



Making a difference...together

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE Water Advisory Committee, held Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 1:30 p.m., Goldstream Meeting Room, 479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC**

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**PRESENT:** G. Baird; J. Caradonna (EP); E. Cote (EP); M. Doehnel (EP); A. Fernandes (EP); C. Noakowski (EP); J. Rogers (EP); W. Scheuer (EP); D. Timothy (EP); H. Thompson (EP); M. Turner (EP)  
**Staff:** T. Robbins, General Manager; D. Dionne, Administrative Coordinator (Recorder)

**REGRETS:** C. Davis; T. Krawczyk; J. Todd

EP = Electronic Participation

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:36 pm.  
T. Robbins conducted a roll call and welcomed Ashley Fernandes to the Committee.

**2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

T. Robbins provided the Acknowledgement.

**3. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

T. Robbins called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Water Advisory Committee for 2022.

G. Baird nominated H. Thompson. H. Thompson accepted the nomination.

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

Hearing no further nominations, T. Robbins declared H. Thompson Chair of the Water Advisory Committee for 2022 by acclamation.

**4. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

T. Robbins called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Water Advisory Committee for 2022.

G. Baird nominated E. Cote. E. Cote accepted the nomination.

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

Hearing no further nominations, T. Robbins declared E. Cote Vice Chair of the Water Advisory Committee for 2022 by acclamation.

H. Thompson assumed the role of Chair.

## 5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**MOVED** by E. Cote, and **SECONDED** by M. Doehnel,  
That the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED**

## 6. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

**MOVED** by Commissioner G. Baird, and **SECONDED** by Commissioner J. Caradonna,  
That the minutes of the December 2, 2021 meeting be adopted.

**CARRIED**

## 7. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair made no remarks.

## 8. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

There were no presentations or delegations.

## 9. UPDATES FROM WORKING GROUPS

- Long term water supply and demand management (Members: E. Cote; J. Todd; M. Turner)

There was no update.

- Water Quality (Members: C. Davis; D. Timothy; W. Scheuer)

There was no update.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Data related to the pH and Corrosion study tap sampling results. Staff to provide details of the sampling locations for the recent samples.
- Ground water well reporting, more information can be found on the Groundwater Wells and Aquifers Provincial Database: <https://apps.nrs.gov.bc.ca/gwells/>.
- Tap sampling procedures and instructions to the homeowners.

- Major Capital Projects (Members: G. Baird; W. Scheuer)

G. Baird reported that the group is awaiting a report from staff regarding major capital projects. Once that is received, the group will be able to better provide input.

- Agricultural Water Rates (Members: T. Krawczyk; J. Caradonna; M. Doehnel)

J. Caradonna reported that the committee has not met since completing its report-out last fall.

T. Robbins reported that the Agricultural Water Rate Review and Options Study Request for Proposals for the consultant was issued last week and closes on March 25. The proposals will be evaluated by the end of March and stakeholder engagement work will begin soon after the consultant is awarded.

Staff to advise the Committee of who the consultant is once that has been confirmed.

## 10. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

### 10.1. Summary of Recommendations from the Regional Water Supply Commission

T. Robbins spoke to the Item. The Agenda package for the February 16, 2022 Regional Water Supply Commission meeting was included for the Committee's information.

T. Robbins reported that there was lots of discussion at the Commission regarding the Westcoast Flyfishers Request for Access and he provided the following details:

- The Leech Water Supply Area has been restricted to public access since 2016.
- A special permit, with conditions, was approved in 2017 to the Westcoast Flyfishers.
- There have been no access requests since that one in 2017, until the Westcoast Flyfishers made their recent request.
- There was discussion at the Commission related to costs associated with staff time due to application processing/approval and the after-hours access.
- A notice of motion was read into the minutes for consideration at the next Commission meeting. If that motion passes it will likely come through the Water Advisory Committee for input.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Freshwater Fisheries and monitoring of impacts to the fish stock related to the access requests.
- Milfoil and the responsible efforts of the applicants.

Staff to provide a brief definition of how the algal activity scoring is conducted (figure 5 of the Water Quality Summary Report).

**MOVED** by G. Baird, and **SECONDED** by D. Timothy,  
That the Water Advisory Committee receive the Summary of Recommendations for information.

**CARRIED**

### 10.2. Water Watch Report

T. Robbins reported that the Sooke Reservoir dipped below full storage capacity due to a dry February but that the rains this past week has seen the reservoir reach full storage capacity again and hopes to maintain full storage until later in the spring when demand increases. He also reported that there are no water quality issues.

A discussion took place related to dam work over the last few years and its' effect on water storage.

T. Robbins advised that work on the Kapoor tunnel was postponed in December due to weather and staffing concerns and the work will go forward in 2023, this postponement does not pose any risk to the tunnel performance.

**MOVED** by W. Scheuer, and **SECONDED** by D. Timothy,  
That the Water Advisory Committee receive the Water Watch Report for information.

**CARRIED**

## 11. PROPOSED 2022 MEETING SCHEDULE

The Commission representatives on the Committee will not be available for meetings in the fall due to the Civic elections and their responsibilities related to that. Also the municipalities will need to appoint members to the various Commissions which could result in changes in representation to the Water Advisory Committee. This does not have an effect on the Committee's ability to meet in the fall as it does not affect quorum.

The June meeting can anticipate a presentation of the Long Term Water Supply Plan.

Quarterly, the first Thursday of the month at 1:30 pm.

- March 3, 2022
- June 2, 2022
- September 1, 2022
- December 1, 2022

## 12. NEW BUSINESS

M. Turner advised that the Ministry of Environment has a climate change discussion paper out for consultation and asked Committee members to consider providing feedback. The survey is located here:

- Watershed Security Provincial Engagement:  
<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/watershedsecurity/>

## 13. ADJOURNMENT

**MOVED** by G. Baird, and **SECONDED** by M. Doehnel,  
That the March 3, 2022 Water Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned at 2:53 pm.

**CARRIED**

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CHAIR

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SECRETARY