



Making a difference...together

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE Saanich Peninsula Water Commission, held Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 9:30 am, Meeting Room, Sidney Community Safety Building (Fire Hall), 2245 Oakville Ave, Sidney BC

PRESENT: Commissioners: D. Kelbert (Chair); M. Doehnel (Vice Chair); S. Duck for S. Duncan; D. Halldorson; Z. King; C. McNeil-Smith; C. Pinches (EP); S. Shrivastava (EP)

Staff: A. Fraser, General Manager, Integrated Water Services; G. Harris (EP), Senior Manager, Environmental Programs; J. Dales, Senior Manager, Wastewater Infrastructure Operations; Ye Li, Senior Financial Advisor; D. Dionne, Administrative Coordinator, Integrated Water Services (Recorder)

REGRETS: P. Jones; R. Windsor

EP = Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am.

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chair Kelbert provided the Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by Commissioner Halldorson, **SECONDED** by Commissioner King,
That the minutes of the January 18, 2024 meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

4. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair reminded Commissioners to stay as open-minded as possible when considering all options on the table.

5. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

6. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

6.1. Amalgamation Study Update

A. Fraser noted that this was presented to the Regional Water Supply Commission for information.

7. COMMISSION BUSINESS

7.1. Implications of Organizing an Annual Speaker Series for Saanich Peninsula Community

A. Fraser introduced the report.

Commissioner King stated that he was proud to have been involved in organizing the three-day Water in the City conference and that it was very comprehensive. He noted that the intention of the motion wasn't meant to be that extensive. He appreciated the effort staff put into the report to outline the implications related to such an undertaking. He further noted that the intent was to have a smaller-scale, one speaker per year, CRD-hosted event with third party topics on emerging concerns that are not necessarily CRD-centric.

There was discussion regarding the feasibility of having the motion go through the Regional Water Supply Commission to be considered in the 2025 Strategic Plan and whether Alternative 2 in the staff report would be a more effective route for the motion.

MOVED by Commissioner King, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Duck,
That the motion be referred to the Regional Water Supply Commission for consideration as part of the 2025 Strategic Plan refresh.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Having online presentations versus in-person presentations.
- Whether there would be support for a small-scale speaker series with funding provide from the three participating municipalities.

MOVED by Commissioner King, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Dohenel,
That the motion on the floor be tabled to allow discussion and consideration of another option.

CARRIED

Discussion ensued regarding:

- The differing mandates of the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission and the Regional Water Supply Commission.
- Keeping the speaker series local by requesting funding from the three Saanich Peninsula municipal councils.
- Concern for setting precedent for a CRD Commission requesting funding from municipalities for a CRD initiative.
- Offloading of costs on to municipalities.

MOVED by Commissioner Doehnel, **SECONDED** by Commissioner King,
That the Chair write to the three Saanich Peninsula municipalities requesting their consideration of providing funding in a total of \$20,000, split among the three participating municipalities.

DEFEATED

Opposed: Unanimous

The tabled motion was raised.

Commissioners spoke to the motion noting the following:

- Implications of setting a precedent with a speaker series and what affect that

may have on the 200 services within the CRD, would that become an expectation of the public as a new form of engagement.

- Forwarding the motion to the Regional Water Supply Commission allows the discussion to continue at the regional level where public engagement is within their prevue.

MOVED by Commissioner King, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Duck,
That the motion be referred to the Regional Water Supply Commission for consideration as part of the 2025 Strategic Plan refresh.

CARRIED

Opposed: McNeil-Smith, Pinches, Shrivastava

The Commission requested that staff provide them with the Regional Water Supply Commission recommendation wording that will be provided for the consideration of a speaker series in the 2025 Strategic Plan. The wording should include:

- Intent is to be small, localized one or two speakers per year
- Virtual
- CRD-hosted

7.2. Summary of Recommendations from Other Water Commissions

The item was received for information.

7.3. Water Watch Report

The report was received for information.

8. NOTICE(S) OF MOTION

There were none.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Doehnel provided an update on activities at the Water Advisory Committee noting that;

- The Committee is holding extra meetings outside the regular meetings with lots of good discussions.
- There a very robust set of individuals who bring a lot to the table. The members are very committed to working to make their voices heard.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Commissioner King, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Halldorson,
That the March 21, 2024 meeting be adjourned at 10:31 am.

CARRIED

CHAIR

SECRETARY