

Board of Directors Highlights

Q2 Board Meeting Report – October 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 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](#).

Acting CEO Report Highlights

Acting CEO Judith Ethier shared the Business Plan updated for Q2 which outlined the many initiatives that GVHA has underway this year including Integrated Planning, developing a Sustainability Strategy, enhancing Port Governance, supporting First Nations Economic Development, and driving Business Development.

CEO Transition

The Human Resources and Governance Committee (HRGC) is leading the CEO search process which is underway. If there are any questions about the process please feel free to contact [HRGC Chair](#) Mark Collins or [Board Chair](#) Mark Mawhinney.

Integrated Planning

The RFP process to select a consulting firm for the project has concluded, with the contract awarded to Worley Consulting, a global firm with relevant expertise. The contract will be finalized shortly, when the GVHA and Worley teams will officially kick off the project. Phase 1 is expected to take 10 months to complete at a cost of \$1.47 million. While the original goal was to develop one Integrated Plan for all harbour lands—including the inner, outer, and upper harbours across multiple ownerships within the Lekwungen Traditional Territory—the scope has since been revised. The project will now focus solely on planning for GVHA properties, though it will still consider adjacent land uses and their impacts, risks, and opportunities.

Strategic Planning

GVHA had been operating under a 10-year strategic plan covering the period from 2015 to 2025. In 2023, the board and management initiated a process to re-envision the organization's vision and mission, resulting in a two-year bridging strategic plan. Earlier this fiscal year, management began developing the components and framework for the next long-term strategic plan. The Draft 2025 Strategic Plan was presented for review by the Board. The Board will hold a strategic planning session in the near future to review and refine the strategic plan.

Shore Power

GVHA began exploring Shore Power in 2019, as part of its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. A recent analysis of three detailed scenarios concluded that costs have escalated to between \$92.5 million to \$159 million. Significant infrastructure upgrades would be required at the Breakwater District at Ogden Point, including a new substation and excavation through urban and residential areas to bring dedicated power to the site from approximately 7.5 km away. Despite contributions of \$9 million from the B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Transit and a commitment of \$22.5 million from Transport Canada, a funding shortfall of at least \$61 million remains. As you know, the GVHA is a self-financed non-profit and as such, unfortunately cannot proceed with a project that has such a large funding gap. Through its Integrated Planning initiative, GVHA will continue exploring clean energy and port electrification options, including new technologies such as renewable energy microgrids and battery energy storage systems.

Annual Report

GVHA held its Annual General Meeting on September 29. At this meeting, the Members approved the 2024/25 Audited financial statements. The statements along with the 2024/25 Annual Report can be found on the [GVHA website](#). GVHA also shared its [Year in Review video](#) at the AGM.

Recent and Upcoming Events

GVHA welcome the MS Noordam on October 11 on its inaugural cruise of the Great Bear Rainforest itinerary. This itinerary stopped in three Canadian ports – Nanaimo, Prince Rupert and Victoria. The cruise was sold out. During its stop in Victoria, the MS Noordam welcomed members of the Board and community onboard for a Sustainability Tour.

GVHA hosted over 25 events this spring/summer, including several marquee events such as the Swiftsure International Yacht Race, Symphony Splash, the Classic Boat Festival, Deuce Days, and more.

Committee Report Highlights

Audit & Finance Committee (AFC) Don Krusel, Chair

KPMG attended the AFC meeting to present the audited financial statements. The statements were approved by AFC and the board before being presented and approved at the AGM on September 29. Aon, GVHA's insurance broker, attended the meeting to review insurance options for GVHA properties. GVHA currently insures for cash value not replacement value and pays \$1.05M annually in insurance premiums.

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

The committee supported the Xw̓sepsəm Hands, Strong Future 2 program with \$132,000 in funding to build on last year's successful pilot supporting youth. It also agreed to support Songhees Nation's request to repurpose previously granted funds to the Songhees Nation dancers for regalia to purchase a trailer for participation in community events. The Hunt Pole from the Inner Harbour was returned to the Hunt Family on October 21.

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

Interviews for two Director positions (Destination Greater Victoria and Songhees Nation) will take place in November with those positions transitioning on December 31. Please note that the Board will be commencing Director Recruitment earlier in 2026 and will start contacting Member Agencies in FYQ1 (April – June 2026) with the goal to conclude the process by the September Board meeting.

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

The committee received updates on ongoing projects, including the Pier A corner fender, the Pier B breasting dolphin fender, and the shoreline stabilization project at the Camel Point Heliport. The Board also discussed community noise complaints related to the shoreline stabilization work. GVHA collaborated with the City of Victoria to obtain a noise bylaw exemption, allowing night work to avoid disrupting Helijet operations, and implemented measures to help reduce noise impacts. Despite these challenges, the project progressed quickly and was completed six weeks ahead of schedule.

Sustainability Committee (SC) Gail Stephens, Chair

The main focus of this quarter has been on developing a Sustainability Plan. The committee received reports on other projects that are being worked on that include the weather station, installing reef balls at Fisherman's Wharf, discussions on renewal diesel, and planning for a waste audit. The committee supported the definition of sustainability that was presented:

"Sustainability at GHVA is the integration of environmental stewardship, community interest, and economic development into everything we do—from daily operations to long-term planning and governance. A key part of this commitment is our dedication to Indigenous governance and partnership with the Songhees and X̱wsep̱əm Nations, honouring their stewardship of the lands and waters and ensuring their leadership guides our path forward. We strive to create alignment between environmental leadership, economic resilience, and responsible growth, ensuring the harbour remains viable for generations to come."