



Making a difference...together

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE, held Thursday, September 2, 2021 at 1:30 pm, Goldstream Meeting Room, 479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC, Victoria, BC**

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**PRESENT:** E. Cote (Chair) (EP); G. Baird; J. Caradonna (EP); M. Doehnel; T. Krawczyk (EP); J. Rogers (EP); K. Sander; W. Scheuer (1:50 pm)(EP); H. Thompson (EP); D. Timothy (EP); J. Todd (EP); M. Turner (EP)

**Staff:** T. Robbins, General Manager; A. Constabel, Senior Manager, Watershed Protection; J. Marr, Manager, Water Distribution & Planning; D. Dionne (Recorder)

**REGRETS:** C. Davis; C. Nowakowski

EP = Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 pm.

**1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Chair Cote provided the territorial acknowledgement.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOVED** by K. Sander, **SECONDED** by G. Baird,  
That the agenda be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**MOVED** by G. Baird, **SECONDED** by M. Doehnel,  
That the minutes of the June 3, 2021 and June 22, 2021 meetings be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**4. CHAIR'S REMARKS**

The Chair thanked staff for including her requested items of interest on the agenda and for their work in preparing to speak to these items.

**5. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS**

There were none.

**6. UPDATES FROM WORKING GROUPS**

- Long term water supply and demand management  
E. Cote advised that the group has not had a chance to meet and there is no report at this time.
- Water Quality  
There was no report.

- Major Capital Projects  
G. Baird advised that he and Wilf met with staff on June 22, 2021 to discuss the major capital projects. Staff are working on a report that will provide some grounds for them to start working on.
- Water Rates  
There was no report.

T. Robbins advised that the request for proposals (RFP) has been drafted and is being referred through Capital Regional District's (CRD) finance staff for review of potential financial implications of the different rate models. Staff are hoping to get the RFP out in the next couple of weeks. All the feedback received from the Working Group was incorporated.

*W. Scheuer joined the meeting.*

## **7. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

### **7.1. Provincial Drought Level 4 – Capital Regional District Water Service Impacts [Verbal Report/Discussion]**

T. Robbins spoke to the item and provided the Provincial definition of drought for context. He noted that the region's early drought and high demand began in June this year however there has been minimal impact on Sooke Lake Reservoir. The reservoir is about 8% lower than average.

He advised that the CRD is not responsible for the smaller water systems and that they rely on groundwater wells or small lakes for their fresh water supply. Both are vulnerable and have seen aquifers draw down with the worst case scenario on Mayne Island this summer. The CRD did truck water to that service to allow the aquifer to recharge.

He noted that customers of these small service areas are well aware of their water use behaviour and how it impacts on their water supply. A Stage 3 water conservation notice was issued early to the small service customers, however there are no bylaws in place to enforce.

T. Robbins responded to questions from the Committee regarding:

- The consideration or use of desalination systems in the small service areas.
- Water Release program for maintaining the salmon habitat.
- Long term solutions for the small water services.

### **7.2. Greater Victoria Water Supply Area Wildfire Management and Water System Capacity [Verbal Report/Discussion]**

T. Robbins introduced the item noting that the request for information came from the Chair and was related to the fire in Lytton, BC this summer. This fire raised some questions regarding the capacity of water systems to deal with large urban fires.

J. Marr provided a PowerPoint presentation with an overview on how urban water systems are designed. He spoke to the following items:

- Water Systems Overview
- Fire Flow Design Requirements
- Fire Underwriters Survey
- Wildfires
- Wildfire Protection Plans

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Building code and fire regulations.
- Fire hazard zones in North Saanich.
- Community wildfire protection plans.
- Various types of fire resistant/retardant housing materials.
- Water sources in parks in urban areas and responsibility for fire response in these areas.
- Water flow and concerns with very large conflagration events or multiple fires.
- Managing water storage within distribution systems.
- Consultant review of the previous Cloak Hill Reservoir capacity study.

*3 pm J. Caradonna and W. Scheuer left the meeting*

### **7.3. Summary of Regional Water Supply Commission Recommendations**

T. Robbins was asked to provide an update on the once-through-cooling motion that was passed at the last Regional Water Supply Commission meeting. He advised that staff will be preparing a report to the next Regional Water Supply Commission meeting that will outline how the rebate program would be implemented, what the rebate would be set at as well as the most recent information on how many once-through-cooling units are out there.

**MOVED** by G. Baird, **SECONDED** by T. Krawczyk,  
That the Summary of Recommendations be received for information.

**CARRIED**

### **7.4. Water Watch Report**

**MOVED** by M. Turner, **SECONDED** by T. Krawczyk,  
That the August 23, 2021 water watch report be received for information.

**CARRIED**

## **8. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

T. Robbins advised that the following members' term on the Committee is expiring on December 31, 2021. He noted that all are concluding their first 2-year term and are able to serve an additional two terms (up to six years). He asked that those members interested in putting their names forward for another term email Denise Dionne (ddionne@crd.bc.ca) with their intention.

- Heather Thompson- Environmental
- Jennifer Todd - Environmental
- Karen Sander – Other Organizations – Environmental/Community Engagement
- Mike Turner – Fish Habitat Protection
- Elise Cote (Chair) – Resident / Ratepayer

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED** by G. Baird, **SECONDED** by T. Krawczyk,  
That the September 2, 2021 meeting be adjourned at 3:23 pm.

**CARRIED**

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**CHAIR**

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**SECRETARY**