



Making a difference...together

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE Sticks Allison Water Local Service Committee, held Thursday, November 24, 2022 at 9:30 a.m., In the Goldstream Meeting Room, 479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC

PRESENT: Committee Members: B. Russell (Chair); J. Fenby; M. Menyhart; H. Schofield

Staff: J. Marr, Acting Senior Manager, Infrastructure Engineering; J. Dales, Acting Senior Manager, Wastewater Infrastructure Operations; J. Kelly, Manager, Capital Projects; D. Robson, Manager, Saanich Peninsula and Gulf Islands Operations; L. Xu, Manager, Finance Services; M. Risvold, Committee and Administrative Clerk (recorder)

REGRETS: P. Brent, Electoral Area Director

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following items were added to New Business:

- 8.1.** November 14 heavy metal testing and brief water outage
- 8.2.** Tax inserts listing expenses
- 8.3.** Sticks Allison service connection oversight
- 8.4.** Update on water conservation bylaw
- 8.5.** Correspondence received regarding price increase
- 8.6.** August 29, 2022 email correspondence to Committee
- 8.7.** Hydrant maintenance

MOVED by H. Schofield, **SECONDED** by J. Fenby,
That the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The last sentence of item 2 was amended to read "Staff advised there is no evidence the pipes or a join in the pipes is at undue risk from vehicle traffic, even if by large machines."

Item 6.1 was amended to read "Staff advised the Aquifer Impact Study (22-02) will be removed from the 2023 budget and noted that the October 26, 2021 minutes reflect postponing the Aquifer Impact Study. Discussion ensued, during which all committee members expressed that they were strongly against funding a local Aquifer Impact study."

MOVED by H. Schofield, **SECONDED** by J. Fenby,
That the minutes of the June 30, 2022 meeting be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

3. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair expressed gratitude for the water system.

4. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

There were none.

5. SENIOR MANAGER’S REPORT

J. Dales introduced himself and advised he is looking forward to working with the Committee.

6. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

6.1. 2023 Operating and Capital Budget

J. Dales presented the report.

Staff responded to a question from the Committee regarding the installation of heat trace equipment. Staff advised the back portion of the building was not as well insulated as the main building, and during the 2021 cold weather event the pipe froze. To protect against freezing, a permanent wire was placed around the pipes. The wire is plugged in when cold weather begins.

The Committee asked questions regarding the dedicated on-island Manager of Operations who will be based on Salt Spring Island. Staff advised the Manager will primarily oversee Gulf Island’s operations, and on-island operators will report to the new manager. The Committee expressed concern regarding the additional salary.

The Committee asked questions regarding Capital Project 24-01 Source Water Surveillance. Staff advised the project is driven by drought response planning. A level transducer would be installed which provides well metering and live data to assist with drought emergency planning by recording any changes with water use, noting the current operator works on-island part time. The depth of the well is measured weekly during summer months, and bi-weekly during the off season. The level transducers would allow a more extensive drought plan for the service. The equipment will allow for a quicker response, and invaluable to remote operations on the Gulf Islands. There would be no ongoing expense with the exception of system maintenance.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Leak detection
- SCADA data
- Cost concerns

The Committee advised they do not agree with Capital Project 24-01 and feel it is not beneficial to the service. Staff recommended the Committee considers drought response planning, and proposed amending the budget to defer the project. Staff advised the project is slated for 2024 and can be reconsidered at the next budget meeting.

MOVED by H. Schofield, **SECONDED** by J. Fenby,
That the Sticks Allison Water Local Service Committee remove Capital Project 24-01 Source Water Surveillance budgeted for \$20,000 from the 2023 Operating and Capital Budget.

CARRIED
Opposed: Russell

Staff recommended leaving the project on the five-year plan in the event a grant becomes available, advising there is the ability to defer the project at a later date. Future plans can be adjusted, and Community Works Funds are available at the discretion of the Electoral Area Director.

MOVED by M. Menyhart, **SECONDED** by J. Fenby,
That the Sticks Allison Water Local Service Committee:

Approve the 2023 operating and capital budget as amended to remove Capital Project 24-01 Source Water Surveillance budgeted for \$20,000 and that the 2022 actual operating deficit be balanced on 2022 Reserve Funds transfer (CRF and/or ORF); and

Recommends that the Electoral Areas Committee recommend that the CRD Board approve the 2023 Operating and Capital Budget and the five-year Financial Plan for the Sticks Allison Water Service as amended.

CARRIED AS AMENDED
Opposed: Russell

Staff communicated all potential risks to the Committee of removing the project from the capital plan.

6.2. PROJECT AND OPERATIONS UPDATE

Staff provided the Project and Operations Update to the Committee.

The Committee requested that the number of customers be updated from 35 to 37.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. November 14 heavy metal testing and brief water outage

The Committee advised there was heavy metal testing done on November 14, 2022 and a brief water outage. Staff stated they were unaware of the outage and will look into this matter, and that the community will be notified of scheduled outages.

8.2. Tax inserts listing expenses

The Committee expressed concern arising on social media regarding tax inserts that list expenses. Staff advised there is a lack of space to include more information and will attempt to fix the readability. An asterisk with further detail will be included on the next tax insert.

8.3. Sticks Allison service connection oversight

The Committee feels the water service should be credited for the oversight, and the resident should not be liable. Staff will investigate the issue and ability to credit the water service for the issue.

8.4. Update on water conservation bylaw

Staff advised the water conservation bylaw will be available for the Committee's review in early 2023.

8.5. Correspondence received regarding price increase

The Committee requested staff to provide any feedback regarding the price increase.

8.6. August 29, 2022 email correspondence to Committee

Correspondence sent to Committee from staff on August 29, 2022 is on file and available upon request.

8.7. Hydrant maintenance

The Committee expressed concern as the Fire Department advised their couplings do not fit the hydrants, and due to the age of the pipes feel that sudden pressure will cause the pipes to collapse. Staff advised there is no concerns regarding the risks from the Fire Department, and there should be an adapter available to allow use of the hydrants. Staff advised they are available to communicate with the Fire Chief to ensure the hydrants are operational.

Additional discussion of the 2023 Operating and Capital Budget ensued regarding ORF/CRF increase, staff advised it is a projection.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by H. Schofield, **SECONDED** by J. Fenby,
That the November 24, 2022 meeting be adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR

SECRETARY