

Meeting Minutes

Regional Water Supply Commission

Friday, March 1, 2024

9:00 AM

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

Special Meeting

PRESENT

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

STAFF: T. Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer; A. Fraser, General Manager, Integrated Water Services; A. Constabel, Senior Manager, Watershed Protection; G. Harris, Senior Manager, Environmental Protection; J. Marr, Senior Manager, Infrastructure Engineering; S. Irg, Senior Manager, Infrastructure Water Operations; S. Mason, Manager, Water Supply Engineering and Planning; T. Duthie, Manager, Administration Services, Integrated Water Services; M. Lagoa, Manager, Legislative Services and Deputy Corporate Officer; P. Stephens, Project Engineer, Infrastructure Engineering; J. Zimmerman, Communications Coordinator; D. Dionne, Administrative Coordinator, Integrated Water Services; M. Risvold, Committee & Administrative Clerk, Integrated Water Services

GUEST: Dr. Benusic, Chief Medical Office, Island Health

EP - Electronic Participation

REGRETS: S. Hammond; K. Jordison

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair provided a territorial acknowledgement.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOVED by Commissioner Gray and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wagner,
That the agenda be approved as circulated.
CARRIED

3. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

3.1 Presentations

- 3.1.1 [24-241](#) Dr. Benusic, Island Health: Re: Item 4.2 - Correspondence: Island Health: Filtration of Greater Victoria Water Supply System, February 6, 2024

Attachments: [Presentation: Water Filtration - Island Health](#)

Dr. Benusic provided a presentation and spoke to the following:

- roles and responsibilities
- drinking water treatment objectives and filtration exemption
- future of greater Victoria water supply system

Discussion ensued and Dr. Benusic and staff responded to questions regarding:

- Turbidity issues with Comox Lake
- Plan to build something that future population will not be able to support.
- What will be used to clarify water
- Concentrated aluminum and correlation to dementia
- Filtration system only at the Leech Water Supply
- Health authorities in BC that have ordered filtration in the past 5 years.
- Cyanotoxins and algae blooms that require filtration.
- Confidence in the time frame laid out in the 2022 Master Plan.
- Boil water advisories
- Constant monitoring the current exemption until 2038.
- Alum treatment

The presentation was received for information.

3.2 Delegations

There were no delegations.

4. SPECIAL MEETING BUSINESS

- 4.1 [24-216](#) Regional Water Supply 2022 Master Plan Overview and Status Update

Attachments: [2022 Master Plan Overview & Status Update](#)

A. Fraser spoke to item 4.1 and provided a PowerPoint presentation.

J. Marr spoke to long term water supply planning and capital projects.

S. Irg spoke to the water transmission system.

Staff responded to questions regarding:

- Ecological carrying capacity of the catchment lands
- Projection beyond 2050
- Deadlines for system alterations based on population growth and demand changes
- Specific initiatives to reduce water usage
- Risk assessment for multi-year droughts
- Climate action service and projection
- Tourism and water usage
- Necessary planning for future generations
- Public engagement for long-term projects

- The blending of ecosystems by diverting Leech River into Sooke Lake
- If the strategic plan will be revisited with water mixing
- Current financial model and funding
- Limited resources that come with being on an island
- Emergency preparedness and seismic vulnerabilities considered
- Steps being taken for a clear public communication plan
- Water treatment impacts to fish population (salmon)

This presentation was received for information.

4.2 [24-217](#) Correspondence: Island Health: Filtration of Greater Victoria Water Supply System, February 6, 2024

Attachments: [Correspondence: Island Health, Filtration of Greater Victoria Water Supply System](#)

This correspondence was received for information.

5. ADJOURNMENT

**MOVED by Commissioner Stock and SECONDED by Commissioner Coleman,
That the March 1, 2024 Regional Water Supply Commission special meeting be
adjourned at 11:40 am.
CARRIED**

CHAIR

SECRETARY