



Making a difference...together

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SAANICH PENINSULA WATER COMMISSION

Held Thursday, May 20, 2021 in Meeting Room #6 at Greenglade Community Centre, 2151 Lannon Way, Sidney BC

PRESENT: Commissioners: R. Barnhart; M. Doehnel; S. Duncan (EP); Z. King (EP); C. McNeil-Smith (EP); G. Orr (EP); M. Weisenberger; M. Williams; R. Windsor (EP); M. Underwood

Staff: T. Robbins, General Manager, Integrated Water Services; G. Harris, Senior Manager, Environmental Protection; S. Irg, Senior Manager, Infrastructure Water Operations (EP); M. Cowley, Manager, Wastewater Engineering & Planning; P. Kickham, Manager, Environmental Regulations; A. Hoge, Manager, Corporate Finance and Treasury (EP); D. Dionne (recorder)

REGRETS: D. Kelbert

EP = Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

The Chair conducted a roll call.

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chair Barnhart provided the Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Commissioner Weisenberger, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Doehnel,
That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by Commissioner Doehnel, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Weisenberger,
That the minutes of the March 18, 2021 meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

4. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair made no remarks.

5. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

5.1. Water supply Outlook [Verbal]

T. Robbins stated that:

- Sooke Lake Reservoir began the annual draw down on April 13 and is at 95.4% of full storage capacity.
- It is within about a percent of the storage capacity from last year at this time, so is in a typical range, despite a dry early spring.

- April received about 46% of the average precipitation.
- May to date has only received about 9% of the historical average precipitation.
- Given the current storage levels at Sooke Lake Reservoir, there are no concerns with water supply.

MOVED by Commissioner Williams, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Weisenberger,
That the verbal update be received for information.

CARRIED

6. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

There were no presentations or delegations.

7. COMMISSION BUSINESS

7.1. Post Disaster Water supply Update

T. Robbins presented a summary of the report and provided the following additional information regarding the tender that closed on May 18:

- Two bids were received out of six contractors who expressed interest.
- A bid received from GE Construction for \$297,000 is within budget, and will allow for completion of the Dean Park Upper, Dean Park Middle and Dean Park Lower projects.
- Staff will seek pricing from GE Construction for Bear Hill and Cloake Hill to see what can be done within the available budget.

Staff responded to questions from the Commission regarding:

- Outstanding work to be done with the municipalities:
 - Locating the static and mobile water distribution modules: the Capital Regional District (CRD) determined locations by proximity to transmission mains, locations where people and traffic can move efficiently, where there may be other emergency support services, where food and supplies may be distributed, etc. Input from the emergency services staff at the municipalities is still required for other suitable locations.
 - Resourcing the distribution centres: CRD doesn't have capacity to staff the mobile water stations on a 24 hour basis. CRD would be looking to municipalities to work together to determine how to recruit and train volunteers to staff the locations.
- Status of progress to date.
 - Staff are happy with the infrastructure side, which includes work being done with the transmission mains and the work on the plan itself in terms of installing the hydrants.
 - Yet to be addressed is the work that needs to be coordinated with the municipalities and potentially the work that the municipalities need to do to look at hardening the distribution system.
- Reservoir capacity from the three reservoirs in Dean Park during a major event.

- Unsure how much water would be supplied on a per capita basis, however any amount that could be stored in those reservoirs would be of value.
- Capacity of the distribution centres.
 - The modules can expand the distribution centres to serve varying populations around the region depending on where the distribution centres are located. With the modules that we have, operating at full capacity, it could service up to 10,000 people over a 24 hour period providing a 4 Litre jug of water.
- Completion of the water mains within five years. There is additional work as part of the longer term plan that would be required.
- Exploring connections between Central Saanich, CRD and Tsawout.
 - Commissioner Underwood advised that the Tsawout Nation received some funding from the Province to work on the Tsawout / Mt. Newton water main and some of the sewer. They are working with Elizabeth Lao with regards to the planning. T. Robbins advised the grant application last year, which was not accepted, did include addressing the dual meter system on Central Saanich Road and had also proposed a new connection to the north end of Tsawout. There have been recent conversations with Central Saanich staff regarding the water services agreement with Tsawout. Commissioner Underwood stated that they would need someone to work with them before they get going. T. Robbins advised that staff met with the Band Administrator a few months ago and could meet with them again.
- Saanich Peninsula Hospital as a distribution centre:
 - It has not been identified as a site for a hydrant, due to the hospital likely being busy during a disaster and would want to stay out of the way. This is the kind of feedback that the CRD would value from the municipalities and potentially stakeholder representatives.

7.1 (a) Motion Arising:

MOVED by Commissioner Windsor, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Underwood, That, following discussions between Capital Regional District (CRD) and District of Central Saanich staff, the partners, District of Central Saanich, CRD and Tsawout Council, meet to discuss post disaster water supply funding options.

CARRIED

Commissioner Williams spoke to the following items:

- The Commission's duty and responsibility is to ensure safe drinking water for its citizens, not only under normal circumstances but also after a disaster.
- The need for a plan to access and distribute the water to our systems after a disaster.

He further raised the following questions:

- Four hardened hydrants, which ones are used for the mobile unit and which ones for the static unit?
- How do we train staff?
- What will the priorities be for where these are sited?
- Where will the units be stored?
- How are the costs shared?

- How do we access stored water if supply mains are damaged?
- Will the water be accessible through the hardened hydrants?
- How do we prioritize use?
- Does drinking water take precedence over firefighting or does potable water come first?

7.1 (b) Motion Arising:

MOVED by Commissioner Williams, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Windsor,
That:

- A) Staff be asked to report back with recommendations on:
1. Acquiring and funding a set of distribution modules specific to the peninsula;
 2. Deploying the distribution modules; particularly location or locations, staffing and trial runs;
 3. Short- and long-term storage and maintenance of the distribution modules;
 4. How to access the water stored in the reservoirs after seismic valves have been activated and priorities for use; and
 5. The length of time our water account holders should be asked to store water and how much they should store in an emergency.
- B) Councils be asked to support this work and authorize their staffs to work with CRD staff, first nations, emergency organizations and other stakeholders on the development of the recommendations.

CARRIED

MOVED by Commissioner Doehnel, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Weisenberger,
That the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission receive the report for information.

CARRIED

7.2. Bylaw 4411: Saanich Peninsula Water Supply Water Works Facilities Loan Authorization Bylaw

T. Robbins provided a summary of the report advising on the municipal consent approval process.

Discussion ensued regarding funding sources, debt financing and annual reserve funding. Financing allows for repayment over a longer period.

MOVED by Commissioner Windsor, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Weisenberger,
The Saanich Peninsula Water Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That Bylaw No. 4411 cited as “Saanich Peninsula Water Supply Water Works Facilities Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1, 2021” be introduced and read a first, second and third time; and
2. Inspector of Municipalities for approval, and if received, to proceed with elector approval by way of the municipal consent process.

CARRIED

T. Robbins advised that once the CRD Board has approved this recommendation, a meeting with municipal staff would be organized before the request for consent is received by councils.

7.3. Greater Victoria Drinking Water Quality – 2020 Annual Report

G. Harris provided a summary of the report and staff responded to questions from the Commission with the following additional information noted:

- Abnormal high water temperatures is an aesthetic value and staff are tracking it. It is not a concern to Island Health.
- CRD is undertaking a Water Supply Master Plan Update and will be looking at the potential to construct a deep water intake in the north basin of Sooke Lake Reservoir. Also reviewing the total storage volume if accessing the deep intake in the north basin and the potential impacts on water quality with combining the two sources.
- Water Balancing – Saanich Peninsula distribution system is designed to provide balancing on the supply side.

MOVED by Commissioner Williams, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Weisenberger,
That the report be received for information.

CARRIED

7.4. Summary of Recommendations from Other Water Commissions

MOVED by Commissioner Doehnel, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Weisenberger,
That the Summary of Recommendations from other water commissions be received for information.

CARRIED

7.5. Water Watch Report

MOVED by Commissioner Williams, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Doehnel,
That the May 10, 2021 Water Watch Report be received for information.

CARRIED

8. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Doehnel advised the Commission of a study out of the University of BC related to blue green algae and shellfish consumption possibly being linked to some neurological diseases.

Next meeting date July 15:

- The current meeting space at Greenglade is unavailable in July for our use.
- Staff have reached out to the Districts of Central Saanich and North Saanich to inquire about using their council chambers.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Commissioner Weisenberger, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Underwood,
That the May 20, 2021 meeting be adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR

SECRETARY