



Making a difference...together

**Minutes of the Cedars of Tuam Water Service Commission
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held Monday, November 28, 2011
Fulford Hall, Shaw Room
2591 Fulford-Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC**

Present: Ron Bain (Chair), Mary Gillies
CRD Regional Director: Garth Hendren
CRD: Ted Robbins, Senior Manager, Water Management, Janice Poncelet, Senior Financial Analyst, Mark Harper, Manager, Saanich Peninsula and Gulf Islands Operations, Lorrie Siemens (Recording Secretary)
Three members of the public

1. Call to Order

Chair Bain called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Ron Bain, **SECONDED** by Mary Gillies,
that the agenda of the Cedars of Tuam Water Service Commission meeting of November 28, 2011 be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes of Annual General Meeting of September 27, 2010

The following changes were made to the minutes:

- delete the last bullet in Item No. 4

MOVED by Mary Gillies, **SECONDED** by Ron Bain,
that the minutes of the Cedars of Tuam Water Service Commission Annual General Meeting of September 27, 2010 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

4. Chair's Report

Chair Bain presented a verbal report. A written report will be sent to the committee secretary to append to the minutes.

On behalf of the Cedars of Tuam Water Service Commission, Chair Bain thanked Director Hendren for his help and support on the commission.

5. Annual Report

Staff presented a written report. The following topics were addressed:

- Operations
- Capital Plan

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- Water Quality
- Water Supply and Demand
- Financial Report
- Water System Problems - Who to Call

The annual report for the Cedars of Tuam Water Service Commission was received for information.

Ted Robbins provided an explanation of the Cedars of Tuam SCADA system.

MOVED by Ron Bain, **SECONDED** by Mary Gillies, that the Cedars of Tuam Water Service Commission receive the statement of financial activities for year-end and the budget figures for the following year at the earliest possible date.

CARRIED

6. Election of Officers

Director Hendren noted that the term for Mary Gillies would expire on December 31, 2011 and that an election was necessary. He then called for nominations. Mary Gillies was nominated and agreed to stand. Nominations were called for two more times, and hearing none, Mary Gillies was elected by acclamation for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2012 and expiring on December 31, 2013. Her name will be forwarded to the CRD Board for appointment.

7. New Business

A discussion on access to the well site was held. It was reported that at present time, a truck would not be able to access to the well/reservoir site using the right of way due to the poor condition of the surface and fencing installed by the property owner.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Chairman's Report

Although we do not have significant achievements to report, some progress is being made. We have focused on securing the ownership of the well and that work is ongoing. We have deliberately delayed any other capital works until this is achieved.

Representatives of all the SSI CRD water and sewer commissions have been meeting with the CRD since March 1 to try to find a better way to manage operations and the capital works projects. The commissions have submitted 5 Recommendations to the CRD on ways to improve service delivery. We expect to hear from them in the New Year. It is good news that we have been able to gather together the commissions together in a positive role.

We have had several incidents of properties with significant water loss and high usage this summer and our usage volumes increased. There are various reasons for this, garden watering, watering to grow grass over a new septic field, leaks on property and overflows on the tank because of equipment failure and no restrictions. We were fortunate that this did not become a problem where we had to truck in water. However if we do not reduce July to September wastage and usage in future, we will have a water shortage.

We are looking at revising our rates for usage. Cedar Lane is a small water commission on SSI that relies on well water and not lakes. They charge \$2.25 per cu. metre for water up to 37.5 cu. metres and \$8.00 per cu. metre above that and inform me that it works well and is fair. Our current rates are \$.90 per cu. metre up to 75 cu. metres. Any increase in user fees will be offset by reductions in the basic fee for each property. The issue is that when some users consume several times the amount of water that others do, should they pay a higher fee for this to encourage less use and fairly compensate for the additional cost of pumping, maintenance, staff charges and possibly trucking in water related to higher use which is equally shared amongst all subscribers.

Ron Bain
Chair, Cedars of Tuam Water Service Commission