

Meeting Minutes

Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

9:30 AM

Goldstream Conference Room
479 Island Hwy
Victoria BC V9B 1H7

PRESENT:

D. Pepino, P. Twamley, A. Wickheim (EA Director), J. Wilson

Staff: S. Irg, Senior Manager, Water Infrastructure Operations; S. Mason, Manager, Water Supply Engineering and Planning; C. Moch, Manager, Water Quality; D. Dionne, Manager, Business Support Services; M. Lagoa, Manager, Legislative Services and Deputy Corporate Officer; M. MacDonald, Legislative Services Coordinator (Recorder)

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

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

S. Irg provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Election of Chair

S. Irg called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission for 2025.

A. Wickheim nominated J. Wilson. J. Willson declined the nomination.

A. Wickheim nominated D. Pepino. D. Pepino accepted the nomination.

S. Irg called for nominations a second and third time.

Hearing no further nominations, S. Irg declared Doug Pepino the Chair of the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission for 2025 by acclamation.

3. Election of Vice Chair

Chair Pepino called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission for 2025.

A. Wickheim nominated P. Twamley. P. Twamley accepted the nomination.

Chair Pepino called for nominations a second and third time.

Hearing no further nominations, Chair Pepino declared Paula Twamley the Vice Chair of the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission for 2025 by acclamation.

4. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by A. Wickheim, **SECONDED** by J. Wilson,
That the agenda of the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission meeting
of February 18, 2025 be approved.
CARRIED

5. Adoption of Minutes

- 5.1. [25-0128](#) Minutes of the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission Meeting
of November 1, 2024
- MOVED** by A. Wickheim, **SECONDED** by P. Twamley,
That the minutes of the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission of
November 1, 2024 be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED

6. Chair's Remarks

I would like to thank the WMWS Commission for the opportunity to act once
again as Chair for 2025.

My involvement in the WMWS Commission started with a deep dive into the
history of Mt. Matheson Estates, a multi-decade development from the 1970's,
through to, and including, today's meeting.

We moved to Mt. Matheson Estates in 2016, and our new life began here. As
time progressed, my wife Carol and I uncovered documented details that
underpinned much of my response, since 2020, to actions being recommended
by CRD staff. Those details, unknown by most previous Commissioners, may
have been the foundation for the "unreasonable" reputation I have been told I
generated at the CRD.

I want to take a moment and again reiterate that over my career in the private
sector, I steadfastly focussed on looking for solutions to complex challenges
containing a myriad of seemingly unconnected data points. That approach
resulted in numerous firsts in the Canadian Telecom industry in which I worked.

Sometimes breakthroughs just take more persistence than many are willing to
generate. I now think 7 years is the limit.

That said, I would like to inform everyone that I intend to make this my last year
on the WMWS Commission. I want to make way for other individuals in the
community that seek to direct the CRD towards the best interests of our small
water system.

Thank you for the opportunity to attempt to communicate our questions and
concerns since 2018.

7. Presentations/Delegations

There were no presentations or delegations.

8. Commission Business

8.1. [25-0165](#) Senior Manager's Verbal Update

S. Irg provided a verbal update, the following was noted:

- a boil water advisory was issued and rescinded due to manganese levels
- water quality reports are available on the CRD website

Discussion ensued regarding:

- manganese levels, filtration and water quality impacts
- consideration of relocating the water intake

8.2. [25-0122](#) Capital Projects and Operational Update - February 2025

S. Irg presented Item 8.2. for information.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- progress on the construction of the new dock
- local emergency response and power outage procedures

8.3. [25-0126](#) Dam and Water License Update

S. Irg presented Item 8.3. for information.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- liability and costs associated with the unusable lower reservoir
- potential future options for the lower reservoir
- value of the lower reservoir, including environmental benefits
- necessity for ensuring future maintenance and insurance coverage

**MOVED by J. Wilson, SECONDED by P. Twamley,
That this report be referred back to staff for additional information.**

Discussion ensued regarding:

- potential recovery of previously paid operating costs
- liability coverage and dam safety requirements
- potential for a purchase offer for the dam
- fire department operational standards
- request for more details to provide clarity on the potential sale

The question was called:

**That this report be referred back to staff for additional information.
CARRIED**

9. Notice(s) of Motion

There were no notice(s) of motion.

10. New Business

10.1. Filtration System Options

Chair Pepino noted that additional filtration is necessary to ensure water quality.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- potential for cost effective secondary filtration on each individual home
- regulatory requirements which prevent individual filtration systems
- frequency of water quality monitoring
- prohibitive costs to fix the primary water system

S. Irg stated that it is a legislated requirement for the CRD to provide potable water to system users. It is imperative to invest in the necessary water system upgrades to address filtration issues. Installing secondary filtration on individual homes is not an option.

11. Adjournment

**MOVED by J. Wilson, SECONDED by P. Twamley,
That the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission meeting of February
18, 2025 be adjourned at 11:00 am.
CARRIED**

Chair

Recorder