

Meeting Minutes

Regional Water Supply Commission

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

11:30 AM

6th Floor Boardroom
625 Fisgard St.
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

PRESENT:

G. Baird (Chair); C. Stock (Vice Chair); J. Caradonna; C. Coleman; Z. de Vries;
S. Duncan (EP); C. Graham (EP); S. Gray; K. Guiry (EP); S. Hammond (EP);
K. Harper; K. Jordison (EP); S. Kim; D. Lajeunesse; T. Morrison; T. Phelps Bondaroff;
J. Rogers (EP); M. Wagner (EP); M. Westhaver (EP); A. Wickheim (EP)

STAFF:

T. Robbins, CAO; I. Jesney, Acting General Manager, Integrated Water Services;
A. Constabel, Senior Manager, Watershed Protection; G. Harris, Senior Manager,
Environmental Protection; J. Marr, Acting Senior Manager, Infrastructure Engineering;
S. Irg, Senior Manager, Water Infrastructure Operations; J. van Niekerk, Senior Manager,
Customer & Technical Services; J. Zimmerman, Communications Coordinator, Integrated Water
Services; D. Dionne, Administrative Coordinator; M. Risvold, Committee and Administrative Clerk

REGRETS: N. Chambers; C. Green

EP = Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 11:34 am

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Regional Water Supply Commission for the term ending December 31, 2023.

Commissioner Stock nominated Commissioner Green. Commissioner Green accepted the nomination.

The Chair called for nominations a second time.

Commissioner de Vries nominated Commissioner Harper. Commissioner Harper accepted the nomination.

The Chair called for nominations a third and final time.

Hearing no further nominations, the Chair invited each nominee to address the Commission. Commissioner Stock read remarks provided by Commissioner Green as she was absent from the meeting.

Ballots were distributed by M. Lagoa and M. Risvold, and collected by M. Lagoa.

The confidential online poll was opened by D. Dionne.

The ballots (including the online votes) were counted by D. Dionne and M. Lagoa, Deputy Corporate Officer.

The Chair declared Commissioner Harper Vice Chair of the Regional Water Supply Commission for the term ending December 31, 2023.

MOVED by Commissioner Kim and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Harper,
That the ballots be destroyed.

CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOVED by Commissioner Stock and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Coleman,
That the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1. [23-469](#) Adoption of Minutes

Attachments: [Draft Minutes May 17, 2023](#)

MOVED by Commissioner Coleman and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Stock,
That the Minutes of the May 17, 2023 meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

5. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair provided the following remarks:

- Thanked Commissioner Stock for her efforts to the commission
- Thanked staff for the watershed tour
- Thanked I. Jesney for his service

6. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

There were no presentations or delegations.

7. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

I Jesney thanked the Chair for his remarks and wished the commission all the best.

8. WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- 8.1. [23-489](#) Committee Recommendation: Conservation Strategies (Water Advisory Committee Chair Katie Oppen)

Attachments: [Recommendation from Water Advisory Committee](#)

G. Baird introduced the Water Advisory Commission Chair, K. Oppen.

K. Oppen spoke to the following items:

- Water conservation
- Water capture
- Water storage
- Water rates
- Non-potable water use

MOVED by Commissioner Caradonna and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Rogers,

That the Regional Water Supply Commission consider:

1. Increasing water conservation efforts and messaging and creating a literacy program for sharing water conservation.
2. Storage discussions with member municipalities.
3. Increasing bulk water rates to encourage conservation and to fund increased storage in partnership with municipalities

CARRIED

MOVED by Commissioner Harper and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Phelps Bondaroff, That the Water Advisory Committee recommendations be referred to staff for consideration in the new strategic planning process.

CARRIED

8.2. [23-470](#) Summary of Recommendations from the Water Advisory Committee

Attachments: [Summary of Recommendations](#)

9. COMMISSION BUSINESS

9.1. [23-465](#) Watershed Security Officer Designation

Attachments: [Staff Report: Watershed Security Officer Designation](#)

A. Constabel spoke to item 9.1

Staff responded to questions regarding:

- Removing an appointment
- Financial implications
- Fluctuating number of Watershed Security Officers

MOVED by Commissioner Stock and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Coleman,

That the Regional Water Supply Commission recommends that the Capital Regional District Board:

Appoint Jim Harradine and Derek Hall as Watershed Security Officers; and that Devon Barnes be removed from appointment; for the purpose of Section 233 of the Local Government Act and Section 28(3) of the Offence Act, and in accordance with Capital Regional District Bylaw No. 2681.

CARRIED

9.2. [23-476](#) Regional Water Supply Commission - Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund Grant Application

Attachments: [Staff Report: DMAF Grant Application](#)
[Appendix A: 2023 DMAF Grant Eligible Projects Map](#)

J. Marr spoke to item 9.2.

Staff responded to the following questions:

- Ability for the Province to contribute funds
- Plan if the grant is unsuccessful
- Anticipated timeline for grant
- RFP's
- When the grant was applied for previously
- Ability to receive partial grant
- Feedback from unsuccessful grants

MOVED by Commissioner Stock and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Phelps Bondaroff,

That the Regional Water Supply Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That staff be instructed to apply for, negotiate, and if successful, enter into an agreement, and do all such things necessary for accepting Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation grant funds and overseeing grant management for the proposed projects.

CARRIED

9.3. [23-472](#) Agricultural Water Rate Review Update

Attachments: [Staff Report: Agricultural Water Rate Review Update](#)
 [Appendix A: Agricultural Water Review - Final Statntec Report](#)

S. Irg spoke to item 9.3

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Subsidy recipients
- Non-commercial operations receiving discount
- Global issues of drought and food supply
- Challenges for current and new farmers
- Affordable water
- Community farms
- Potential to subsidize farms outside the service boundaries
- Food security
- Farm land across the region
- Per acre rates
- Meeting agricultural needs
- The commission's ability to advocate to the province
- Social and cultural costs in the region
- Barriers for urban farms
- Local farms competing with international world

MOVED by Commissioner Caradonna and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Kim,
That staff be directed to proceed with the next phase of the Agricultural Water
Rate Review.

CARRIED

OPPOSED: Graham

9.4. [23-471](#) Regional Water Supply Service Mid-Year Update

Attachments: [Staff Report: Regional Water Supply Service Mid-Year Update](#)
 [Appendix A: Regional Water Supply Service Capital Program –](#)
 [Current Status of Active Projects](#)

J. Marr and S. Irg spoke to item 9.4

9.5. [23-473](#) Summary of Recommendations from Other Water Commissions

Attachments: [Summary of Recommendations](#)

Received for information.

9.6. [23-474](#) Water Watch Report

Attachments: [Water Watch Report](#)

I. Jesney spoke to item 9.6.

Staff responded to questions regarding:

- Drought concerns
- Support for fisheries

10. NOTICE(S) OF MOTION

10.1. [23-479](#) Motion with Notice: Placement of Post Disaster Water Supply Drop Kits in Relevant Fire Halls (Commissioner Rogers)

Attachments: [Notice of Motion: Placement of Post Disaster Water Supply Drop Kits in Relevant Fire Halls](#)

11. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Commissioner Stock and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Kim,
That the meeting be adjourned at 1:01 pm.

CARRIED

CHAIR

SECRETARY