

COMMENTS RECEIVED WITH THE OPSRRA GOVERNANCE SURVEY 2013

Comments regarding JdFEA meeting personal needs

Jordan River

None

Otter Point:

1. JDFEA Regional Director is excellent 5/5.
2. CRD is absolutely horrible 0/5.
3. Taxes are too high for the services provided, also by laws are not enforced and we pay for enforcement.
4. I have always been able to contact the correct person when needing information. I find some are confused about what the Electoral Area is responsible for, especially when one part of the operation is located in a building on Sooke and the other in Victoria. The new JDF Admin Building will hopefully help with this "identification" problem.
5. No specific issues, except we only have one representative on the CRD with it seems limited power. Other municipalities seem to influence what happens here that the local positions.
6. high taxes and basically no service. No street lights, no side walks, no sewer, no water. we have to pay for every service we like to get from the CRD. We have to pay for lot of services in Spoke, like the arena whenever use or are not convenient to use for people outside the Spoke area.
7. Disappointed with public turn out for our OCP review
8. not enough localized representatives

Shirley:

1. Positive comments include easy and prompt communication with Regional Director and local staff (also local MLA), also ease of contact with and communication from community-based 'first responders,' e.g fire service, also impressed with efficiency of local ambulance /paramedic service on 2 occasions when personally needed.

Other:

None

Comments regarding JdFEA meeting community needs

Jordan River

None

Otter Point:

1. JDFEA Regional Director is excellent 5/5.
2. CRD is absolutely horrible 0/5.
3. it appears the JDFEA does not have adequate control over many features of community need - due to the broad input of the scattered areas represented on the CRD board. I believe the JDFEA is a unique, rural community that either needs additional representation on the board, or a separate governance structure, that works with the the CRD, Sooke District and the province to adequately meet the needs of its community.
4. There is no economic development at all.
5. As there is only on elected representative for the whole JDFEA I don't consider that all points of view can be adequately (re)presented. Some can't or won't participate in their community's affairs

as they don't think it will make any difference as the point of view of the sole elected person will prevail no matter what! We really need different (more?) elected representation.

6. From what I see, the JDFEA rep might know the issues, but the CRD isn't really concerned too much about them.
7. fire service is excellent.
8. Shows no interest in protecting wells and water supplies
9. I gave a low rating because mapping, water protection, and roads are just not given the attention they deserve. Planning seems to forget that this is a rural area so planning happens as though this is an urban area. Planning also forgets that we lack the infrastructure to support development (water, roads, transit, etc.).

Shirley:

1. I see a mixed picture. I think the existing governance model does quite well for most immediate local and practical needs considering the limits of its power and the resource available, e.g. fire protection, small-scale land-use planning issues, community parks and trails development. It seems less empowered to influence, let alone implement, the more complex planning and visioning decisions affecting a rural area facing economic and developmental challenges, or where co-ordination and co-operation is needed within the broader region.

Other:

None

Other comments

Jordan River

None

Otter Point:

1. Best formula would be as much decision making as possible from local JDFEA Regional Director and possibly new local Council, and the least possible intervention and interference from unelected CRD officials and politicians elected in communities outside the JDFEA. Unelected CRD officials and politicians elected in Saanich, Victoria, and other jurisdictions outside the JDFEA should have no influence or power in decisions and services for our community.
2. Good survey. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.
3. The worst part of living in Otter Point is having to drive through Sooke.

Shirley:

1. 'If it ain't totally broke, don't totally fix it!' Don't rush the JDFEA into a the stress of being a municipality before its time, or into some big new incorporation or 'amalgamation' designed by bureaucrats! Start by delegating more decision-making power to the local communities, with more elected community representatives working in some sort of committee way with a more empowered RD
2. (The whole CRD model needs a revamp but that's a bigger story)
3. The best protection available to retain our present rural and wilderness areas is to maintain the current structure where the whole CRD Board understands the importance of protecting and maintaining the last area of wilderness in the region. Any option that reduces the regional oversight will lead to increased development by local landowners such as occurred on the east coast of Vancouver Island in the Parksville, Qualicum Beach and other areas. Loss of the current regional perspective will mean the loss of existing rural and wilderness areas.

Other:

None