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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION  
Held Wednesday, February 20, 2019 in the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom, 625 Fisgard Street**

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**PRESENT:** **Commissioners:** R. Mersereau (Chair); G. Baird (V. Chair); N. Chambers; Z. de Vries; S. Duncan; K. Harper; M. Hicks; K. Kahakauwila; G. Logan; J. Loveday; T. Morrison; J. Rogers (11:55); C. Stock; L. Szpak; B. Parkinson for M. Tait; N. Taylor; N. Stewart for R. Wade; G. Young (12:04); E. Zhelka

**Staff:** R. Lapham, CAO; T. Robbins, General Manager, Integrated Water Service (IWS); L. Hutcheson, General Manager, Parks and Environmental Services; M. McCrank, Infrastructure Operations; A. Constabel, Watershed Protection; G. Harris, Environmental Protection; T. Urquhart, Communications Coordinator; E. Gorman, Deputy Corporate Officer; T. Duthie, Administration Services; D. Dionne, Administrative Coordinator; S. Orr (recorder)

**ABSENT:** C. Graham; L. Collins; B. Isitt

The meeting was called to order at 11:39 a.m.

**1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

**CARRIED**

**2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2019**

**MOVED** by Commissioner Baird and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Loveday,  
That the Regional Water Supply Commission adopt the minutes of the meeting held January 16, 2019.

**CARRIED**

**3. CHAIR'S REMARKS**

The Chair noted the number of agenda items to be considered by the Commission and the number of speakers to be heard and requested that Commissioner's and delegates exercise brevity when considering points already raised by previous speakers.

**4. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS**

4.1. Presentations

There were no presentations.

4.2. Delegations

The Chair welcomed delegates to the podium.

***Commissioner Hicks left the meeting***

1. Ray Zimmerman, Sea to Sea Greenbelt Society (Item 5.1 Protection of Greater Victoria Water Supply Area)  
R. Zimmerman (for J. Pine) stated that he opposes highway development within the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area and that the watershed should be free from commercial activity. He suggested that a solution to Malahat closures could be reduced speed limits instead of introducing another road system.
2. Thomas Hackney (Item 5.1 Protection of Greater Victoria Water Supply Area)  
T. Hackney stated that he is opposed to highway development in the watershed and Sooke Hills Regional Park and that traffic management and safety on the Malahat should be accomplished within the Malahat corridor.
3. Alison Spriggs (Item 5.1 Protection of Greater Victoria Water Supply Area)  
A. Spriggs provided a brief history of the Sooke Hills Regional Park. She asked the commission to insist that no public roads be permitted in the park, or on any protected Capital Regional District (CRD) lands, critical to protecting wildlife or water supply.
4. Alastair Craighead (Item 5.1 Protection of Greater Victoria Water Supply Area)  
A. Craighead stated that he is pleased and encouraged to see a motion to protect Sooke Hills Regional Park, which is a sensitive and unique habitat. He asked that the Commission support the motion.
5. Nancy Macgregor (Item 5.1 Protection of Greater Victoria Water Supply Area)  
Not present.

***Commissioner Rogers joined the meeting***

6. Steve Fischer (Item 5.1 Protection of Greater Victoria Water Supply Area)  
S. Fischer stated he is opposed to a road and that there is a need to ensure the water supply is protected against wildfire risk.
7. Diane Bernard (Item 5.1 Protection of Greater Victoria Water Supply Area)  
D. Bernard provided a brief history of water protection work undertaken by past Water Board officials and noted that this watershed is one of the best in the world. She stated that allowing a roadway into or near the watershed will compromise water quality.

***Commissioner Hicks returned to the meeting***

8. Torrance Coste, Wilderness Committee (Item 5.1 Protection of Greater Victoria Water Supply Area)  
T. Coste stated that he encourages the Commission to champion stewardship and stand up for future generations and past work for water protection. He requested the Commission pass the motion and to call on the Government of BC to drop plans for a highway.
9. Kikila Perrin (Item 5.1 Protection of Greater Victoria Water Supply Area)  
K. Perrin stated that this is a climate change issue and that work towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions and a sustainable environment is needed to continue to support life. He thanked the commission for proposing the motion.

***Commissioner Young joined the meeting***

***Supplementary Delegations***

10. Catrin Brown, Alpine Club of Canada, Vancouver Island Section (Item 5.1 Protection of Greater Victoria Water Supply Area)  
C. Brown stated that increasing access to the watershed will compromise the water supply. She expressed opposition to an alternate highway route that might impact the water supply and prevent any encroachment on the Sooke Hills Regional Park and watershed.
11. Mehdi Najari (Item 5.1 Protection of Greater Victoria Water Supply Area)  
M. Najari stated that the Water District Act does not allow a highway through the watershed and that the carrying capacity of the lands should be examined and the issue needs to be looked at in a scientific manner. He stated that the raising of speed limits on the Malahat have led to increased injuries, fatalities and insurance claims.
12. Steve Gray, Rolling Justice Bus (Item 5.1 Protection of Greater Victoria Water Supply Area)  
S. Gray stated that he supports the motion and advocates for no public roads of any sort within the watershed and local governments need to preserve the last critical wildlife habit, buffer zones for our regional water supply and any old growth forest lying in the path of Malahat alternatives. He stated the Commission should advocate for climate friendly solutions and not increase roadways.
13. Jean Siemens (Item 5.1 Protection of Greater Victoria Water Supply Area)  
J. Siemens applauds all of the points made by past speakers and the CRD for joining the voices in declaring a climate emergency. She stated that more highways means more pollution and requested the Commission support the motion.
14. Antonia Paquin (Item 5.1 Protection of Greater Victoria Water Supply Area)  
Not present.

On behalf of the Commission, the Chair thanked all of the delegations.

**5. MOTIONS WITH NOTICE**

5.1 Protection of Greater Victoria Water Supply Area

**MOVED** by Commissioner Loveday and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Kahakauwila,  
That the Regional Water Supply Commission:

1. Places itself on record opposing highway infrastructure development in the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area and the Drinking Water Protection Zone.
2. Requests that the Chair write, on behalf of the Commission, to the Premier of British Columbia, copying the Ministers responsible for Environment and Transportation as well as Members of the Legislative Assembly representing constituencies on Vancouver Island, advising the Provincial government that the Commission has no interest in pursuing highway infrastructure development in the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area or the Drinking Water Protection Zone.

Commissioner Loveday thanked all the delegates for their advocacy for the protection of the water supply lands. He stated that the job of the commissioners is to protect the water supply and that it is important that the Commission go on record opposing any construction in the watershed or on water supply lands.

T. Robbins advised that at its November 14, 2018 meeting, the CRD Board directed staff to form a working group with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure staff to evaluate options for an emergency bypass route for the Malahat section of the Trans-Canada Highway. In a press release dated January 9, 2019, the Province of British Columbia (the Province) announced the South Island Transportation Plan, which will explore all emergency detour options. The Province has acknowledged the CRD's concerns about risk to the watershed and has committed to not finalizing a report until both parties are able to review and agree on the final content.

R. Lapham stated that the CRD Board has directed staff to bring forward all information regarding transportation routes including emergency evacuation and detour provisions. Recommendations from the Commission to senior levels of government should be made through the CRD Board Chair.

**MOVED** by Commissioner Baird and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Chambers,  
That the recommendation be amended:

To include an additional Item as number 2 and revisions, noted in bolded italics, to Item number 3:

***2. Recommend that the CRD Board assume the same position and accordingly place itself on record as opposing such development outlined by the CRD RWS.***

3. Recommend that the ***CRD Board*** Chair write on behalf of the ***CRD Board Commission***, to the Premier of British Columbia, copying the Ministers responsible for Environment and Transportation as well as Members of the Legislative Assembly representing constituencies on Vancouver Island, advising the Provincial government that the Commission has no interest in pursuing highway infrastructure development in the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area or the Drinking Water Protection Zone.

**CARRIED**

A discussion took place and staff answered questions from the Commission.

The question was called and the main motion was amended.

**MOVED** by Commissioner Young and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Baird,  
That the Regional Water Supply Commission:

1. Place itself on record opposing highway infrastructure development in the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area and the Drinking Water Protection Zone.
2. Recommend that the CRD Board assume the same position and accordingly place itself on record as opposing such development outlined by the CRD RWS.

3. Recommend that the CRD Chair write on behalf of the CRD Board, to the Premier of British Columbia, copying the ministers responsible for Environment and Transportation as well as Members of the Legislative Assembly representing constituencies on Vancouver Island, advising the Provincial government that the CRD has no interest in pursuing highway infrastructure development in the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area or the Drinking Water Protection Zone.

**CARRIED**

## 6. CORRESPONDENCE

**MOVED** by Commissioner Baird and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Stock,  
That the Regional Water Supply Commission receive the correspondence as presented for information.

**CARRIED**

## 7. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

### Lochside Road Crane Incident Report

T. Robbins reported that on January 24, 2019 a 60 tonne crane rolled over off the side of the road on Lochside Drive in Central Saanich and landed about one metre from CRD regional water transmission main #4. The owner of the crane was not able to provide a plan to remove the crane and the CRD assumed control of the site, worked with the municipal, provincial and federal governments and hired a consultant to mitigate environmental risks. The crane was removed and the CRD will be seeking cost recovery through the owner and their insurer for the cost to remove the crane. The water main was not compromised throughout the process.

### ***Commissioner Parkinson left the meeting***

He noted that on February 19, 2019, that a Juan de Fuca Water Distribution service water main experienced a break in the City of Langford. The pipe is not a regional water supply main.

**MOVED** by Commissioner Stock and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Rogers,  
That the Regional Water Supply Commission receive the General Manager's report for information.

**CARRIED**

## 8. COMMISSION BUSINESS

- 8.1 RWSC 19-08 Greater Victoria Water Supply Area Access and Special Use Request and Approval Policy and Procedures

T. Robbins introduced the report and provided a summary as presented.

### ***Commissioner Parkinson returned to the meeting***

**MOVED** by Commissioner Rogers and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Chambers,  
That the Regional Water Supply Commission receive the report for information and make no changes to the Water Supply Area Access and Special Use Request and Approval Policy and Water Supply Area Access and Special Use Request and Approval Procedure.

**CARRIED**

8.2 RWSC 19-09 Greater Victoria Water Supply Area Mining Access Requests

A. Constabel introduced the report and provided a summary of the Mining Access Request applicants seeking access to the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area.

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

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 of the report, subject to the conditions of their access agreement, for the valid mining tenures they hold.

**CARRIED**

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

**MOVED** by Commissioner Stock and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Morrison,  
That the Regional Water Supply Commission receive the Sooke Lake Reservoir monitoring results for September to December 2018 for information.

**CARRIED**

8.4 Water Watch

**MOVED** by Commissioner Stock and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Harper,  
That the Regional Water Supply Commission receive the Sooke Lake Reservoir monitoring results for September to December 2018 for information.

**CARRIED**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**10. MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING**

In response to the Chair, T. Robbins advised that the closed agenda is not time sensitive and may be deferred to the next meeting.

**MOVED** by Commissioner Stock and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Szpak,  
That the Regional Water Supply Commission defer the closed agenda to the next meeting.

**CARRIED**

A discussion took place about time constraints for considering agenda items.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED** by Commissioner Taylor and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Baird,  
That the meeting of the Regional Water Supply Commission be adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

**CARRIED**

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Chair

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Secretary