



Making a difference...together

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE Skana Water Service Committee, held Friday, June 16, 2023 at 9:30 a.m., In the Goldstream Meeting Room, 479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC**

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**PRESENT: Committee Members:** W. Korol (Chair) (EP); P. Brent (EA Director) (EP); B. Hill (EP); R. Johnston (EP)

**Staff:** J. Marr, Acting Senior Manager, Infrastructure Engineering; J. Kelly, Manager, Capital Projects; C. Moch, Manager, Water Quality; M. Risvold (Recorder)

**REGRETS:** Mitch Bentley (Vice Chair)

EP = Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 am.

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOVED** by P. Brent, **SECONDED** by B. Hill,  
That the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED**

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The following was added to Item 8.1 of the minutes:

"The Committee requested a tank action plan from staff consisting of high-level costs and long-term timeline showing the entire project life cycle (starting with options identification and analysis, through project design and installation) ensuring that funding is available at each annual budget stage to ensure that the tank replacement or repair project can move forward."

**MOVED** by P. Brent, **SECONDED** by B. Hill,  
That the minutes of the February 10, 2023 meeting be adopted as amended.

**CARRIED**

**3. CHAIR'S REMARKS**

The Chair made no remarks.

**4. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS**

There were none.

**5. SENIOR MANAGER'S REPORT**

J. Marr advised the water conservation bylaw has been approved by the board and is now in effect. Water conservation is now mandatory with the potential for enforcement. An insert with frequently asked questions will be included in the June water bills. Stage 1 is from May 1 until September 30. Sandwich boards will be modified to reflect mandatory water conservation. Staff will send the approved water conservation bylaw to the committee as requested.

Staff advised there is an internal grant opportunity for growing communities which is linked to affordable housing. Staff applied for the grant in the amount of \$619,000.

## **6. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **6.1. 2022 Annual Report**

J. Marr spoke to Item 6.1.

In response to a question from the committee regarding the well levels, staff advised there are currently no concerns and well levels are higher than last year suggesting the community may be using less water.

### **6.2. Project and Operations Update**

J. Kelly spoke to Item 6.2.

Staff advised a debrief meeting was held with the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) team, and noted the following:

- ICIP received several competitive applications.
- Capital Regional District (CRD) grant applications for ICIP fall under the Vancouver Island region, which includes the Gulf Islands, who have received a fair amount of funding regarding environmental quality.
- There are currently no further grant intakes planned.
- Applications received were competitive, regulatory driven and related to climate resiliency.
- Asset management could be stronger in the service.
- Lack of documentation indicating community support to fund the remaining 25% if the grant was successful.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Long-term plan to address the current tanks.
- Acceptable low-cost solution for the tanks.
- Putting a small dollar value aside from the reserve fund.
- Ability to use poly tanks.
- Alternative Approval Process (AAP).
- Affordable long-term option for the tank replacement.
- Including an options analysis in the budget prior to an AAP.
- Well decommissioning.
- Concern regarding debris found around a well to be decommissioned.

Staff responded to a question from the committee regarding the disinfection by-products (DBP) management plan provided to Island Health (IH). Staff advised a letter was sent to IH, which included short- and long-term action plans. Options include reducing the chlorine dosage to a degree that is still acceptable for proper disinfection. Another approach would be to reduce the organics in the well water. Mid-term action items include trying to fix the leak in the aquifer where surface water gets in. If leak repairs do not fix the issue, the long-term action plan would be to upgrade treatment to remove organics which is costly.

P. Brent left the meeting at 10:04 am.

The committee asked if there is value in advising the community that DBP levels climb during the rainy season and to take precautionary steps. Staff advised if DBP levels rise over the maximum allowable concentration, a notice will be sent out to the community, and noted DBP's are not an acute short term health issue. Staff advised Health Canada uses a rolling annual average and are satisfied with quarterly testing. Additional sampling can be done at the cost of the service. Discussion ensued.

Staff will provide an update to the committee via email regarding an on-island operator.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED** by R. Johnston, **SECONDED** by W. Korol,  
That the June 16, 2023 meeting be adjourned at 10:49 am.

**CARRIED**

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**CHAIR**

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**SECRETARY**