases of emergency management—**mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery**—and introduces strict requirements for consultation with Indigenous governing bodies 1, 4.
- **Fiscal Concerns:** Directors expressed alarm over **potential fines and severe implementation costs**, emphasizing that the province must provide a structured funding stream rather than temporary grants to support these new local government obligations 1, 4.

3. Environmental Stewardship: Pidcock Creek Watershed

A community delegation raised environmental concerns regarding **Quadra Island's wetlands** and the accuracy of existing mapping 1, 2.

- **Wetland Protection:** The presenters highlighted that over 85% of wetlands in the Lower Mainland are already dysfunctional, making local aquifer protection vital for drought and flood management 2.
- **Dam Decommissioning:** The group proposed **breaching a section of the SRD-owned dam at Pidcock Creek** to re-establish Coho salmon access to the upper reaches of the waterway 1, 2.

4. Community Grants and Island Services

The Board authorized significant funding and exploratory studies to support sub-regional needs:

- **Homalco Community Kitchen:** The Board approved an application for **\$700,000 from Health Canada** (over 4 years) to fund a peer coordinator role, providing job training and support for vulnerable individuals in Campbell River 1, 5.

- **Oyster River Enhancement Society (ORES):** A **\$6,600 grant** was approved to support maintenance and educational programming for local salmon enhancement 5.
- **Quadra Island Solid Waste:** The Board approved exploring **local transfer station configurations** to reduce ferry reliance and lower carbon emissions associated with waste collection 1, 5.

5. Corporate Operations: 2024 Meeting Calendar

The Board voted to adopt "**Option A**" for the 2024 meeting calendar 1, 6. This model optimizes the schedule to meet approximately once per month for main Board business, a move designed to **reduce travel constraints** and improve operational efficiency for directors residing in remote or island communities 1, 6.

In summary, the 8 November 2023 meeting documents a Board attempting to navigate **onerous new provincial safety regulations** while balancing **localized housing demands** and regional environmental priorities 1, 4, 5.