



Making a difference...together

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION
Held Wednesday, September 19, 2018 in the 6th Floor Boardroom, 625 Fisgard Street

PRESENT: Commissioners: M. Lougher-Goodey (Chair); G. Orr (Vice-Chair); G. Baird; C. Coleman; B. Gramigna; F. Haynes; M. Hicks; B. Isitt (12:47 p.m.); R. Kasper (1:00 p.m.); G. Logan; J. Loveday (12:30 p.m.); T. Morrison; D. Murdock (12:10 p.m.); D. Screech for J. Rogers; V. Sanders; M. Sahlstrom; L. Szpak; L. Wergeland; G. Young; E. Zhelka

Staff: R. Lapham, CAO, Capital Regional District (CRD); T. Robbins; General Manager, Integrated Water Service (IWS); A. Constabel, Senior Manager, Watershed Protection; G. Harris, Senior Manager, Environmental Protection; B. Semmens, Senior Financial Analyst, Financial Services; T. Urquhart, Communications Coordinator; T. Duthie, Manager, IWS Administration; D. Dionne (Recorder)

NOT PRESENT: R. Atwell; Z. King;

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOVED by Commissioner Haynes and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Szpak,
That the Regional Water Supply Commission approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 16, 2018

MOVED by Commissioner Baird and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sanders
That the Regional Water Supply Commission adopt the minutes of the meeting held
May 16, 2018.

CARRIED

3. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair made the following remarks:

- He noted that the Commission has come to the end of a four-year term.
- He thanked all the Commissioners for their support over the years, and thanked staff for their help and patience during his tenure as Chair of this Commission.

4. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

There were no presentations/delegations.

5. WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Verbal Report from the Chair

There was no report.

6. GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

- Water Supply Outlook

T. Robbins reported that the hot dry summer resulted in high demand. In June, the watershed received 18 mm of rain, about 50 percent of the monthly average precipitation. July and August received less than 2 mm of rain, about 3 percent of the monthly precipitation average. Dry conditions made for high alert with respect to fire risk. There were no fire starts reported in the water supply area. The Sooke Lake reservoir is just under 70 percent storage capacity and is expected to fully recharge through the winter and reach full storage capacity in the spring before the summer demand period begins.

Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Funding – Grant Application Update

He reported that Infrastructure Canada announced a new grant program, the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation fund. It is aimed at projects that strengthen the resilience of public infrastructure against the impacts of natural hazards including earthquakes. It is a two billion dollar, ten-year program. Projects must have a minimum \$20 million value and ideally have a regional benefit and a First Nations component. There was a quick deadline for submission, which was the end of July. This was the first step in a two-step process.

The first step is submission of an Expression of Interest (EOI). Capital Regional District (CRD) submitted an EOI, with a proposal to replace the vulnerable sections of the No. 4 transmission main which feeds water supply to portions of Langford, Highlands, Saanich and the Saanich Peninsula including the First Nations reserves. The project was valued at \$87 million. The Federal share under the grant program would be about \$36.9 million. The CRD share, which would be cost-shared between Regional Water and Saanich Peninsula Water, would be about \$48.6 million, with about \$1.5 million in funding from the First Nations. There is no financial commitment at this point. If the EOI is shortlisted, the CRD would then be invited to submit a detailed application, the second step in the process. At which point staff would request direction from the Commission in terms of the financial aspects and project prioritization.

7. REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY SERVICE – 2019 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET

The Chair thanked the commissioners who sat on the Regional Water Supply Commission Budget Subcommittee previously to review the budget detail.

T. Robbins reminded the Commission of the 2019 budget process. He presented the 2019 Budget information in a PowerPoint presentation (on file) providing an overview of the 2019 Regional Water Supply budget, highlighting the proposed significant changes and additions and the 2018 Year End Financial Projections summarized as follows:

- Supply System operating expenditures	\$41,056	(0.3%)
- Agricultural water rate funding	\$275,000	(22.4%)
- Capital fund transfers	\$822,701	(14.5%)
- Debt servicing – principal and interest expenditures	-\$28,147	(-0.3%)
- Revenue	\$991,110	(3.2%)

He also reviewed the following items as detailed in the staff report and presentation:

- Total budget expenditures
- Rate Base and Revenue Requirement increase

- Operating & Capital Budget
- Water Demand and Wholesale Rate

MOVED by Commissioner Murdock and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Baird
That the Regional Water Supply Commission recommend that the Capital Regional District Board to:

1. Approve the 2019 Capital Budget and the Five Year Capital Plan;
2. Approve the 2019 Operating Budget;
3. Approve the 2019 wholesale water rate of \$0.6775 per cubic metre; and
4. Approve the 2019 agricultural water rate of \$0.2105 per cubic metre.

CARRIED

8. WATER CONSERVATION BYLAW – AMENDMENT BYLAW NO. 4248

G. Harris spoke to the report providing background noting that the Capital Regional District (CRD) had created a Water Conservation Bylaw No. 4099 in 2016 to ban once-through cooling (OTC) units. In 2017 staff noted changes to the BC Building Code (BCBC) that had the potential to affect some CRD services. Staff met with representatives from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and learned that the Bylaw No. 4099 against OTC equipment was in conflict with the revised BCBC.

In response to these provincial changes, Bylaw No. 4248 amends the existing Water Conservation Bylaw to remove definitions and sections related to OTC.

He noted that this amendment will be supported with engagement activities such as a follow-up letter and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) brochure to the service providers and businesses that were contacted in 2017 and new messaging campaign promoting the economic and water conservation benefits of voluntary OTC equipment replacement.

G. Harris and T. Robbins responded to questions from the Commission regarding:

- Rebate program
- Education and awareness
- Option to apply for exemptions
- Motivation of cost savings for businesses

MOVED by Commissioner Baird and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Kasper
That the Regional Water Supply Commission recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That Bylaw No. 4248 “Capital Regional District Water Conservation Bylaw No. 1, 2016, Amendment Bylaw No. 1, 2018” be introduced and given first and second reading; and
2. That Bylaw No. 4248 “Capital Regional District Water Conservation Bylaw No. 1, 2016, Amendment Bylaw No. 1, 2018” be given third reading.

CARRIED

9. SUMMARY OF THE 2018 “GET TO KNOW YOUR H2O TOURS” – PUBLIC AND SCHOOL TOURS OF THE GREATER VICTORIA WATER SUPPLY AREA AND WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES

A. Constabel spoke to the report noting that the tours provide opportunity to gain a better understanding of:

- where Greater Victoria’s drinking water comes from;
- the high quality of water in source reservoirs;
- the characteristics of the water supply area and drinking water infrastructure;
- the care taken to safeguard the drinking water resource;
- how source water is disinfected;
- the value of water conservation; and
- water pricing.

She noted that tours were initially targeted for National or BC Drinking Water Week in May and that more recently school tours were added to the schedule. She also advised that technical tours for post-secondary institutions and other specialized technical groups are provided throughout the year on request.

The Chair noted how popular these tours are with the public and that he is happy to see they are still progressing.

MOVED by Commissioner Baird and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Szpak
That the Regional Water Supply Commission receive the staff report for information.

CARRIED

10. GREATER VICTORIA DRINKING WATER QUALITY – 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

G. Harris spoke to the report, noting that the draft report was presented to the Health Authority in the spring. Once it is approved this report can be posted to the public website. He also noted that water quality met or exceeded water quality parameters.

MOVED by Commissioner Murdock and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Haynes
That the Regional Water Supply Commission recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:

That the Greater Victoria Drinking Water Quality 2017 Annual Report be approved.

CARRIED

11. WATER WATCH

MOVED by Commissioner Coleman and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wergeland
That the Regional Water Supply Commission receive the report for information.

CARRIED

12. NEW BUSINESS

T. Robbins acknowledged the work of the Regional Water Supply Commission and thanked the members for their contributions over the last four years. R. Lapham presented each

member with Certificates of Appreciation for their service on the Commission during the 2015 to 2018 term.

T. Robbins presented Chair Lougher-Goodey with a framed photo of the watershed and expressed his appreciation of the Chair's commitment to the Commission.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Commissioner Lougher-Goodey and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Loveday
That the meeting of the Regional Water Supply Commission be adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

CARRIED

Chair

Secretary