

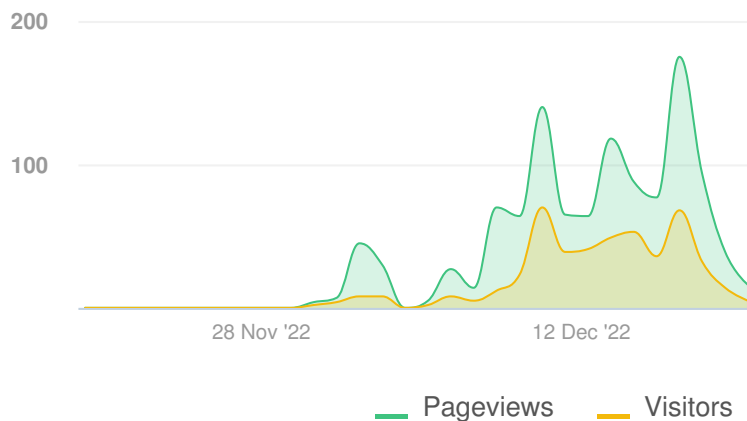
Project Report

19 November 2022 - 18 December 2022

Engage Whistler 2023 Budget



Visitors Summary

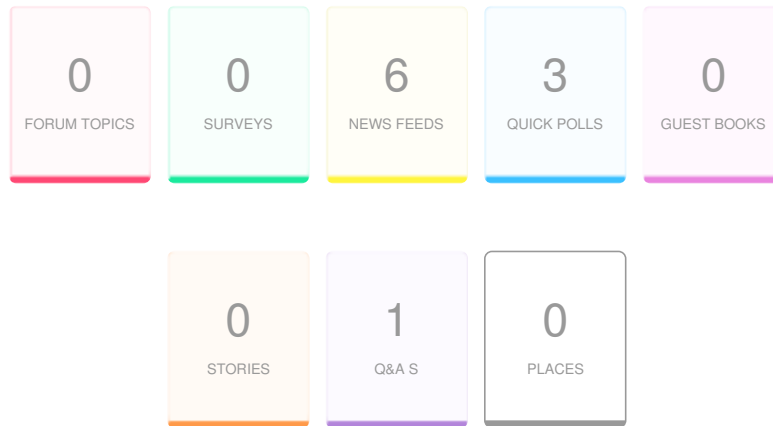


Highlights

TOTAL VISITS	MAX VISITORS PER DAY	
563	70	
NEW REGISTRATIONS		
4		
ENGAGED VISITORS	INFORMED VISITORS	AWARE VISITORS
121	191	441

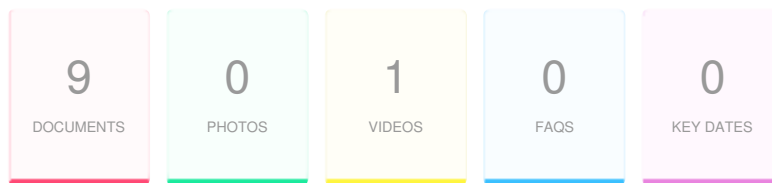
Aware Participants		Engaged Participants			
441		121			
Aware Actions Performed	Participants	Engaged Actions Performed			
		Registered	Unverified	Anonymous	
Visited a Project or Tool Page	441				
Informed Participants	191	Contributed on Forums	0	0	0
Informed Actions Performed	Participants	Participated in Surveys	0	0	0
Viewed a video	1	Contributed to Newsfeeds	0	0	0
Viewed a photo	0	Participated in Quick Polls	2	1	64
Downloaded a document	36	Posted on Guestbooks	0	0	0
Visited the Key Dates page	0	Contributed to Stories	0	0	0
Visited an FAQ list Page	0	Asked Questions	2	10	0
Visited Instagram Page	0	Placed Pins on Places	0	0	0
Visited Multiple Project Pages	57	Contributed to Ideas	3	17	31
Contributed to a tool (engaged)	121				

ENGAGEMENT TOOLS SUMMARY



Tool Type	Engagement Tool Name	Tool Status	Visitors	Contributors		
				Registered	Unverified	Anonymous
Newsfeed	2023 Proposed Project Highlights	Published	3	0	0	0
Newsfeed	Impact to your property tax and utility bill	Published	2	0	0	0
Newsfeed	At a glance: revenues and expenditures	Published	2	0	0	0
Newsfeed	Context: What guides budget decision-making	Published	2	0	0	0
Newsfeed	Watch the 2023 Budget Open House Presentation	Published	1	0	0	0
Newsfeed	Context: Factors that influence the budget	Published	1	0	0	0
Qanda	2023 Budget: Your questions and answers	Archived	31	2	10	0
Quick Poll	What do you think is the most important for the RMOW to f...	Archived	64	2	0	56
Quick Poll	What is your most preferred way to receive municipal news...	Archived	20	0	1	16
Quick Poll	Tell us about yourself. Are you a:	Archived	19	0	1	16
Ideas	Budget ideas	Archived	83	3	17	30

INFORMATION WIDGET SUMMARY



Widget Type	Engagement Tool Name	Visitors	Views/Downloads
Document	2023 Budget Information Boards	17	19
Document	Five-Year Project Budget Overview 2023-2027	15	17
Document	2023 Budget Open House Presentation	14	15
Document	2023 Department Operations Budget	11	13
Document	2023 Big Moves Climate Action Projects	9	9
Document	Corporate Plan	3	3
Document	2023 Budget media release	2	2
Document	2023 RMI and MRDT Quick Guide	1	1
Document	Previous Financial Plans and Reports	0	0
Video	Your tax dollars at work	1	1
Key Dates	Key Date	0	0

QANDA

2023 Budget: Your questions and answers

Visitors 31	Contributors 12	CONTRIBUTIONS 21
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Q

Dixon Lawson

02 December 22

Please provide access to the presentations made by the CAO and the the Director of Finance at the Finance Open House last evening 1 Dec.

A

Publicly Answered

Thanks for your question. A video of the presentation and slides have now been uploaded and found under the documents and 'Budget Highlights' section of this page. Thanks for your input!

QANDA

2023 Budget: Your questions and answers



paddy

05 December 22

I still do not agree with the increase in taxes. A rolling five year cost of living average makes sense. Taxpayers are going to get slammed next year with a recession and economic turn down. Groceries are up significantly. Ask the local food bank how many clients they are seeing now. One only has to look at the bond market and inverted yield curve to see what a mess we are headed towards. Sadly, the muni should be cutting expenses and take a proactive stance before this recession. Increasing our taxes will hurt us. Churches should not be given tax free status. While there is no official statement of separation of church and state in Canada like the USA, it can be argued that there should be. The Canadian Supreme Court ruled, unanimously, in *Mouvement laïque québécois v. Saguenay (City)* that the municipal council in the Quebec town of Saguenay could not open its meetings with a Catholic prayer because, as the opinion explains, "When all is said and done, the state's duty to protect every person's freedom of conscience and religion means that it may not use its powers in such a way as to promote the participation of certain believers or non-believers in public life to the detriment of others." <https://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/15288/index.do> Arguably, Whistler is promoting religious beliefs in this way. By affording Tax free status to churches, the RMOW is arguably promoting religious beliefs and affirming a negative stance towards LGBTQ. Giving the churches in Whistler tax free status is detriment as it is promoting religion to non-believers without consent.



Publicly Answered

Thanks for your input. All comments and input received will be summarized and included in an engagement summary shared with Council.



paddy

05 December 22

What happened to the planned expansion of the Valley trail from HWY 99 / Alta Lake Road to Miller's Creek?



Publicly Answered

Thanks for this question! The proposed Valley Trail connection along Alta Lake Road between Highway 99 and the railway track crossing of Alta Lake Road was put on hold at the beginning of the pandemic because of labour and budget uncertainties and other park and Valley Trail priorities. It remains an important connection and may be advanced at a future date.

QANDA

2023 Budget: Your questions and answers

Q

paddy

05 December 22

RE: Hotel Tax. Why is the RMOW spending more than it is receiving from the hotel tax to ops funded by the hotel tax? 8 in and 9 out.

A

Publicly Answered

Thanks for your question! In a given year, the money received from the Province of BC for Hotel Tax is often different than the money spent on tourism-focused projects. The difference is placed in a reserve account for future projects. As at December 31, 2021, the RMOW had \$3.8 million in the Municipal & Regional District Tax ("Hotel Tax") reserve fund, and will be drawing down on this reserve to fund the extra spending on such projects.

QANDA

2023 Budget: Your questions and answers

Q

Kristina

06 December 22

In the "Proposed Departmental Operating Budgets 2023" document Revenues: I see that Environmental Stewardship revenues is steadily declining o \$142,085 actual in 2020 o \$92,871 actual in 2021 (budgeted \$60,000 in same year) o \$57,938 budgeted in 2022 o \$56,250 budgeted in 2023 Why the decrease in revenue? Expenditures: It's great to see that Environmental Stewardship expenditures are slowly rising, but not as much as some of the other departments in Resort Experience. Why the discrepancy? Considering most people come to Whistler to experience our natural wonderland, which is facing more and more pressure from development, would this department qualify for MRDT and/or RMI? If not, why not? In the "2023 Draft Budget" P106 Priority Habitat Management Strategy - Great to see this line item, but where is the money in 2025, 2026 and 2027 to implement it?

A

Publicly Answered

Hello! Thanks for your question and your patience on this response!The operating budget spending in the Environmental Stewardship department is supplemented by \$158,500 in project spending in P079 Energy & Climate Program. Details on Project P079 can be found in the Five-Year Project Budget Overview document. In 2020 and 2021, the revenue in Environmental Stewardship was higher due to grant funding received from the Union of BC Municipalities ("UBCM") and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities ("FCM") for the hiring of a Climate Change Coordinator. This was a one-time grant, awarded over the two-year period of 2020 and 2021. The RMOW continues to apply for grant opportunities as they become available. The Province of BC has strict requirements on how MRDT and RMI funds can be used. MRDT is to fund tourism marketing, programs and projects. RMI is to fund tourism infrastructure. In the RMOW's 2023 budget, within the Environment Stewardship department, \$35,000 in MRDT will be used for the Goose Management Strategy to ensure our parks, beaches and related ecosystems remain healthy and safe for park visitors. Further, \$20,000 in RMI will be used for our Bear Aware Program to ensure tourists, locals and bears can continue to enjoy our community.For Project P106 Priority Habitat Management strategy, we are aiming to have the final strategy completed in 2023. The goal of this strategy is to inform prioritized and strategic decision making for all of our work related to environmental stewardship. As such, the budget will be used to finalize the strategy as well as engage and advertise on the strategy. Implementation of the strategy will likely include larger projects which will be assigned their own project budgets in future years. One example of early implementation efforts is Project P102 River of Golden Dreams Enhancement.

QANDA

2023 Budget: Your questions and answers

Q

Kristina

06 December 22

P110 RTS Trails Master Plan - What does RTS stand for? - Has a consultant already been hired to for professional services (50,000 in 2023)? If yes, who is it? - What does 'RTS Limits of Acceptable Change' mean?

A

Publicly Answered

Thanks for this question! And a great reminder that we should avoid those acronyms! "RTS" stands for Recreation Trails Strategy. A consultant team has been retained - Cascade Environmental Resource Group with Whistler Centre for Sustainability. "Limits of Acceptable Change" is a means to learn about and manage user impacts through a process of identifying, defining and selecting key environmental, social or asset indicators, monitoring the change to those indicators over time and using that information to inform future management decisions. Information on public engagement is to come. To learn more on this project, please visit www.whistler.ca/rts.

Q

Kristina

06 December 22

P115 Alpha Lake Projects - Millar Creek Lands – Professional services (\$30,000 in 2023): what does this refer to? - Millar Creek Lands – Construction (\$221,000 in 2024): What is being planned?

A

Publicly Answered

Thanks for this question! The subject site, Millar Creek Lands, is currently privately held where the municipality is working towards a public access agreement. The 2023 funds would be used for professional park design and permitting services, once public access is secured. The 2024 funds would be used for park construction of the 2023 design, once all permits are in place.

QANDA

2023 Budget: Your questions and answers

Q

Kristina

06 December 22

Spruce Grove Field House - B008 Other Buildings: I see Spruce Grove Field House is getting \$200,000 in upgrades over 5 years - M00220: Spruce Grove is getting an additional \$75,000 in misc renovations o I understand that Waldorf has exclusive use of the field house Sept – June. Is this correct? o I understand that Waldorf was only to be in the field house temporarily. Is this correct? If yes, when will the field house be a public building again? o How much revenue does the RMOW collect annually from Waldorf?

A

Publicly Answered

Thanks for this question!The planned work identified in Project B008 Spruce Grove Field House is for rejuvenation and/or replacement of building components nearing or exceeding end of design life. Examples of upcoming work include: window replacements, HVAC geothermal pump replacements, air handling unit replacements, exterior refinishing and FireSmart upgrades. Project M002 has identified additional budget spending at an average of \$15,000 per year for the next 5 years for any incidental repairs or replacements of items such as countertops, bathroom partitions, sinks, toilets, carpeting, interior walls (repair or repainting), etc.The current Council-adopted Lease Agreement for the Whistler Waldorf Society extends to June 30, 2024 and does include exclusive use of the building for 10 months of the year, September to June. The current annual lease fees for the 2022/23 year are \$115K.

Q

Kristina

06 December 22

P093 Disc Golf Feasibility Study - Just wondering what “Feasibility study and preliminary design” refers to (\$50,000 in 2023) - What improvements are being planned for the Lost Lake Disc Course? (\$115,000 in 2023)

A

Publicly Answered

Great question!The Whistler Disc Golf Feasibility Study in Project P093 intends to develop a master guidance plan for rejuvenation and possible expansion of the Lost Lake Disc Golf Course, as well as identify and provide a schematic plan for a possible future second tournament-level course in Whistler. This work is necessary in response to safety, overuse, trespass, unauthorized activities, and environmental concerns at the existing Lost Lake Disc Golf Course. Funds in 2023 will be used to complete the feasibility study, which began in September 2022, and implement rejuvenation improvements at the Lost Lake course. Public engagement is being planned for the first half of 2023. To learn more on this project, please visit the project page.

QANDA

2023 Budget: Your questions and answers

Q

CapNCheck

07 December 22

The 2022 revised 5 year plan showed \$23 million going into transfers to reserves, prior to this 8.3% tax increase. What is the current number for these transfers, assuming the 8.3% increase gets approved?

A

Publicly Answered

Schedule A of the Financial Plan includes a section called "Transfers to (from) other funds/reserves". In the current Five-Year Financial Plan 2022 – 2026, these amounts total to \$21.6M. Three of the fifteen individual funds that make up this total receive money from General Property taxes, and so have a role to play in the year-over-year general municipal tax increase. These are: General Capital Reserve, General Operating Reserve, and Vehicle Replacement Reserve. In the 2022 – 2026 Financial Plan, contributions to these three funds totaled \$8.8Mm (of the \$21.6Mm). For 2023, and using the current/draft version of the budget, this total will be \$10.2Mm, or an increase of \$1.3Mm. In both 2020 and 2021, significant cuts were made to these contributions as a means of providing lower tax increases to the community. In 2022, the RMOW started to move back toward (but did not yet achieve) a level of contributions that is more closely aligned with the annual value by which the nearly \$1Bn in RMOW built assets deteriorates each year. Matching reserve contributions to annual asset deterioration costs is the means by which the RMOW ensures that residents in the community at a point in time are paying for their share of the cost of maintaining and renewing infrastructure in the community, and that this is not a job left entirely to future generations. Making the decision to constrain contributions in 2020/21/22 in favour of lower taxes meant that a total of \$5.5Mm that ought to have been moving into reserves in those years, did not. And so in addition to working back toward a place where an appropriate amounts in each year are collected from ratepayers to offset capital deterioration, that \$5.5Mm in missing contributions also, over time, needs to be made up. The current/draft version of the budget takes another important step toward aligning contributions with in-year asset deterioration, but does not yet begin to work down the deficiency created by the tax relief provided in recent years.

QANDA

2023 Budget: Your questions and answers

Q

Robin Loxley

10 December 22

How in times of recession can you justify increasing costs for hard working home owners living and working in Whistler, freeze or reduce taxes on houses owned and lived in by locals, and tax the 2nd, 3rd and nth houses ... houses are not a investment, and people should be incentivised to sell because the cost of having multiple houses should be punitive!

A

Publicly Answered

When setting and levying municipal tax rates, the Community Charter (the statutory framework all municipalities in BC must follow), only allows municipalities to apply different tax rates to different classes of properties, not to different properties within a single class. In other words, the RMOW is only able to tax residential properties at a different tax rate than business or recreation and non-profit properties, not to differentiate between properties within each of those classes. As such, the RMOW does not have the legislated ability to tax second home owners (or vacant homes) at a different tax rate than homes occupied by Whistler locals. The Province of BC offers some tax relief to taxpayers living in their home as the principal place of residence via the home owner grant program. There also exists in BC a tax deferral program, for eligible homeowners. The Province and Federal Governments are also reviewing taxing options under the Speculation & Vacancy Taxes and Underused Housing Tax programs, respectively.

Q

Kristina

12 December 22

I see that the Whistler is now a part of the BC Bird Trail. I feel that marketing Whistler as a birding destination comes with responsibilities. Specifically, it would be great to hear how much is budgeted to address:

- Patrolling birding areas to ensure dogs are kept on leash
- humans stay out of protected areas and
- illegal fires are eliminated/reduced
- Ensuring vegetation (bird habitat) in sensitive areas are not illegally removed
- Communicating to the community and visitors in general the importance of protecting and conserving natural areas
- Ensuring popular birding areas are accessible to all
- Minimizing crowds at sensitive birding areas

A

Publicly Answered

The RMOW is not an official partner in the BC Bird Trail initiative and has not budgeted for any aspect of the BCBT in 2023; We are currently finalizing our Priority Habitat Management strategy and will examine how the BCBT initiative may overlap with our Whistler wide strategic priority habitat approach and the possibility of budgeting for related actions in 2024.

QANDA

2023 Budget: Your questions and answers

Q**Abby Jensen**

12 December 22

I understand Mayor and Council voted to increase their own salaries this past summer (as reported by the Pique), and that this will add \$68,500 (\$23,600 for Mayor and 6 x \$7,500 for Council) to next year's budget. I can see from the budget documents you've shared that total expenses for the department of Mayor & Council are going up \$177,200 for 2023. So where is the extra \$108,700 going? What else have they added to their planned spending in addition to increases in wages? Why is the non-wages portion of their spending more than doubling? And more importantly, are the staff who work for the Whistler getting commensurate increases since they are being asked to do more with less? If not, why? It should not be that only execs, who have other full-time jobs with salaries and work part-time in these roles, get more money and rank and file get little to nothing.

A**Publicly Answered**

The increase to Mayor and Council's salaries in June 2022 followed RMOW Council Policy A-30, Council Remuneration. Review of Council remuneration occurs every four (4) years, during the last year of the term of each Council, and thus was last adjusted in 2018. Council remuneration is determined as the average of six (6) municipalities chosen on the comparables of daily population, annual budget, and employee count. The Policy also includes a CPI increase effective January 1st of each year. As reported by the Pique in June 2022, the Mayor's salary increased by \$23,600 to \$128,903 and Council's salary increase by \$7,500 to \$48,798. These figures were calculated based on the Council salaries of comparable municipalities. For the 2023 budget, the salaries noted above have been increased by a CPI of 7.4%. The combination of new salaries and a CPI increase, increase the payroll costs in the Mayor & Council department by \$111,000. There is also a related increase of \$21,400 in employee labour costs, such as health and other benefits. The non-wages portion of this department are increasing by \$44,800, broken down as: travel & meals \$25,000, contract services \$10,000, employee recognition \$4,700, and smaller increases across a number of other accounts. Compensation reviews for RMOW employees is done on an on-going basis, and will continue to be a focus in 2023 as we look to comparable municipalities for a competitive CPI, cost-of-living adjustment for employees current salaries.

QANDA

2023 Budget: Your questions and answers

Q

John Wood

12 December 22

My priority is not listed. I shared my priority for spending in the 'Ideas' section, Where is the ideas section?

A

Publicly Answered

Hello! The Ideas section is found under 'Tools'. Click on the 'Share an idea' tab, then click on 'Add your idea' box. Hope this helps!

Q

Dixon Lawson

14 December 22

As of Dec 31 2022, what is the expected dollar amounts remaining in each of the Reserve Accounts and Work Charges accounts?

A

Publicly Answered

There are a number of factors that will affect reserve balances at year-end 2022 that are not yet in view. These include the volume and value of project work completed in the last month of the year and the return on invested funds, among others. That said, a reasonable estimate for year-end outcomes might suggest a balance near \$15.8 million for the General capital fund, \$6.7 million for the General operating fund, \$13.5 million for the combined Water reserve funds, \$18.0 million for the combined Sewer reserve funds, and \$3.6 million for the combined Solid Waste funds.

QANDA

2023 Budget: Your questions and answers

Q

John Wood

15 December 22

Housing for those who can not afford is obviously a big concern in Whistler. RMOW through WHA is doing more than our share to address this. Unmanaged growth continues to create demand faster than supply is created. This can not go on forever. Growth management must be a higher priority for council and the missing partner in staff housing is the employers. Adding appropriate expense of housing to business creation and expansion may help slow growth expectations and housing availability at the same time. Senior levels of government who actually hold jurisdiction for housing are also not participating at sufficient levels. Just building more and more housing is futile if unmanaged growth continues. The natural environment and wildlife habitat that are supposedly the valued attraction here are threatened and not given the protection needed. Unmanaged growth is and will continue to degrade what is left of natural spaces. I am pleased to see budgeting for climate action and environmental projects. Please maintain this priority in the budget.

A

Publicly Answered

Thank you for sharing your feedback on the proposed 2023 Budget.

Q

B-rad Ideas

15 December 22

what about regional transit from Squamish and Pemberton ?

A

Privately Answered

The RMOW continues to advocate the Province for alternate sustainable funding for regional transit.

QANDA

2023 Budget: Your questions and answers

Q**Dixon Lawson**

16 December 22

The presentation slide package has a slide that states " Keeping staffing level levels constant while demands increase is not sustainable condition". This statement is indicative of an increase in RMOW staff for 2023. Nothing wrong with that, however, please provide the current RMOW FTE number, the projected FTE number in 2023 and the Departments that will see an increase in staff in 2023. Thank you.

A**Publicly Answered**

The slide you refer to wasn't specific to 2023 but was instead part of the CAO's discussion of multi-year realities faced by the organization and how that ties into community feedback. Every year, the RMOW receives comments related to the budget along the lines of "consider reducing staffing levels to save money", and also lots of comments both at budget time and throughout the year that fall into the category "I'd like to see faster service, better service, or new service in this area". Council prioritizes among the many asks for new/improved service, and this becomes the RMOW's operating mandate. Sometimes, the organization can stretch to meet expanded or new service delivery asks with existing staff, and sometimes staff are operating at their limit and a new role or new hours must be added. In recent years, there has been more "stretch" than is typical and one could expect a return in the coming years of staffing additions more closely matched with planned service additions. To answer the second part of your question: the 2023 budget includes 692,177 in General Fund (meaning, outside of Utilities) hours. This is an increase of 397 hours from 2022 budgeted amounts. Nine departments (including Meadow Park Sports Centre, Recreation, Transportation, Village Events & Animation and others) are planning fewer hours than last year and eight are planning more (including Resort Operations, Facilities Construction and Maintenance, Planning and Environmental Services and others). The final factor that informs the annual budgeted dollars for staffing, is the consideration for things like turnover and recruiting processes that may mean that planned full-time roles or casual hours may ultimately go unfilled for some period during the year. The expectation in 2022 was that 98% of budgeted hours would in fact be filled during the year and for 2023 this number is 96.5%.

QANDA

2023 Budget: Your questions and answers

Q

Dixon Lawson

16 December 22

Reference: "Proposed Operating Budgets for 2023". Under Expenses, budget line "Cultural Planning and Development" - why is there an 8.8 x increase in budget from the previous year, what/how is it to be spent, and is this a one-time issue for 2023 or a new requirement that will form part of future budgets?

A

Publicly Answered

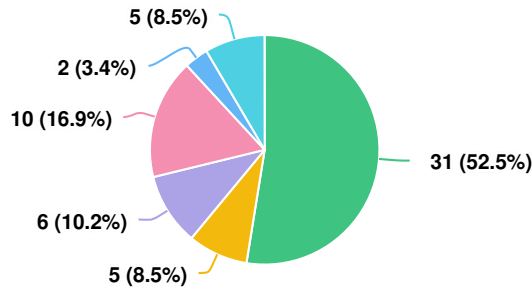
The increase in the Cultural Planning and Development is simply a reclassification of the budget line total of \$1.2 million related to Fee-for-Service expenditures from the General Fund Corporate Accounts Department to the Cultural Planning and Development Department. The Fee for Service agreements provides funding to organizations that provide services that Whistler Council considers necessary or desirable for Whistler. This allows the RMOW to leverage the skills and expertise of local non-profit groups to deliver services at a reduced cost compared to the municipality delivering those services directly.

ENGAGEMENT TOOL: QUICK POLL

What do you think is the most important for the RMOW to focus budget spending on?

Visitors 64	Contributors 58	CONTRIBUTIONS 59
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What do you think is the most important for the RMOW to focus budget spending on?



Question options

- Housing
- Climate Action
- Financial stability (reserve contributions)
- Resiliency (Maintaining roads, water and sewer infrastructure and buildings)
- Increasing service levels (increased transit, more recreation opportunities etc.)
- My priority is not listed. I will share my priority for spending on the 'Ideas' board

Mandatory Question (59 response(s))

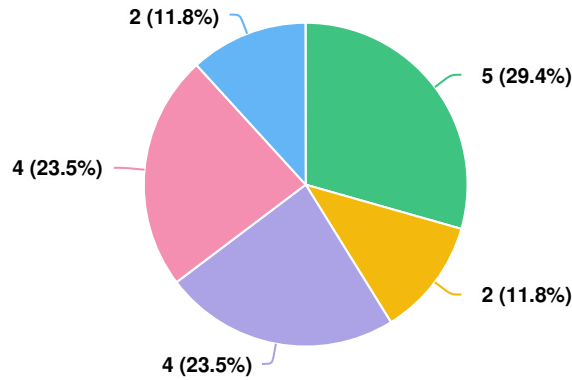
Question type: Radio Button Question

ENGAGEMENT TOOL: QUICK POLL

What is your most preferred way to receive municipal news and information?

Visitors 20	Contributors 17	CONTRIBUTIONS 17
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What is your most preferred way to receive municipal news and information?



Question options

- Local newspaper (print)
- Local newspaper (digital)
- Municipal website (whistler.ca)
- Whistler Today (electronic newsletter)
- Municipal Facebook Page

Mandatory Question (17 response(s))

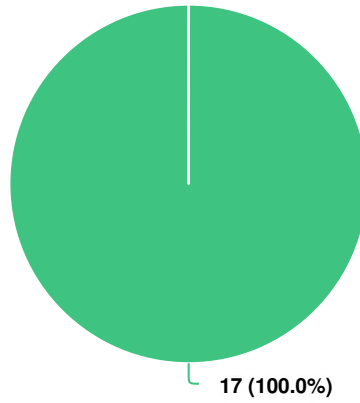
Question type: Radio Button Question

ENGAGEMENT TOOL: QUICK POLL

Tell us about yourself. Are you a:

Visitors 19	Contributors 17	CONTRIBUTIONS 17
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Tell us about yourself. Are you a:



Question options

- Permanent resident

Mandatory Question (17 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

IDEAS

Budget ideas

Visitors 83	Contributors 50	CONTRIBUTIONS 117
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07 December 22	<p>CapNCheck</p> <p>VOTES 4</p>	<p>I'd like to see reserves rebuilt, with a brake put on new project spending. 8.3% is simply too high... inflation MINUS one percent is the abs</p> <p>Less spending, more reserves!</p>

07 December 22	<p>NickWH</p> <p>VOTES 2</p>	<p>Whistler council should be exploring alternative sources of funding for the costs of climate impacts, adaptation and mitigation.</p> <p>Sue Big Oil is a collaboration of ordinary British Columbians concerned about harmful climate change impacts in BC communities, and the skyrocketing costs for BC's local governments and taxpayers. Given the role of the fossil fuel industry in knowingly causing climate change and blocking policies and actions to address climate change, we urge our local governments to take legal action to force the world's largest fossil fuel companies to pay their fair share of climate costs.</p>

10 December 22	<p>AngieW</p> <p>VOTES 3</p>	<p>"Artists in Residence" to create housing for local artists</p> <p>Whistler Arts Council usually receives ~400k/year in RMOW FFS funding- this in addition to a ~\$3.7 million/year Village Festivities and Animations Budget. That FFS is used primarily for operational costs of [mostly empty] buildings belonging to the Arts Whistler, perhaps instead they could implement an artists in residence program to help pay for those buildings and provide local artists like Kostaman with housing? This might be eligible for provincial/federal grants as well. Imagine if Arts Whistler's buildings were better utilized, if they lived and breathed art. Imagine if these buildings were spaces where local musicians and artists could live, convene, record music, and create art. Instead of depending so heavily on taxpayers and the RMOW for funding, perhaps Arts Whistler could model and consult successful and profitable cooperatives of artists (like Bass Coast and others) to learn how to better monetize the arts to generate revenue? When you see what art is capable of in 2022, it seems Arts Whistler is dated and a big expense for the RMOW- it could use a refresh!</p>

IDEAS

Budget ideas

10 December 22 timelord12		Austerity not increased taxes
	VOTES 4	cut costs don't raise taxes!
10 December 22 Robin Loxley		reduce taxes for people who live in their own house year round, increase taxes greatly for the 1st 2nd home, double it for 2nd 2nd etc
	VOTES 16	Take from the rich not the poor!
11 December 22 Whistler is amazing		Fairer property taxes based on usage of Municipal Services across the board.
	VOTES 19	This is an unusual (for Canada) mix of properties in that WHA provides a discount on land value for purchases for local staff. The WHA idea is a brilliant idea that should be applauded!! Currently, all services that the RMOW provides are based on property value - not usage of RMOW services. It is known that WHA pay significantly lower property taxes to fund the Muni, as the land value is lower. And as WHA expands more and more (which is great!!), their use of RMOW resources will climb even more, but their financial contribution will further reduce (as a percentage) for the services we all need. You have a picture in your website showing what an 8.5% increase will do for WHA and non-WHA properties - and it is significant. Being an unusual mix of WHA to 'On-market' properties - a first for BC and Canada - is there any planning changes to the property tax system for the RMOW to align this to a more sustainable financial model for the near and distant future? I question the existing property tax model, being based on land value - obsolete for this specific use-case?
12 December 22 John Wood		As was discussed in the adoption of our new OCP I still feel unmanaged growth is going to ruin the Whistler we and nature know and love.
	VOTES 5	
13 December 22 Rali Niko		Creating a budget for working on allocation of the Asphalt Plant and making Cheakamus a healthy community for families and for kids.
	VOTES 0	Asphalt plant
13 December 22 robinj		A cheakamus community recreation facility
	VOTES 2	Why should we drive all the way north- when we could have a space here with a park, water park, pool, Rec facility. With the growing numbers in Cheakamus we would have more than enough interest in this kind of project.

IDEAS

Budget ideas

15 December 22	B-rad Ideas	<p>If you own and live in your house and provide a suite to full time locals, get a tax break. 2 suites? 2 breaks etc.</p> <p>Tax breaks for those who provide housing</p>
	VOTES 4	
15 December 22	B-rad Ideas	<p>Tax Assessment - unbind it from BC Assessment office? My home value now is determined ONLY by what someone overpays nearby. No other factors</p> <p>Unfair assessment practices need to end</p>
	VOTES 1	
15 December 22	B-rad Ideas	<p>Regional transit should be planned from Pemberton to start. Too too many single occupancy cars from Pembie every day.</p> <p>Better transit from Pembie a must</p>
	VOTES 1	
15 December 22	Whistler	<p>Increased vacancy taxes, and future zoning to avoid empty homes outside of nightly rental zoning.</p>
	VOTES 5	
15 December 22	Harder times harder measures	<p>Reduce Expenses</p> <p>As every Canadian when income is not sufficient to pay for expenses, then expenses have to be reduced, everyone has to do their part and the Municipal bodies as well. we do not need to increase budget on all sectors, when the economy is harder, we have to make sacrifice and thus reduce expenses. Corporations are reducing their cost, laying off people, household have to reduce and sacrifice due to all these costs including increasing taxes, so the Municipality should also cut and make sacrifice. Or increase revenue from where it makes more sense, nonresident, tax pollution, tax parking, tax emission, tax waist...</p>
	VOTES 4	
15 December 22	Phil	<p>Spending</p> <p>With living expenses rising in all areas, now is not the time for the municipality to be carrying out any projects that are not absolutely necessary . Better to reduce property taxes or maintain current levels</p>
	VOTES 3	

IDEAS

Budget ideas

<p>15 December 22</p> <p>Over taxed!</p>	<p>An 8.7% tax increase is out of touch with what local s can afford. Increased taxes directly affect rents wh ich are already to high locals</p> <p>The RMOW administration and council need to control spending. Most major city's over the past two years have substantially less tax increases which suggests we are being mismanagement. The tax payers are not the personal bank of the Muni Hall. No one lik es to loss employment - Reduce labour through not rehiring. The RMOW did not cut ba ck during Covid shutdowns like the rest of private enterprise. If this budget was presen ted by this council prior to the election they would not get in.</p>
<p>VOTES</p> <p>3</p>	
<p>16 December 22</p> <p>Leslie Anthony</p>	<p>Please contribute \$1/citizen for the Ecojustice "Sue Big Oil" campaign, a class-action lawsuit involving V ancouver and other municipalities.</p>
<p>VOTES</p> <p>1</p>	
<p>16 December 22</p> <p>Randi Kruse</p>	<p>Randi Kruse</p> <p>There needs to be much more transparency about which budget expenses will reduce GHG, and by how much. When new library furniture is identified as a "Big Move" invest ment, it makes me wonder about the legitimacy of the entire RMOW climate action co mmitment. Please breakdown the climate component of the budget so the adaptation a nd mitigation allocations are clear, and provide a science-based estimate about the im pact that the mitigation projects will have against our community's baseline emissions. It's all far too vague to make the claim that progress against climate change targets will be advanced by this budget.</p>
<p>VOTES</p> <p>2</p>	
<p>16 December 22</p> <p>Rhonda Millikin</p>	<p>Rhonda Millikin</p> <p>User fees</p>
<p>VOTES</p> <p>0</p>	

IDEAS

Budget ideas

<p>16 December 22</p> <p>Rhonda Millikin</p>	<p>More effective use of the current budget</p> <p>Increased taxes are not required if the current budget is more effectively used. Council can direct RMOW staff to work across departments to solve issues. For example, the \$ 10M allocated to RMOW for fire management should NOT be spent to cut trees (fuel thinning or fire breaks) because this exacerbates the effects of climate change (heat, flooding) resulting in more GHG emissions for air conditioners and more tax payers' dollars spent on flood control, directly through increased insurance and indirectly through RMOW spending. Rather, the \$\$ should be focused on direct mitigation of fire ONLY along the border of infrastructure by installing perennial herbaceous plants to retain humidity yearround and sprinklers (only to be used when there is a fire) sourced from rainholding tanks, augmented with more firetrucks and support for fire fighters. With Hwy 99 as the escape route, we need to focus on solutions that are onsite, cost-effective, and proven to work elsewhere. The wildfire mitigation program should be combined with FireSmart so these federal funds, and provincial fire-related funds are used before local taxpayers funds. The taxpayers funds should instead be focused on educating and actioning the need for firesafe building materials, working with local landscapers and monitoring efficacy of fire mitigation steps including those I have suggested above. I will present other examples in a letter to council.</p>
<p>VOTES</p> <p>3</p>	
<p>16 December 22</p> <p>Rhonda Millikin</p>	<p>Climate change actions need to be more specific</p> <p>Currently, many of the line items in the budget that are labelled as climate actions seem to be operational expenses. For true action on climate change, actions must be targeted and monitored for efficacy.</p>
<p>VOTES</p> <p>1</p>	
<p>16 December 22</p> <p>Rhonda Millikin</p>	<p>Cost recovery for maintenance of our natural assets</p> <p>Ensure visitors to our community help sustain our natural assets by collecting a user fee (waived for locals) that can augment the RMOW budget beyond parks to trails and riparian areas, and for monitoring of sustainability by RMOW staff. The allocation of these fees should be presented in the Pique so it is clear they are used for the designated purpose (sustainable tourism). This could be a fee collected by local businesses.</p>
<p>VOTES</p> <p>1</p>	
<p>16 December 22</p> <p>Steve 05</p>	<p>Of utmost importance is for staff and council to understand they can not control the climate. But can make life difficult and costly .</p>
<p>VOTES</p> <p>0</p>	
<p>16 December 22</p> <p>Steve 05</p>	<p>With recession looming. An 8.4% tax increase will only compound inflation at the worst possible time. Many avenues to cost cutting exist.</p>
<p>VOTES</p> <p>2</p>	

IDEAS

Budget ideas

<p>17 December 22</p> <p>Crosland</p>	<h3>Charge for Water Use and therefore Sewer Use</h3> <p>For decades all our building have had water meters that go unused or documented. Water is a critical resource and should not be a flat fee. Water use equates to sewer use. Don't raise flat fee rates by 5%. Charge for actual use. For properties without meters charge the average plays 20% to incentivize them to install a meter. A house with a swimming pool is charged the same water rate as a cabin- just wrong on so many levels.</p>
<p>VOTES</p> <p>0</p>	
<p>17 December 22</p> <p>Crosland</p>	<h3>Reduce some Excessive Services</h3> <p>Many of our services are exceptional and even excessive: Snow clearing of streets could be reduced to significant snow falls. Few towns our size clear streets as often. Our plows do rounds when there is little or now new snow. This would also reduce fuel consumption and GHGs. Annual tree lighting should be reduce for expenses and energy consumption. Look at all services and determine 'wants' a versus 'needs'.</p>
<p>VOTES</p> <p>2</p>	
<p>17 December 22</p> <p>Crosland</p>	<h3>Temporarily Reduce Payroll</h3> <p>Reduce payroll during this inflationary phase. Look for efficiencies in staffing. Leave no n-essential positions unfilled. Reduce management.</p>
<p>VOTES</p> <p>0</p>	
<p>17 December 22</p> <p>DJ</p>	<h3>Patrick Smyth's letter to the editor in the Pique was right on point, now is not the time for a massive tax increase. Cut spending!</h3>
<p>VOTES</p> <p>1</p>	