



Making a difference...together

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 1:30 p.m., Goldstream Conference Room, 479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC

PRESENT: **Members:** G. Baird; E. Cote; R. Hunsinger; T. Krawczyk; P. Lennox; C. Nowakowski; J. Rogers; K. Sander; S. Sinclair; H. Thompson; D. Timothy; J. Todd
 Staff: T. Robbins, General Manager; A. Constabel, Senior Manager, Watershed Protection; G. Harris, Senior Manager, Environmental Protection; T. Urquhart, Communications Coordinator; D. Dionne (Recorder)

REGRETS: D. Lee; M. Thompson; M. Turner

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 1

1. CALL TO ORDER

T. Robbins called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

T. Robbins lead a round table of introductions.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR

T. Robbins called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Water Advisory Committee for 2020.

G. Baird nominated R. Hunsinger, R. Hunsinger accepted the nomination.

T. Robbins called for nominations a second time.

S. Sinclair nominated G. Baird, G. Baird declined the nomination.

T. Robbins called for nominations a third and final time.

Hearing no further nominations, T. Robbins declared R. Hunsinger Chair of the Water Advisory Committee for 2020 by acclamation.

4. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Chair Hunsinger called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Water Advisory Committee for 2020.

S. Sinclair nominated J. Rogers, J. Rogers declined the nomination.

G. Baird nominated J. Todd, J. Todd accepted the nomination.

Chair Hunsinger called for nominations a second time.

Chair Hunsinger called for nominations a third and final time.

Hearing no further nominations, Chair Hunsinger declared J. Todd Vice Chair of the Water Advisory Committee for 2020 by acclamation.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by G. Baird and **SECONDED** by J. Rogers,
That the agenda for the January 23, 2020 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

6. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by J. Rogers and **SECONDED** by G. Baird,
That the minutes from the October 8, 2019 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

7. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Hunsinger remarked that he is looking forward to a year of working together and getting things done.

8. WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WAC) ORIENTATION MATERIALS

T. Robbins reviewed the orientation materials included in the Agenda package and made the following additional comments:

- a) Committee Terms of Reference
 - The primary role of the Committee is to provide advice to the RWSC.
 - The document was updated in 2014 to provide operating guidelines.
 - Staff will bring issues to this Committee for advice to be brought forward to the RWSC, additionally the RWSC may ask the Committee to review items for consideration and discussion.

Discussion ensued regarding Water Advisory Committee (WAC) working groups. Staff advised that the working groups were formed as informal groups to discuss topics of priority and interest. Staff do not attend or support the working group meetings. The meetings are generally left to the groups to coordinate and manage. Staff provide the meeting space for the working groups.

The Committee requested that "Working Group Format" be added to the next agenda.

- b) 2020 Membership List
 - Attached for information
- c) 2020 Meeting Schedule
 - The Committee meets every two months. If there are no urgent items or reports, meetings may be cancelled in consultation with the Chair.
 - Members can forward agenda items to the Chair with a copy to T. Robbins and D. Dionne.
- d) Regional Water Supply Orientation Presentation
 - Attached for information

- e) Regional Water Supply Strategic Plan (hand out)
 - A concise strategic document based on three high level commitments with strategic priorities and initiatives over a five-year period.
 - Looking at updating this document in 2022/2023.

- f) 2020 Priority Initiatives
 - T. Robbins reviewed the five priority initiatives and provided the following additional information:
 - (1) Long Term Water Supply and Demand Management
 - (2) Water Quality
 - (3) Major Capital Projects
 - (4) Water Rates
 - Agriculture
 - First Nations
 - (5) Water Supply Area – Land Acquisition Strategy

Discussion ensued regarding the operation of large dams, such as the Sooke Lake reservoir dam.

9. REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION REPORTS

T. Robbins noted the two reports that were received by the RWSC in November and staff provided the following additional information.

- Overview of 2019 Wildfire Management – Greater Victoria Water Supply Area
 - The CRD has an extensive wildfire management program, as one of the biggest risks to the water supply is wildfire. A major wildfire would provide significant loading of organic and inorganic material into the reservoirs and the water supply system currently has no filtration process.
 - Operationally the fire danger rating system is used.
 - A three-year fuel management project on Horton ridge was completed. This area was rated most likely to receive the most lightning strikes. Powerlines is another issue and maintaining shade is used as fuel management in those areas. Staff assess for danger trees annually and remove as necessary.
 - It is a long planning process to apply prescribed burns as a fuel management option; this has never been done here.
 - Researchers are looking at sediment cores, reviewing vegetation and wildfire over time. Charcoal records indicate there were significant wildfires historically.
 - There is some wildlife management in the area for species that are a concern to water quality, e.g. the American Bullfrog; there are very few beaver in the water supply area.

- Overview of Greater Victoria pH & Corrosion Study – Interim Results
 - The Federal guidelines around maximum acceptable lead concentration in drinking water changed from 10 micrograms to 5 micrograms in 2019.
 - Staff are currently expanding the sampling program to include about 170 sample sites including near the ends of the distribution systems.
 - Tap sampling will be conducted as part of the next phase of the study.
 - Older plumbing fixtures will have a higher probability of lead concentration.

- Staff have put forward this multi-phase approach to the municipalities and Island Health.
- A second round of sampling will be conducted soon to have a complete a set of cold water and warm water samples to compare.
- Looking to select a tap sampling area that would include 50 to 100 residences.
- There is a four-page FAQ on the website.

Discussion ensued and staff responded to questions from the Committee regarding:

- Flushing taps
- Ensuring fixtures purchased are non-lead containing
- The procedure for implementing tap sampling

3:47 C. Nowakowski left the meeting.

10. WEEKLY WATER WATCH REPORT

T. Robbins advised that the water watch report is posted weekly on the CRD website and provides an update on storage levels.

MOVED by J. Rogers and **SECONDED** by G. Baird,
That the January 12, 2020 Water Watch Report be received for information.

CARRIED

11. HOTSHEETS FROM THE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION

T. Robbins advised that this is a summary of decisions from the Commission.

MOVED by G. Baird and **SECONDED** by T. Krawczyk,
That the Regional Water Supply Commission Hotsheets be received for information.

CARRIED

12. REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION AGENDA PACKAGE

- November 2019

MOVED by G. Baird and **SECONDED** by E. Cote,
That the Regional Water Supply Commission agenda package be received for information.

CARRIED

13. NEW BUSINESS

The Committee agreed to hold a regular business meeting on February 27, 2020 to set out the working group meetings.

The Committee allowed a delegation from Michael Doehnel on behalf of the Peninsula and Area Agricultural Committee (PAAC). Mr. Doehnel addressed the Committee regarding a recommendation from the RWSC asking the Water Advisory Committee to investigate agricultural water rates.

T. Robbins advised that a letter from the PAAC, outlining proposed agricultural rate and financial considerations has been received. The correspondence was reviewed by both the Regional and Saanich Peninsula Water Commissions.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by G. Baird and **SECONDED** by J. Todd,
That the Water Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

CARRIED

Chair

Secretary