



Making a difference...together

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 1:30 p.m., Goldstream Conference Room, 479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC

PRESENT: **Members:** R. Hunsinger (Chair); J. Todd (Vice Chair); R. Barnhart; G. Baird; E. Cote; T. Krawczyk; P. Lennox; J. Rogers; K. Sander; H. Thompson; D. Timothy; M. Turner
Staff: T. Robbins, General Manager; A. Constabel, Senior Manager, Watershed Protection; D. Dionne (Recorder)

REGRETS: D. Lee; C. Nowakowski; S. Sinclair

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 1

The meeting was called to order at 1:36 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Hunsinger requested that the Water Advisory Committee (WAC) be notified when the Regional Water Supply Commission (RWSC) meeting agenda packages are posted rather than attaching them to the WAC meeting agenda for information.

The Committee discussed options for keeping the meeting on time and it was noted that timing expectations can be given to agenda items as the meeting progresses. The Chair committed to ending the meeting on time.

MOVED by G. Baird and **SECONDED** by T. Krawczyk,
That the agenda for the February 27, 2020 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by G. Baird and **SECONDED** by J. Todd,
That the minutes from the January 23, 2020 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair provided a handout of his update to the RWSC in February. He advised that he spoke to the skill-set of this Committee's members and that today is its first opportunity to provide feedback in its advisory role.

4. WAC 20-01 GREATER VICTORIA WATER SUPPLY AREA LAND ACQUISITION PRIORITIES

T. Robbins introduced the report noting that staff are seeking to receive input on this initiative. A more fulsome report will be presented to the RWSC in March. He stated that this is an important priority for the CRD.

A. Constabel reviewed the seven priority areas providing details on the reasons for each priority and its priority level.
Staff provided an overview of the catchment areas and buffer lands.

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

- Boundaries, catchment lands and lands adjacent to catchment (buffer) lands
 - Delineate the land priorities better visually - clearly define the buffer lands and the catchment lands
 - Access lands, easements and statutory right-of-ways
- Proximity to critical infrastructure
- Non-catchment lands that could be divested
- Logging lands and forestry plans
- Bylaw enforcement
- General property values and market decline
- Consideration of a land acquisition fund
- Development implications and development rights
- First Nations land considerations
- Municipal Financing Authority (MFA) borrowing process
- Establishing first rights of refusal options
- Land management plans – each parcel has different potentials
- Understanding municipal Official Community Plans
- Pressure to purchase lands as opportunities arise and the need to act
- “Value to CRD” rather than Priorities
 - Avoid ranking the priorities
 - The word “priority” implies a timeline – categorize in a way that doesn’t diminish the catchment and buffer lands
- Assessing risk as well as priority
 - Highlight each property and its implications; add general references to the risk and guidelines for land acquisition
 - Reference to buffer downgrades the sense of priority
 - High-risk versus low-risk areas
 - What is the highest possible risk cost for each category/parcel – worst-case scenario

G. Baird put the following motion on the floor:

That the Water Advisory Committee endorses that the Regional Water Supply Commission adopts a land acquisition process for the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area, as laid out in the report, with the additional input from the Water Advisory Committee and the addition of a land acquisition fund.

Discussion ensued on the motion and the motion was revised and split into two parts:

MOVED by G. Baird and **SECONDED** by J. Todd,

That the Water Advisory Committee endorses that the Regional Water Supply Commission adopts a land acquisition prioritization process for the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area, as laid out in the report, with the addition of the input from the Water Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

MOVED by G. Baird and **SECONDED** by E. Cote,
That the Water Advisory Committee recommends that the Regional Water Supply Commission consider the establishment of a land acquisition reserve fund for the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area.

CARRIED

The staff recommendation was not considered.

The Committee postponed the remainder of the agenda to the next meeting and moved to adjournment.

5. WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

6. WORKING GROUP DISCUSSION

6.1. 2020 Priority Initiatives

- 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
- 6) Dam Safety

6.2. Working Group Establishment and Procedures

- 1) Working Group Focus Areas and Membership
- 2) Staff Subject Matter Support
- 3) Reporting to Committee and Commission

7. REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION

7.1. Agenda Package – February 19, 2020

8. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER WATER COMMISSIONS

9. WEEKLY WATER WATCH REPORT

10. NEW BUSINESS

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee confirmed meeting on March 26, 2020.

MOVED by K. Sander and **SECONDED** by J. Rogers,
That the Water Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

CARRIED

Chair

Secretary