



Making a difference...together

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE Saanich Peninsula Water Commission, held Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 9:30 am, Training Room 2, Sidney Community Safety Building, 2245 Oakville Ave, Sidney BC

PRESENT: Commissioners: D. Kelbert (Chair); M. Doehnel (Vice Chair); S. Duncan; D. Halldorson; P. Jones (EP); C. McNeil-Smith; C. Pinches; S. Shrivastava (EP); R. Windsor (EP)

Staff: A. Fraser, General Manager, Integrated Water Services; J. Marr, Senior Manager, Infrastructure Engineering; S. Irg, Senior Manager, Water Infrastructure Operations; G. Harris (EP), Senior Manager, Environmental Programs; J. Dales, Senior Manager, Wastewater Infrastructure Operations; D. Dionne, Administrative Coordinator, Integrated Water Services (Recorder)

Also in Attendance: D. Puskas, Director of Engineering, District of Central Saanich

REGRETS: Z. King

EP = Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 am.

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The General Manager provided the Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Election conducted by the General Manager, Integrated Water Services.

The General Manager called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission for 2024.

Commissioner Duncan nominated Commissioner Kelbert. Commissioner Kelbert accepted the nomination.

The General Manager called for nominations a second time.

The General Manager called for nominations a third and final time.

Hearing no further nominations, the General Manager declared Commissioner Kelbert Chair of the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission for 2024 by acclamation.

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Election conducted by the Chair.

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission for 2024.

Chair Kelbert nominated Commissioner Doehnel. Commissioner Doehnel accepted the nomination.

The Chair called for nominations a second time.
The Chair called for nominations a third and final time.

Hearing no further nominations, the Chair declared Commissioner Doehnel Vice Chair of the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission for 2024 by acclamation.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Commissioner Halldorson, **SECONDED** by Commissioner McNeil-Smith,
That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by Commissioner Halldorson, **SECONDED** by Commissioner McNeil-Smith,
That the minutes of the October 19, 2023 meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

6. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair thanked everyone for participating and for the time they dedicate to this Commission. He appreciated everyone's commitment to this public service.

7. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

There were no presentations or delegations.

8. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

8.1. 2024 Saanich Peninsula Water Commission Work Plan

A. Fraser introduced the item. She stated that the work plan is a working document that will be used to communicate between staff and commissioners. Feedback from the Commission on other topics or reports can be provided through the Chair to staff.

The Commission requested that staff provide an update in July, ahead of the October budget meeting, identifying any significant projected changes to the 2025 Capital Plan.

9. COMMISSION BUSINESS

9.1. Saanich Peninsula Water Commission Amalgamation with the Regional Water Supply Commission – Feasibility Study

A. Fraser introduced the report and noted that it is to inform the commission of a referral motion staff received from the District of Central Saanich. She advised that there may be an unnecessary layer of governance and that the best course of action would be a feasibility study which would cost approximately \$40,000, with no amendments to rates and would take approximately six months to complete.

Discussion ensued and staff responded to questions from the Commission and the following comments were raised:

- How the public members of the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission would be represented at the Regional Water Supply Commission.

R. Windsor joined the meeting

- Provide a better more efficient use of the current Commission, review the terms of this commission and its ability to be more involved.
- Implications to the Water Advisory Committee for having peninsula representation, opportunity to move the First Nation representative to the Regional Water Supply Commission.
- The scope of the study would look at how to rebalance the two Commissions and review the pros and cons.
- Prudence of moving forward with a review as there may be a duplication of efforts
- Implications to water rates

MOVED by Commissioner Duncan, **SECONDED** by Commissioner McNeil-Smith,

1. That staff be directed to undertake a feasibility study to explore the implications of amalgamating the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission with the Regional Water Supply Commission; and,
2. That this report be referred to the Regional Water Supply Commission for information.

CARRIED

9.2. Appointment of Representative to the Water Advisory Committee [Verbal]

MOVED by Commissioner McNeil-Smith, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Duncan,
That the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission appoint its Vice Chair to the Water Advisory Committee for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.

CARRIED

9.3. Summary of Recommendations from Other Water Commissions

There is no recommendation, this report is for information only.

9.4. Water Watch Report

There is no recommendation, this report is for information only.

10. NOTICE(S) OF MOTION

There were none.

11. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Commissioner Halldorson, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Duncan,
That the January 18, 2024 meeting be adjourned at 10:04 am.

CARRIED

CHAIR

SECRETARY