



Making a difference...together

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE Saanich Peninsula Water Commission, held Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 9:30 a.m., Sidney Community Safety Building, 2245 Oakville Ave., Sidney BC**

---

**PRESENT: Commissioners:** D. Kelbert (Chair); M. Doehnel (Vice Chair); S. Duncan; D. Halldorson; C. Graham for Z. King (EP); C. McNeil-Smith; C. Pinches (EP); S. Shrivastava; R. Windsor (EP)

**Staff:** I. Jesney, Acting General Manager, Integrated Water Services; G. Harris, Senior Manager, Environmental Protection; J. Marr, Acting Senior Manager, Infrastructure Engineering; S. Irg, Senior Manager, Infrastructure Water Operations; J. Dales, Senior Manager, Infrastructure Wastewater Operations; J. Kelly, Manger, Capital Projects, Infrastructure Operations; D. Dionne, Administrative Coordinator, Integrated Water Services (Recorder)

**Also in attendance:** Dale Puskas, Director of Engineering, District of Central Saanich

**REGRETS:** W. Helgason; P. Jones

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**

**MOVED** by Commissioner Shrivastava, **SECONDED** by Commissioner McNeil-Smith, That the agenda be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**MOVED** by Commissioner Halldorson, **SECONDED** by Commissioner McNeil-Smith, That the minutes of the January 19, 2023 Saanich Peninsula Water Commission meeting be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**4. CHAIR'S REMARKS**

The Chair made no remarks.

**5. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS**

There were no presentations or delegations.

## **6. GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT**

The Acting General Manager introduced staff in the room and provided an update on the selection of the new General Manager, noting that as soon as an announcement goes out it will be communicated to all Commissions.

## **7. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

### **7.1. Saanich Peninsula Water Service Projects and Initiatives Update**

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

- Project 21-05 Phase 1 and 2 – First Nations water service as it relates to Tsartlip First Nation, which is currently provided through the Central Saanich distribution system. Once the First Nations water service is in place, the Regional Water Supply Service will reimburse First Nations for the distribution, as it does with municipalities.
- Project 22-03 Keating Cross Road water main project. Design is complete through the consultant and has been approved by Capital Regional District (CRD).
- Project 23-05 Bear Hill tank/reservoir repairs. Engineering assessment is timed with the regular maintenance to minimize the number of times the tank needs to be taken offline. There are preemptive plans to repair joints on the inside the tank while it is offline.

The Chair expressed his appreciation of the visual depiction of the projects and that it is effective in providing the members with a progress report.

Staff responded to a question regarding other projects in the service and noted that, while there are many projects, the choice for presenting these projects over others is mainly due to them being more major projects. The complete list of projects can be found in the budget documents.

Discussion ensued regarding project delays. Staff indicated that delays are generally due to lack of staffing, contractor resources and slow supply chain availability. The Chair would like to see a timeline of the delays to see which projects are being predicted farther and farther into the future. He noted that, as budget decisions are being made, there is a need to be conscious that by the time the projects go to tender the prices could be very inflated.

Staff also stated that they are buying material ahead of time and storing it where possible. The challenges are universal with material shipments and as projects get delayed, other projects get re-prioritized.

There is no recommendation, this report is for information only.

### **7.2. Summary of Recommendations from Other Water Commissions**

There is no recommendation, this report is for information only.

### **7.3. Water Watch Report**

I. Jesney spoke to the item, noting that Sooke Lake was not spilling over the dam yet, however as of last night it was within four inches of spilling over. There are no concerns with water volume.

Staff review the data in the water watch report continually. Other data could be obtained but would be a considerable amount of work to do so. Demand data plays a role in water conservation strategies and long-term demand management planning.

There is no recommendation, this report is for information only.

**8. NOTICE(S) OF MOTION**

There were none.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED** by Commissioner Halldorson, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Shrivastava,  
That the March 16, 2023 meeting be adjourned at 10:05 am.

**CARRIED**

---

**CHAIR**

---

**SECRETARY**