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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION
Held Wednesday, January 16, 2019 in the 6th Floor Boardroom, 625 Fisgard Street

PRESENT: Commissioners: G. Baird; N. Chambers; L. Collins; Z. de Vries; S. Duncan; C. Graham; K. Harper; M. Hicks; B. Isitt; K. Kahakauwila; G. Logan; J. Loveday; R. Mersereau; T. Morrison; J. Rogers (12:05); C. Stock; L. Szpak; B. Parkinson for M. Tait; N. Taylor; R. Wade (11:35); G. Young; E. Zhelka (11:49)

Staff: T. Robbins, General Manager, Integrated Water Service (IWS); I. Jesney, Infrastructure Engineering; M. McCrank, Infrastructure Operations; N. Burrows, Watershed Protection; G. Harris, Environmental Protection; B. Semmens, Financial Services; T. Urquhart, Communications Coordinator; T. Duthie, Administration Services; D. Dionne (Recorder)

ALSO PRESENT: C. Plant, Capital Regional District (CRD) Board Chair

The meeting was called to order at 11:32 a.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

T. Robbins welcomed the new and returning Commissioners. He acknowledged past Chair Lougher-Goodey for his service to the Regional Water Supply Commission (the "Commission") during its last term.

T. Robbins led the table in introductions.

R. Wade joined the meeting

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

T. Robbins called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Regional Water Supply Commission for 2019.

Commissioner Hicks nominated Commissioner Mersereau.
Commissioner Mersereau accepted the nomination.

T. Robbins called for nominations a second and third time and hearing none, declared Commissioner Mersereau elected as Chair of the Regional Water Supply Commission by acclamation.

Commissioner Mersereau assumed the chair and called for nominations for Vice-Chair of the Regional Water Supply Commission for 2019.

Commissioner Morrison nominated Commissioner Hicks.
Commissioner Hicks declined the nomination.

Commissioner Hicks nominated Commissioner Stock.
Commissioner Stock accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Young nominated Commissioner Loveday.
Commissioner Loveday declined nomination.

Commissioner Loveday nominated Commissioner Baird.
Commissioner Baird accepted the nomination.

The Chair called for nominations a second and third time and hearing none, declared nominations closed.

Commissioners Stock and Baird addressed the Commission in favour of their candidacies.

Ballots were distributed and collected by D. Dionne and T. Duthie. The ballots were counted and the Chair declared Commissioner Baird Vice-Chair of the Regional Water Supply Commission for 2019.

MOVED by Commissioner Isitt and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Morrison,
That the ballots be destroyed.

CARRIED

E. Zhelka joined the meeting

Chair Mersereau provided a Territorial Acknowledgement to open the meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2018

MOVED by Commissioner Taylor and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Loveday,
That the Regional Water Supply Commission adopt the minutes of the meeting held September 19, 2018.

CARRIED

5. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair made the following remarks:

- She noted that it is a privilege to serve this Commission in the role of Chair.
- She spoke to her experience as a member of the Water Advisory Committee and her respect and pride for the work that staff do in managing the water supply for the Region.
- She looks forward to the meetings ahead and working with the Commission on the decisions that will need to be considered.

6. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

No presentations/delegations were registered to speak.

7. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Water Supply Outlook

T. Robbins reported that Sooke Lake reservoir reached full storage capacity on December 26, 2018 and with that there are no concerns with water supply or water quality at this time.

Charter's Creek/Sooke River Hatchery Project

T. Robbins reported on the Sooke River Jack Brooks Hatchery project noting that the project is a partnership between Sooke Salmon Enhancement Society which operates the existing Jack Brooks Hatchery and the Juan de Fuca Salmon Restoration Society which currently operates a demonstration-scale hatchery at Charter's Creek. The relocation of the existing Jack Brooks Hatchery is due to reduced and unreliable raw water, which is fed from Rock Creek.

The CRD has been supplying about 500 mega litres (ML) of raw water annually to support the existing Charter's Creek Hatchery since 2009. The project has requested an increase to the flow volume to approximately 900ML per year to support the new hatchery.

The CRD has provided approval, in principal, to the Salmon Enhancement Society to increase the flow. Staff will prepare a full report with a comprehensive fisheries release strategy for the Commission's approval.

The Juan de Fuca Salmon Restoration Society has spent time reviewing the monthly release requirements to support the hatchery. Historically, the CRD has provided water to the hatchery through the summer months when there is more stress on supply for drinking water. Under the new strategy, the Juan de Fuca Salmon Restoration Society is proposing to not have releases in the summer but rather have the spillage from Sooke Lake reservoir and Deception provide the flows they would require.

Discussion ensued regarding land clearing related to the construction of the new hatchery and what the approval process was for the land clearing. It was noted that the CRD is responsible for the provision of water for hatchery purposes, the two societies are responsible for the development of the project. Site decisions were made in consultation with CRD Parks staff, and any land clearing issues should be brought to that Committee.

8. COMMISSION BUSINESS

8.1. Regional Water Supply Commission Orientation

T. Robbins made the presentation.

J. Rogers joined the meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Chambers and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Szpak,
That the presentation be received for information.

CARRIED

8.2. **RWSC 19-02** Greater Victoria Water Supply Area Mining Access Requests

T. Robbins presented the report.

Discussion occurred regarding:

- The anticipation for the Province's decision on CRD's request to restrict mining exploration access in the Leech Watershed.
- The anticipated timeline for when the Leech Watershed will connect with the CRD's current water supply for consumption.
- How much Placer mining is happening and what its impact is on the area. Staff noted that they have been conducting more investigation of mining activities considering the number of applications being received. Overnight camping has not been allowed and staff have seen no evidence of it occurring.
- The extensive discussions the Commission had in 2016 on what it considered to be reasonable levels of monitoring and restriction in order to protect the watershed. The policy and procedure related to the Commission's approval for these access requests noting that amendments were made in 2016 to the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area Protection Bylaw, with respect to restricting unauthorized access into the Leech Watershed.

ACTION: The Commission requested that the topic of procedures around delegated authority to staff for mining access requests be brought forward to a future meeting for discussion.

ACTION: Going forward, the Commission requested to have copies of the redacted applications available at the meeting, not contained within the agenda package, and that the staff report highlight any anomalies.

MOVED by Commissioner Baird and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Isitt,

That the Regional Water Supply Commission:

1. authorize access and special use to:
 - A. the mining tenure holders;
 - B. their agents for which the agency can be confirmed; and,
 - C. other accompanying persons already under access agreement with the CRD,

as listed in Table 1 and Table 2 of the report, subject to the conditions of their Access Agreement, for the valid mining tenures they hold; and

2. not authorize the overnighting request.

CARRIED

- 8.3. **EEP 19-01** Water Quality Report for Sooke Lake Reservoir – September to December 2018

Item was postponed to a future meeting.

- 8.4. **RWSC 19-07** Lubbe Dam Construction and Budget Update

T. Robbins presented the report.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Water supply concerns – in order to maintain dam safety requirements, the Lubbe and Butchart reservoirs have been operating at lower levels for the last couple of years while the design work was being completed. The Goldstream system has not been able to maintain full storage capacity for the last couple of years. With the reservoir being fully drained, staff are optimistic that the project will complete in time to still capture the end of the winter and early spring precipitation and get some storage back in Lubbe.
- Moving forward with the Butchart project, that storage will be compromised in the next couple of years as well. In general, Goldstream is operating at 60% to 65% of full storage capacity, affording the ability to provide fisheries releases. However, it cannot be relied on as a backup water supply to the region. Staff don't see an issue with supplying Goldstream releases through this summer and fall.
- The CRD has incurred about \$250,000 in pumping costs to the end of 2018. It may be in that range again in 2019, depending on timing for the placement of the clay and completion of the project in this years' budget. Costs for operating the dam at the lower level have been covered under the operating budget.

MOVED by Commissioner Stock and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Szpak,
That the Regional Water Supply Commission:

1. direct Capital Regional District (CRD) staff to amend the 2019 Regional Water Supply Capital Plan, Project 16-15, to reflect a budget increase of \$581,000; and,
2. recommend to the CRD Board to amend the 2019 financial plan accordingly.

CARRIED

- 8.5. Appointment of Regional Water Supply Commission Representative to the Water Advisory Committee and Status of Committee Appointments

Item was postponed to a future meeting.

- 8.6. Water Watch

Item was postponed to a future meeting.

MOVED by Commissioner Stock and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Morrison,
That Agenda Items 8.3, 8.5 and 8.6 be postponed to a future meeting.

CARRIED

T. Morrison left the meeting

9. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

10. MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING

MOVED by Commissioner Isitt and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Taylor,
In accordance with the Community Charter, Part 4, Division 3, 90(2)(b) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the regional district and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party.

CARRIED

The Commission rose from its closed meeting without report.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Commissioner Graham and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Rogers,
That the meeting of the Regional Water Supply Commission be adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

CARRIED

Chair

Secretary