



Making a difference...together

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE Water Advisory Committee, held Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at 12 pm in the Goldstream Meeting room at 479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC

PRESENT: Members: K. Oppen (Chair); K. Zimmerman (Vice Chair); M. Doehnel; A. Fernandes (EP 12:09); K. Harper; T. Krawczyk; A. McArdle (EP); J. Rogers; W. Scheuer; D. Timothy; M. Turner (EP)

Staff: A. Fraser, General Manager, Integrated Water Services; J. Marr, Senior Manager, Infrastructure Engineering; S. Irg, Senior Manager, Water Infrastructure Operations; D. Gosper, Manager, Dam Safety; C. Moch, Manager, Water Quality; D. Dionne, Manager, Business Support Services, Integrated Water Services (Recorder)

REGRETS: C. Davis; C. Nowakowski; A. Pakvis; T. Pedersen

EP = Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 pm.

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair provided the Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Report from the Juan de Fuca Water Distribution Commission was added to New Business.

MOVED by J. Rogers, **SECONDED** by M. Doehnel,
That the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The following corrections were requested to Section 7. Committee Business:

- Section 7.1, bullet 7, "Forrest" is misspelled.
- Section 7.2, requested clarification on the third bullet: "Unaccounted for water use". The following will be added to the end of this sentence for clarity "(leaks, fire fighting, water main flushing, etc.)".

MOVED by W. Scheuer, **SECONDED** by T. Krawczyk,
That the minutes of the September 23, 2024 Water Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

4. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair extended her gratitude to David Timothy and Tayler Krawczyk, whose terms are coming to an end. She thanked them on the behalf of the Committee for their time and input over the past six years and, in particular, with their efforts on the Agricultural Water Rate review. She advised that for those members whose term is ending and are eligible to serve another term to forward their interest to Denise Dionne.

5. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

There were none.

6. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Fraser introduced staff, Damon Gosper, Manager, Dam Safety and Christoph Moch, Manager, Water Quality, both speaking to items on the agenda.

She provided an update on the approved Regional Water Supply Service provisional budget for 2025. Noting that Master Plan projects have started to be incorporated into the five-year capital plan. This is a significant step and highlights the importance of addressing seismic resilience and infrastructure upgrades.

6.1. Water Advisory Committee Bylaw and Terms of Reference Update

A. Fraser stated that Capital Regional District (CRD) committees and commissions regularly refresh terms of reference and review bylaws. She outlined the planned revisions noted in the staff report.

Discussion ensued and staff responded to questions regarding:

- First Nation representation and participation as it relates to membership and voting.
 - Membership clarification; there would be a maximum of 10 identified members plus up to 5 members from other bodies the Board considers appropriate.
 - Total of 15 members plus up to 13 First Nations representatives if they choose to participate.

6.2. Strategic Plan Update [Verbal]

A. Fraser provided the following updates:

- Public engagement, originally due in November, has been delayed to early next year. Refining the engagement approach with plans for:
 - Pop-up events to engage people in recreation centers.
 - Virtual sessions to address strategic plan questions.
 - Survey to collect feedback online.
- Public engagement remains challenging, particularly in communicating risks and gauging public comfort levels. High interest group responses sometimes skew the data.
- In the new year, focus on discussing suggestions to garner more interest and enhance public engagement.

7. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

7.1. Presentation: Water Quality Summary Report for Greater Victoria Drinking Water System - May to August 2024

The presentation highlighted key regulatory requirements, monitoring parameters, and recent data trends.

Staff responded to questions from the Committee regarding:

- Temperature: Water temperature exceeded guidelines during summer, indicating the potential impact of climate change.
- Turbidity: Occasional exceedances due to sediment mobilization during peak watering times, addressed by adjusting treatment processes.
- Total Coliform Bacteria: Unusual spike in total coliform bacteria attributed to internal seiches (standing waves) in Sooke Lake Reservoir, which required increased treatment capacity.
- Algae Activity: Mild algae activity with no health concerns during the reporting period.
- Langelier Saturation Index (LSI): The industry has moved away from using a single LSI calculation. In 2021, the CRD completed a pH and corrosion study. This study modeled and distributed corrosivity and corrosion indices across the entire water system and validated these results with hundreds of samples from both public and private locations. This report was presented and received by both the Water Advisory Committee and the Regional Water Supply Commission.

7.2. Water Advisory Committee Proposal – Agricultural Water Rates

Discussion ensued on the following:

- Maintaining the Agricultural Water Rate to support farmers.
- Farmers who can't benefit from the lower rates due to high costs of connecting to the main water supply.
- Concern about hobby farms benefiting from rates meant for legitimate farmers. The Provincial government is looking into the BC Assessment farm status requirements.
- A phase two study of water rates was deferred in favor of maintaining current rates.
- The Committee would like to encourage the Provincial government to reassess farm statuses to better define who qualifies for the agricultural rates.
- Whether municipalities could provide subsidies to help farmers connect to the water supply infrastructure.

MOVED by T. Krawczyk, **SECONDED** by Commissioner K. Zimmerman,
The Water Advisory Committee recommends that the Regional Water Supply Commission maintain the current agricultural water rate.

CARRIED

MOVED by K. Zimmerman, **SECONDED** by Commissioner T. Krawczyk,
The Water Advisory Committee recommends that the Regional Water Supply Commission encourages a review by the Province of the conditions required for farm status by BC Assessment.

CARRIED

7.3. Presentation: Dam Safety Program

The presentation highlighted the CRD's Integrated Water Services (IWS) comprehensive dam safety program, which is critical for safeguarding public safety, protecting property, and ensuring a reliable water supply.

7.4. Master Plan - Program Implementation Design RFP

Staff provided the following update:

- The RFP is intended to invite consultants to apply for the task of designing and implementing the Master Plan projects.
- This step is essential for taking the high-level Master Plan created in 2022 and breaking it down into detailed projects and implementation plans.
- The RFP will close in early December, and a consultant is expected to be hired early next year.
- The implementation will focus on assessing the various projects identified in the Master Plan and determining their priority based on risk.
- The consultant's role will include developing a comprehensive implementation plan for the identified projects.

7.5. Summary of Recommendations from Regional Water Supply Commission

Received for information.

7.6. Water Watch Report

Received for information.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. Report from the Juan de Fuca Water Distribution Commission

Commissioner Rogers stated that he would not be running for Vice Chair of the Juan de Fuca Water Distribution Commission in the next term. He expressed his gratitude to the Committee for their dedication and efforts in areas such as conservation, agriculture, and post-disaster initiatives. He also conveyed his hope that the Committee would continue its valuable work.

The Committee expressed their gratitude for his service and contributions. They acknowledged his significant role and the positive impact he has had on the Committee's work over the years.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by M. Doehnel, **SECONDED** by K. Zimmerman,

That the November 26, 2024 Water Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned at 2:22 pm.

CARRIED

CHAIR

SECRETARY