

BOARD OF DIRECTORS HIGHLIGHTS



Q1 Board Meeting Report – June 2025

GVHA Board Highlights provides a brief summary of items from each quarterly Board meeting. The summary is not inclusive of all agenda items.

Chair Comments – Mark Mawhinney

Our relationship with our member agencies is of paramount importance. We circulate these updates from our quarterly board meetings in order to ensure you are up to speed on the board's deliberations. We have a wonderful team of committee chairs, and terrific board members, who are deeply committed to the GVHA and its success. At any time if you have questions about this report, please feel free to get in touch with me.

CEO Report Highlights

CEO Robert Lewis-Manning shared GVHA's mission-critical initiatives, which include advancing Integrated Planning, strengthening Resilient Infrastructure, deepening its commitment to Sustainability, and enhancing Port Governance. Additional priorities include progressing Co-Management efforts, supporting First Nations Economic Development, driving Business Development and Innovation, and finalizing the 5-Year Strategic Plan.

Committee Report Highlights

Audit & Finance Committee (AFC) Don Krusel, Chair

KPMG attended the meeting to present the work plan for the year-end audit, which was conducted in early June. The audited financial statements will be presented to members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in September. The committee reviewed current insurance coverage and deductibles and directed staff to explore additional options to address the earthquake and tsunami deductible. The committee also reviewed internal controls and financial statements.

First Nations Economic Development Committee (FNED) Susan Brice, Chair

FNED received updates on several ongoing initiatives. Co-management efforts are advancing with the support of consultants Tartanbond and Balance Co-Lab, and a report outlining existing models and approaches to co-management will be presented to the Board in the second quarter. GVHA has engaged Sedgwick Consulting to assist in developing a First Nations Economic Development Strategy, and this work will culminate in a report—including a net assessment and inventory—to be delivered to the Board in Q2. In addition, the potential relocation of the Hunt Pole is being considered for the fall, following the cruise season. Staff are coordinating this effort in collaboration with the Hunt Family.

Human Resources & Governance Committee (HRGC) Mark Collins, Chair

The committee held discussions on several key governance matters. They reviewed the Board's strategic planning process and the CEO 360 evaluation process. A Nominations Task Force (NTF) has been established, with the intention to conduct the nominations process earlier this year, aiming for completion by September as a trial run for future cycles. The committee also discussed how the municipal election process may impact the timeline next year. Bylaw changes were reviewed, as well as recommendations from the Board Evaluation process.

Infrastructure Planning & Development Committee (IPAD) Geoff Dickson, Chair

The committee reviewed major capital projects underway at the Breakwater District at Ogden Point. At the committee's recommendation, the board approved an increase to the capital budget by \$810k due to revised cost estimates associated with the BWD north shoreline emergency repairs to be completed by late Fall. The committee reviewed the lessons learned report from previous projects.

Sustainability Committee (SC) Gail Stephens, Chair

In May, the full Board and management team participated in sustainability training facilitated by Synergy Enterprises. This session is part of GVHA's ongoing educational efforts to support the development of a comprehensive Sustainability Plan. The committee also received Synergy's Decarbonization Opportunity Assessment, which outlines actionable recommendations for reducing greenhouse gas emissions across GVHA operations. Other key areas reviewed include the use of renewable diesel, broader decarbonization strategies, environmental protection initiatives, and maintaining Green Marine certification. Several community events related to sustainability also took place during this period. Some were organized by GVHA, while others saw GVHA's participation, including World Ocean Day, National Sweater Day, and the Power Hours Clean-Up Challenge held on Earth Day.

Integrated Planning

GVHA is in the final stages of selecting a consultant to lead the Integrated Planning project. Following the receipt of eight responses to the Statement of Qualifications in March, four proponents were invited to submit full proposals. These were received in early June, with interviews conducted in mid-June. The successful proponent is expected to be in place by July. This multi-year initiative will involve comprehensive consultation with stakeholders, including all Member Agencies.

Cruise Strategy and Update

GVHA's cruise strategy is built around four key pillars, which were reaffirmed through engagement sessions held in late 2024 and early 2025. These pillars are: **Marquee Cruise Destination**, which emphasizes showcasing Greater Victoria as a vibrant place to live and visit; **Seamless Cruise Logistics Hub**, focused on ensuring the port and local industry can effectively meet the operational needs of the cruise sector; **Model for Sustainable Cruise Tourism**, aimed at maximizing environmental, social, and economic benefits for the community; and **Competitive Port-of-Call**, ensuring cruise lines and service providers can operate reliably and successfully.

This season, approximately 320 cruise vessels are expected, bringing the region close to welcoming one million passengers. Destination Greater Victoria (DGV) conducted a visitor economy sentiment survey, which included a section focused on cruise-related perceptions. Results indicate that public sentiment toward cruise remains positive, with a strong understanding of the economic benefits it brings to the region.

GVHA has recently formally signed an MOU with Destination Greater Victoria to officially partner on several cruise-related initiatives such as enhanced destination marketing onboard cruise vessels, a potentially onboard shopping program, and enhanced communication and engagement with local tourism and retail operators.

Strategic Planning

In 2023, the GVHA Board and leadership team collaborated with Berlineaton to develop a new strategic framework, including updated Vision and Mission statements. Over the past 18 months, the leadership team has initiated a range of projects aligned with the new mission. GVHA has once again partnered with Berlineaton to refine a five-year Strategic Plan that will establish clear priorities, measurable outcomes, and strong internal alignment. The Board and leadership will remain actively engaged in this planning process throughout the summer.

Shore Power

As committed, our Board of Directors met in June to review the project. Given cost escalations, we are now engaging our federal and provincial partners to determine next steps. We will provide further updates once those conversations have concluded.

Business Development

Recruitment is under way for Director, Cruise Development. GVHA is seeking a candidate who with experience in cruise development and the visitor economy. The role will focus on building relationships and business development, as well as maintaining health relationships in the cruise and tourism ecosystems. GVHA has engaged recruitment firm PFM to assist in this search.

In addition, a Business Development Manager has been hired to drive non-cruise development and revenue generating opportunities at all facilities.

Recent and Upcoming Events

GVHA co-hosted and supported the organization of the World Ocean Day event at Fisherman's Wharf in partnership with Eagle Wing Tours. Held on June 8, the event attracted thousands of visitors and featured participation from more than 30 organizations.

Several marquee events are taking place on GVHA properties this summer, including the Swiftsure International Yacht Race, Symphony Splash, the Classic Boat Festival, Deuce Days, and more.

The Summer event line-up is underway including Artists on the Causeway and [Ship Point Market](#).

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will take place in late September. Date to be confirmed.