



Making a difference...together

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission, held Friday, November 1, 2024 at 9:30 am, In the Goldstream Conference Room, Victoria, BC

PRESENT: Commissioners: D. Pepino (Chair); L. Cutler (Vice Chair); A. Wickheim (EA Director); P. Twamley
Staff: S. Irg, Senior Manager, Infrastructure Water Operations; J. Kelly, Manager, Capital Projects; C. Moch, Manager, Water Quality; K. Vincent, Senior Financial Advisor; L. Xu; Manager, Financial Services and Corporate Grants; M. Risvold (Recorder)

REGRETS:

EP = Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am.

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair provided the Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Appointment of commission members was added as Item 5.

MOVED by A. Wickheim, **SECONDED** by L. Cutler,
That the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by L. Cutler, **SECONDED** by A. Wickheim,
That the minutes of the June 24, 2024 Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

4. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair's detailed remarks are attached to the minutes for the record.

He expressed concerns with the following:

- **Meeting Regulatory Objectives:** Island Health's Surface Water Treatment Objectives require system replacement to avoid fines, with costs passed to the community.
- **Community Frustration:** Since 2008, increased water costs were supposed to meet regulations, but numerous studies and rising expenses have not resolved the issue.
- **Commissioner's Challenge:** From 2020, efforts have aimed at finding a better solution, causing exhaustion and frustration due to ongoing disagreements.
- **Debt and Financial Concerns:** The community faces a potential doubling of current debt, extending it for 25 years, to possibly qualify for a grant for an unspecified regulatory-compliant solution.
- **Alternative Solution:** Point of Entry/Point of Use system, suitable for small services, initially considered but dismissed, could now be a viable solution to benefit similar small communities.

5. APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

The chair advised there are two commission membership opportunities beginning next year. One nomination has been received which leaves one vacancy remaining. The community is encouraged to submit nominations for new membership. The Electoral Area Director and S. Irg thanked L. Cutler for his contributions.

Advertisements for the vacancy have been posted on the Capital Regional District (CRD) website and shared via social media.

6. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

There were none.

7. SENIOR MANAGER'S REPORT

S. Irg advised there is currently a boil water advisory for the Wilderness Mountain Water Service as of Friday, October 25, 2024.

S. Irg provided the following updates:

- Review of potential short pump cycles. Staff reviewed the data and advised that the issue appears to be with the SCADA connection, which is used for monitoring, between the Wilderness Mountain treatment plant and the Goldstream treatment plant. The connection is weak and intermittent, causing communication problems. As a result, the pump appears to be starting and stopping, but the problem lies with the connection, not the pump itself.
- Update on the water license application. S. Irg advised it has been a long process over to separate the licenses for William Brook and Wilfred Brook Reservoirs. The updated water license was just received and there will now be two licenses, one for Wilfred Brook and one for William Brook. Staff will provide a report with background and recommendations for the commission to consider at the February 2025 meeting.
- The difference between a floating intake and extending the intake. S. Irg advised that the intake cannot be extended without converting it to a floating intake. Extending the intake without converting it to floating is not feasible engineering-wise due to the risk of structural failure. Previous studies and recommendations on this matter had been submitted to the commission.
- Island Health regulations regarding the location of septic systems: C. Moch advised that files were requested and received from Island Health, and it was determined that the location of the septic system meets the regulation requirements.

8. COMMISSION BUSINESS

8.1. 2025 Operating and Capital Budget

S. Irg introduced the report and provided an overview of the 2025 operating and capital budget.

Discussion ensued on the process of cleaning the storage tanks. S. Irg explained that the concrete tanks are drained and then cleaned internally with chlorine. He highlighted that entering confined spaces for cleaning is among the most hazardous tasks for employees. The runoff from the drained tanks is discharged into the ditch, as it is treated with chlorine and considered safe.

S. Irg and L. Xu emphasized the importance of including upcoming projects on capital plans, as this enables the ability to apply for grants when they become available. Should a grant opportunity arise, staff would notify the commission and apply for the opportunity.

There was a discussion on the cost for a floating intake study. S. Irg advised that \$40,000 is allocated for reviewing and assessing the floating intake project and staff have included a placeholder for this study in the capital plan. The study will assess the necessity and feasibility of implementing the floating intake. S. Irg advised that the Electoral Area Director agreed to increase the Community Works Funds (CWF) allocation to \$50,000 for additional works, which would require a capital plan amendment. L. Xu advised that a motion is required to advance the project since it is not currently included in the capital plan. She also reminded the commission that CWF cannot be used for CRD staff time.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Covenants on Mt. Matheson Estates that preclude the ability of residents having secondary suites.
- Potential for future piped water up Mt. Matheson.
- Potential of grant applications being denied.

MOVED by L. Cutler, **SECONDED** by A. Wickheim,
That project 24-01 “Wooden Intake Platform Replacement” be carried forward to 2025 with an additional project budget of \$50,000 from Community Works Funds resulting in a total revised project budget of \$100,000.

CARRIED

There was a discussion about the lifecycle of a floating intake. S. Irg advised that a floating intake typically has a lifespan of around 25 years, although this can vary based on maintenance and other factors.

Discussion ensued regarding what happens if a budget is not approved by a commission. L. Xu advised that budget deliberation allows for amendments. If the commission wishes to make changes to the budget presented, amendments can be made today. Once the budget is approved as presented or amended by the commission, the budget is recommended to the Electoral Areas Committee, and then to the CRD Board for final approval.

MOVED by A. Wickheim, **SECONDED** by P. Twamley,

1. That the 2025 operating and capital budget for Wilderness Mount Water Service be approved as presented and that the 2024 actual operating deficit be carried forward to the 2025 operating budget; and
2. That the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Committee recommends that the Electoral Areas Committee recommend that the Capital Regional District Board approve the 2025 Operating and Capital Budget and the five-year Financial Plan for the Wilderness Mountain Water Service as presented.

CARRIED

8.2. PROJECT AND OPERATIONS UPDATE

S. Irg spoke to item 8.2.

The commission had no questions, and the report was received for information.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1. Conditional Water Licenses C072678, C112795, and C112797 on William and Wilfred Brooks – November 24, 2011

Water license applications were discussed during item 7.

10. NEW BUSINESS

The Chair discussed a manganese scare from a year ago and asked if more information should be provided in the reports. C. Moch advised that regular monthly metal testing is conducted and if levels exceed the limits, a community advisory will be issued.

Discussion ensued regarding making the monthly metal test results available on the CRD website.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by P. Twamley, **SECONDED** by L. Cutler,

That the November 1, 2024 Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission meeting be adjourned at 10:44 am.

CARRIED

CHAIR

SECRETARY