



Making a difference...together

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission, held Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at 1 p.m., In the Goldstream Conference Room, 479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC**

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**PRESENT: Commissioners:** D. Pepino (Chair); L. Cutler (Vice Chair); M. Hicks (Electoral Area Director); M. Lechowicz

**Staff:** T. Robbins, General Manager; S. Irg, Senior Manager, Water Infrastructure Operations; G. Harris, Senior Manager, Environmental Protection; M. Risvold, Committee and Administrative Clerk (recorder)

EP = Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm.

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOVED** by M. Lechowicz, **SECONDED** by L. Cutler,  
That the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED**

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Item 5 was amended to include "The Chair's remarks focused on the need to listen carefully to seasoned individuals to avoid making bad decisions."

Item 10.1 was amended to include "Correspondence received from D. Pepino on file and available upon request."

**MOVED** by M. Lechowicz, **SECONDED** by L. Cutler,  
That the minutes of the February 22, 2022 meeting be adopted as amended.

**CARRIED**

**3. CHAIR'S REMARKS**

The Chair made the following remarks:

- He noted the arrival of summer
- He wishes to use the Capital Regional District's (CRD) cultural traits as reference material throughout meetings.

**4. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS**

There were none

**5. SENIOR MANAGER'S REPORT**

- **Bylaw No. 4452 – A Bylaw to Amend Appointments for the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission (Bylaw 3511)**

S. Irg provided an overview of Bylaw 4452. He advised that on May 11, 2022 the CRD approved bylaws to remove the requirement to hold Annual General Meetings (AGMs).

- **Verbal discussion to introduce draft Local Service Area Water Conservation Bylaw**

S. Irg introduced the draft Local Service Area Water Conservation Bylaw, advising it will likely be enacted by Spring 2023. He added that current water conservation measures are voluntary. The new bylaw will bring standardization throughout the local services and the ability to enforce conservation.

Staff responded to a question from the commission regarding water conservation being specific to particular systems. Staff advised that a more formal approach has been taken through the bylaw to implement water conservation measures across the three electoral areas, including Salt Spring Island. The bylaw will apply to all three electoral areas, however decisions would be made specific to each service with respect to the need to escalate to a higher level of conservation. Stage one would typically be in effect as of May 1 each year. The draft bylaw will be circulated for consideration and comments.

The commission requested reviewing water and weather data and volunteered to analyze the weather patterns to build a statistical model. Staff advised there are several factors considered when moving to a higher level of conservation which is set out in the bylaw. If there was a need to move to a higher level of conservation, a discussion would take place with the commission. Real weather data provided from the commission that would help support decisions may be considered. Discussion ensued.

## **6. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

### **6.1. Project and Operations Update**

Staff provided updates on capital projects and operations.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Historical turbidity data
- Ultraviolet (UV) call outs
- A leak in 2021 on a two inch service line

Staff advised valves are typically replaced with stainless steel and continue to monitor for leaks.

### **6.2. 2021 Annual Report**

S. Irg introduced the 2021 Annual Report.

Staff responded to questions from the commission regarding E.coli. Staff advised any E.coli detection is reported right away, and testing would be completed the following day to confirm. Staff advised it is rare to have E.coli appear in raw water.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Ability to have historical water quality reports available on the CRD website
- Level of manganese in November due to significant rainfall
- Reservoir sediments disturbed due to amount of rainfall

### 6.3. Wilderness Mountain Source Water Protection Plan 2022

S. Irg introduced the Wilderness Mountain Source Water Protection Plan 2022.

**MOVED** by M. Lechowicz, **SECONDED** by L. Cutler,  
That staff be directed to provide further information.

**CARRIED**

M. Hicks left the meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Criteria for filtration exemption
- Risk of fecal contamination
- Sloping ground towards reservoir
- Comprehensive drinking water guidelines
- Delineating watershed

Staff responded to comments from the commission advising the study was intended to help influence Island Health's decision to consider a filtration exemption. Staff will await design information from Associated Engineering, which is anticipated to be received in the fall. Consultants have professional obligations which can be challenging, staff and the commission can discuss recommendations and concerns to prioritize recommendations. Once the report is received from the consultant, a decision can be made regarding how to proceed.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

The commission requested further information regarding the analysis for piped water in the East Sooke area, including Wilderness Mountain. Staff advised McElhanney was hired to begin a study, and a contract has been drafted. Further information will be provided to the commission. Feedback has been received from property owners, prospective developers and Scia'new First Nation. Staff noted piped water could change land use and density in the area. A high-level master plan is being developed to look at long term servicing potential including regional growth strategy implications.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Liability insurance specifically on lower dam
- Water license
- Ownership of pump house on lower dam
- Property for sale on Cains way that advertises recreational use of reservoir

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED** by L. Cutler, **SECONDED** by M. Lechowicz,  
That the June 28, 2022 meeting be adjourned at 2:12 pm.

**CARRIED**

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**CHAIR**

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**SECRETARY**