



Making a difference...together

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE Juan de Fuca Water Distribution Commission, held Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 12 p.m., Goldstream Meeting Room, 479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC

PRESENT: Commissioners: G. Baird; S. Donaldson; D. Grove (EP); K. Pearson; M. Wagner; A. Wickheim
Staff: I. Jesney, Acting General Manager; S. Irg, Senior Manager, Water Infrastructure Operations; J. Marr, Acting Senior Manager, Infrastructure Engineering; J. Kelley, Manager, Capital Projects; D. Dionne (Recorder)
ABSENT: C. Harder; J. Rogers

EP = Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 pm.

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Commissioner Wickheim, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wagner, That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

MOVED by Commissioner Donaldson, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wagner, That the minutes of the March 7, 2023 meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

4. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair made the following remarks:

- He thanked S. Irg for providing him with an in-depth tour of the construction work on Goldstream Avenue.
- He advised that he is working with staff on providing two tours to the Regional Water Supply Commission and the Water Advisory Committee and will extend the invitation to this Commission as well. One tour will be of the watershed and the other will be of the more urban parts of the system.

5. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

There were no presentations or delegations.

6. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

I. Jesney advised that there will likely not be a meeting in June and that staff are planning to bring forward a mid-year capital project progress report in July.

7. COMMISSION BUSINESS

7.1. Small Diameter Pipe Replacement Program Update

J. Marr provided a summary of the staff report. Discussion ensued and staff responded to questions from the Commission regarding:

- High priority replacements due to age of pipe or pipes that are failing.
- The life span of Asbestos Cement (AC) pipe is estimated at 50 to 70 years.
- Risk of failure of AC pipes that get damp on the outside of the pipe.
- Rezoning/upzoning and new development impacts or influence on project scheduling.
- Juan de Fuca's proactive pipe replacement program.

I. Jesney spoke to a recent news report on asbestos in the water from AC pipe used for water distribution. He noted that the report raised some questions from the public as it highlighted the current pipe replacement project in Langford along Goldstream Avenue. He responded to some claims made in the report and noted the following:

- The tests referred to in the report were from the United States (US). There are no accredited tests in Canada. Health Canada does not require asbestos testing of water. There are a couple of labs in Canada that can do the test, but the data that was reported is US-based.
- According to the US test, the maximum allowable number of fibers in the water is seven million fibers per liter. The news report indicated a test they did in the US where it showed 350,000 fibers in a liter of water, which is about 5% of the allowable number.
- There are more watermain breaks in the winter in the prairie provinces due to the freezing weather which also is why they are unable to properly flush the water mains, so there could be some construction asbestos in the pipe after a break. Freezing isn't an issue here so when there is a break, it is flushed properly.
- Staff will be conducting tests at the end of some AC pipe to form baseline data so that if there is another AC watermain break staff will be able to compare that data with a test downstream of the break.

There is no recommendation. The report is for information only.

7.2. Summary of Recommendations from Other Water Commissions

There were no questions from the Commission.

There is no recommendation. The report is for information only.

7.3. Water Watch Report

I. Jesney spoke to the report noting that the dam is still spilling. The water level for this time of year is higher than it has been for the past five years.

There is no recommendation. The report is for information only.

8. NOTICE(S) OF MOTION

There were none.

9. NEW BUSINESS

There was a discussion regarding a dam on Charter's Creek. Staff advised that the dam is active and still holds water.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Commissioner Pearson, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wagner,
That the May 2, 2023 meeting be adjourned at 12:44 pm.

CARRIED

CHAIR

SECRETARY