

Area “E” Director Newsletter

Information from the desk of Dir. Fedrigo

April 2026

April Board Meeting Highlights

April’s RDOS Board meetings focused on community services, safety, and long-term planning relevant to Naramata, Area “E”, and the region.

- The Board approved a short-term rental permit for a vacant home in Area E located on Robinson Ave. I continue to work through the obstacles with the Planning Department with regards to non-principal resident (homes that are not used as a principal dwelling) being classified as a Tourist Accommodation (the use of a residential property as a commercial business). A Directors motion was made to advance a new policy requiring annual reporting on large infrastructure projects, improving transparency on budgets and timelines.
- BC Transit was present at the April 16th meeting. I have asked a few times to consider a bus for after school to transport the elementary school kids into Penticton, and for that bus to then pick up the youth from Penticton High School. This will assist parents working in Penticton and having their children transported to Penticton after school and an opportunity for the high school students to participate in after school activities and then have a way to return to the community.
- Transit governance, emergency preparedness during power shutoffs, and wildfire and invasive species management were key discussion areas.
- Agricultural groups highlighted challenges facing local growers, while staff continued work on regional parks, flood mapping, and service planning to support resilient, well-managed communities. Great presentations were provided by the BC Fruit Growers & BC Grape Growers Associations



Regional Connections - Area E Projects

At this time Area “E” does not have any listed projects.

If you are interested in what other projects are happening in the RDOS this is a great resource.

rdosregionalconnections.ca



Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society

www.oasiss.ca

The Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society (OASISS) coordinates the prevention, monitoring, treatment, and public education efforts related to invasive plant and aquatic species across the Okanagan-Similkameen region through collaborative, region-wide partnerships. Check out their website for more information.

The RDOS has a webpage that provides more information and additional resources: <https://www.rdos.bc.ca/utilities/invasive-species-program/>

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Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

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CITTASlow International Delegations

www.cittaslow.org

On April 17 & 18th NaramataSlow welcomed CittaSlow International delegations to celebrate Naramata and participate in the International CittaSlow Planning Committee Meeting. Delegates from Italy and Turkey were in attendance, a few who have never been to North America before, and others from the Cowichan area in BC and the Mayor of La Magnetic from Quebec.

This was a historic opportunity for NaramataSlow as the International Committee has never held a meeting in North America. This is a significant milestone and was a tremendous opportunity to showcase the amazing projects and businesses in our community.

I want to thank the organizing committee for their hard work, tireless hours, and the absolute success of the event. As well as all other volunteers that participated in the Friday and Saturday events that were community tour hosts, dinner wait staff, chefs, and more. It was an all-around fantastic two days that showcased the dedication, support, and true embodiment of community.



LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

What is a Liquid Waste Management Plan? Why do we Need one?

A Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) is a local government planning document that describes how liquid wastes generated within a community are collected, treated, reused, or disposed of in a way that protects public health and the environment. Liquid waste typically includes domestic sewage from homes and businesses, septage from on-site septic systems, and other non-industrial wastewater streams. The plan outlines the current waste management systems, identifies risks and gaps, and sets out strategies for sustainable management over the long term.

In many jurisdictions, including British Columbia, an approved LWMP can also provide regulatory flexibility, allowing local governments to tailor wastewater management approaches to local needs while still meeting provincial standards. Overall, an LWMP is a key tool for responsible, sustainable community development.

The LWMP for Naramata is more than pipes in the ground. The intention is to use the document to support alternative solutions to drought, water usage, and flexibility in creative solutions. Items that can be included in the LWMP include composting toilets, grey water reuse, and best practices that are being utilized in other countries.

SILGA - Annual Conference

<https://silga.ca/>

Southern Interior Local Government Association annual conference took place from April 29 - May 1st in Revelstoke. SILGA represents the local governments from Cash Creek, to Osoyoos, to Revelstoke.

I was a member on a Women in Leadership panel that discussed challenges and success that locally elected females are experiencing. It was a great conversation and opportunity to support other female elected officials.

I also represented the Okanagan Regional Library in a presentation title: More Than a Book on a Shelf. The presentation discussed how ORL branches, and local Librarians, are dealing with social issues, how staff are supported and what local governments can do work closely with their libraries.

Other topics thought the week covered climate, watersheds, outdoor recreation, economic outlooks, the forestry industry, and Indigenous relationships.

I had the opportunity to meet with Minister Osborne (Health), Minister Anderson (Rural Communities), and Parliamentary Secretary Morrison (Economic Development). I discussed the 1 hectare rule and encouraging research on global practices around Drought, including looking at composting toilets and grey water reuse.

I had a good discussion with FortisBC regarding Dark Sky's and community event planned around an upcoming power outage (more information to follow)

I was elected to the SILGA Board of Directors - Director at Large. I am excited to bring an Electoral Area Director perspective and an advocacy voice for rural areas



May & June - Upcoming Events

RDOS Board Meetings

May 7, 21
June 4, 18

ORL Board Meeting

May 20

Conferences

Planning Institute Conference- June 2-5
Keeping It Rural - June 10-12

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