Making a difference...together

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING OF THE WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held Thursday, October 13, 2011 in the Council Chambers, Saanich Municipal Hall,
770 Vernon Avenue, Victoria, BC

PRESENT: B. Wilkes (C), J. Coward, M. Doehnel, E. Dyck, R. Henderson, E. Loring-Kuhanga, M. Lougher-Goodey, G. Orr, B. Proud, J. Rogers, F. Schulz, L. Waters
Staff: J. Hull, T. Tanton, G. Joyce, J. van Niekerk, T. Robbins, M. Roxborough, J. Ussery, M. Montague (Recorder)

ABSENT: M. Gingras, D. Spinner, M. Hall

PUBLIC: 11 members of the public were in attendance.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by J. Rogers, **SECONDED** by G. Orr,
that the Water Advisory Committee approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION AND REMARKS

B. Wilkes welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that the Water Advisory Committee is one of several volunteer committees that provide advice to the Capital Regional District. The Water Advisory Committee's job is to provide advice to the Regional Water Supply Commission and the Committee has been asked to provide some advice on the Strategic Plan for the Greater Victoria Water Supply System. He noted that the present plan was developed by Integrated Water Services' staff and given to the Water Advisory Committee for comment. Before the Water Advisory Committee makes recommendations to the Regional Water Supply Commission, they want to hear what the public has to say about it. Copies of the plan are available, together with a feedback form.

The members of the Water Advisory Committee introduced themselves.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE GREATER VICTORIA WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

J. Hull, General Manager, Integrated Water Services and G. Joyce, Senior Manager, Watershed Protection made a presentation on the Strategic Plan for the Greater Victoria Water Supply System.

4. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Chair opened the floor to questions/comments from members of the public.

Speakers:

Dr. Shaun Peck, Medical Health Officer for the CRD from 1995-2004
Dr. Peck congratulated the water department on the progress made over the past 20 years. He noted that he first met Jack Hull during the Toxoplasmosis outbreak in the water system due to feral cats in the watershed. The water department was looking at international best practices for water quality at that time. Integrated Water Services has improved monitoring and now has a great system which is well-managed using state of the art disinfection with few vulnerabilities; He also expressed concern with water rates particularly in Saanich, Oak Bay and Victoria where water use is now based on sewer volume.

Harold Wolfe, Saanich resident
Mr. Wolfe commented that there have been big changes in the region since the 1990's. He stated that he cannot believe that garburetors are still legal and that high flush toilets are still available for purchase at second hand stores. He commented on climate change, the economy, fuel supply, food, and carbon offsets.

There were no further questions or comments from the public.

5. NEXT STEPS

The comments will be compiled and reviewed at the next meeting of the Water Advisory Committee.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.