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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at 9 a.m. in the Goldstream Conference Room,
479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC

PRESENT: R. Mersereau (Chair); D. Blundon (Vice-Chair); A. Gibson; G. Orr (9:08); M. Williams; N. Banera; C. Nowakowski; R. Neuman, S. Sinclair (9:16)

Staff: T. Robbins, General Manager, Integrated Water Service (IWS); G. Harris, Senior Manager, Environmental Protection; T. Duthie, Manager Administration Services, IWS; D. Dionne (Recorder)

Absent: M. Demeulenaere; G. Logan; T. Wood; J. Rogers

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following changes were made to the agenda.

That the Water Advisory Committee consider Item 8 before Item 7.

MOVED by M. Williams and **SECONDED** by A. Gibson,
That the Water Advisory Committee approve the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2018

MOVED by R. Neuman and **SECONDED** by D. Blundon,
That the Water Advisory Committee adopt the minutes of the March 7, 2018 meeting.

CARRIED

3. CHAIRS REMARKS

The Chair made the following remarks:

- The Chair advised that she is running for Saanich Council and the Capital Regional District. She asked the Committee if anyone had any concerns with her carrying on as Chair during the campaign period, there were none.
- While conducting some door knocking for her Saanich candidacy she received a comment from a member of the public that speaks to an unintended consequence of better water conservation in the region. This resident, a landscaper, has noticed that Garry Oak trees appear to be suffering/dying as a result of properties changing hands and new owners not watering the way previous owners had. The Chair noted this as an opportunity for municipalities to be cognizant of the needs of the native species.

Geoff Orr joined the meeting.

4. HOTSHEETS FROM THE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY COMISSION

T. Robbins stated that there was a water conservation bylaw amendment presented at the September 19, 2018 meeting that may be of interest to this Committee.

He noted that a component of Bylaw No. 4099 was a ban on once-through cooling (OTC) equipment effective, January 1, 2019. He advised that staff became aware of changes to the BC Building Code (BCBC) that had the potential to affect some Capital Regional District (CRD) services.

Staff met with representatives from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and learned that the Bylaw No. 4099 prohibition against OTC equipment was in conflict with the revised BCBC. In response to these provincial changes, Bylaw No. 4248 amends the existing Water Conservation Bylaw No. 4099 to remove definitions and sections related to OTC.

He advised that there will be more education and engagement activities around the once-through cooling systems. Work in this area will continue.

MOVED by A. Gibson and **SECONDED** by M. Williams,
That the Water Advisory Committee receive the Regional Water Supply Commission Hotsheets for information.

CARRIED

5. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

The Chair noted that the Committee held a working meeting in early July to discuss some municipal water data. As a result of that meeting there were a number of questions that arose and were forwarded to staff for follow up which will be discussed under Item 8.

S. Sinclair joined the meeting

There was follow up on questions around bottling water facilities in the Region and whether they have unique contracts that grant them rights beyond any other water user or municipality. She advised that, in discussion with T. Robbins, there are no special contracts in place with those entities.

Currently waiting for information from staff regarding emergency water supply planning and water value and conservation initiatives.

6. EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY PLANNING UPDATE

T. Robbins provided the following update on the post-disaster water supply plan:

- The concept for the plan has been approved by the Regional Water Supply Commission. Staff are working with the three budgets (Regional Water Supply, Juan de Fuca Water Distribution and Saanich Peninsula Water Service) to implement the plan.
- The work planned for 2018 was for installation of the bulk water supply hydrants, six priority locations were identified and he reviewed the installation locations and process.
- There is a contract in place with Smith Cameron to build a fully mobile system to connect to these hydrants as well as a second unit is being built that will be housed in a SeaCan and will be pre-plumbed with quick connections. This will be a permanent installation at Panorama Recreation Centre as a demonstration. Staff are hoping to have both units by spring of 2019.

Discussion ensued with staff responding to questions regarding:

- the total number of bulk water hydrants being considered for installation
- consideration of locations in Sooke area
- redundancy
- the delivery plans for the SeaCan and how it will be mobilized
- resources required to staff the distribution points
- distinction of roles of the Municipalities and the public
- security

7. 2019 REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY SERVICE BUDGET OVERVIEW

This Item was considered after Item 8.

T. Robbins presented an overview of the Regional Water Supply Commission presentation.

Discussion ensued and staff responded to questions from the Commission regarding debt servicing and reaching sustainable level of cash funding through cash reserve.

8. MUNICIPAL WATER USE DATA – DISCUSSION REGARDING WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE QUESTIONS

This Item was considered before Item 7.

The Water Advisory Committee forwarded questions to staff regarding municipal water data. Staff responded to the questions as follows:

Question 1 - How reliable is this data, how is it gathered, how can it be used and can it be accessed publically?

Staff have some degree of confidence in the data, however municipalities collect data differently. At this time staff rely on how the municipalities collect the data and how it's broken down. Staff are working out the overall water consumption profile. Once that data analysis is complete then municipalities will need to be engaged.

One of the key initiatives in the Regional Water Supply strategic plan is to reshape the demand management plan. There was no clear objectives for the program, no understanding of where we could look at reduction in different sectors. Getting better information from the municipalities, by category and sector, then look at focussing the Demand Management program.

Staff will be bringing forward a re-vamped program in a year or so with clear objectives and target areas.

Staff don't recommend sharing this data without framing it around the longer-term demand objectives. Once the new Demand Management program documentation is in place, the info will become more relevant.

Making data available publically provides a municipal comparison and would help the municipalities understand their demands. Staff can consider how to present the data publically.

Question 2 – When reviewing the different Municipalities and their water use there are some anomalies. For example there was a lot of high residential water use in Oak Bay, Central Saanich and North Saanich – do we know why that is? There is also some non-revenue water in some communities relative to others why would that be?

Staff are just starting to break that down. In Oak Bay for example there is not a lot of industrial/commercial, on the Peninsula there has typically been a lot of water flushing to maintain quality. Staff continue to review the data to understand what may be going on, once that is understood staff can work with each municipality on their variations. Staff are looking to get service agreements in place with the municipalities noting their maximum pinch point to encourage them to start thinking about planning to support growth.

Question 3 – Breaking down the Western Communities Electoral Areas.

Staff will expand the table to include the municipal breakdown through the Juan de Fuca water billing.

G. Harris left the meeting

9. 2018 / 2019 WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LIST AND MEETING SCHEDULE

Staff noted expiring membership terms at the end of this year and a couple of vacancies and proposed advertising for new members following the Municipal elections.

Once the advertisement is available, staff will forward to Water Advisory Committee members for them to distribute to their contacts.

There will be no working meetings in the interim.

10. WATER WATCH

MOVED by R. Neuman and **SECONDED** by A. Gibson,
That the Water Advisory Committee receive the report for information.

CARRIED

11. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by M. Williams and **SECONDED** by R. Neuman,
That the Water Advisory Committee be adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR

SECRETARY