

These highlights provide a general summary of key discussion items and decisions from the Board of Directors' meetings held **January 23/24, 2026** in Fairmont, BC. Confidential matters, such as business negotiations, personnel matters and legal issues, are not included.

- **Chair, Vice-Chair and Welcome of New Directors**

The Board elected Owen Torgerson as Chair and Susan Clovechok as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors.

The Board welcomed Amed Naqvi (Nelson), Katrine Conroy (Pass Creek) and Melanie Jeannotte (Ferne) as new Directors, effective January 1, 2026. Formal appointment of a fourth new Director is expected shortly.

The Board also approved the 2026 membership appointments to its committees.

Learn more: ourtrust.org/board.

- **\$12 Million Approved for Delivery of Benefits Activities**

The Board approved \$12 million to expand existing programs and introduce new initiatives for 2025/26 (to a maximum of \$75 million for the year) that align with the [2024–2034 Columbia Basin Management Plan](#). Details on specific initiatives will be shared in the coming months.

- Columbia Basin Management Plan focus areas: ourtrust.org/ourfocus
- Current programs: ourtrust.org/grants

- **Budget for 2026/27**

The Board approved the 2026/27 budget, which includes \$122 million for Delivery of Benefits activities. The Trust's work is guided by the [2024–2034 Columbia Basin Management Plan](#), which sets out objectives and focus areas developed in consultation with Columbia Basin residents.

- **Service Plan**

The Board approved the Columbia Basin Trust Service Plan 2026/27–2028/29, which outlines goals, budget details, performance measures and financial forecasts. The Service Plan will be presented to the Legislature as part of the Province's annual budget.

- Service Plan: ourtrust.org/serviceplan (available February 17, 2026)

- **Board Meeting Schedule**

2026 meeting dates:

- March 27/28 Trail
- May 22/23 Revelstoke
- July 24/25 Crawford Bay
- September Rossland (AGM)
- November 27/28 Fernie

Board meeting minutes are posted once approved at the subsequent meeting. View minutes at ourtrust.org/publications.