



Making a difference...together

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE Water Advisory Committee, held Thursday, September 1, 2022 at 1:30 pm, Goldstream Conference Room, 479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC**

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**PRESENT: Commissioners:** Heather Thompson (Chair); G. Baird; C. Davis (EP); M. Doehnel; A. Fernandes (EP); T. Krawczyk; J. Rogers (EP); W. Scheuer; D. Timothy (EP); M. Turner (EP)

**Staff:** T. Robbins, General Manager; S. Irg, Senior Manager, Integrated Water Operations; D. Dionne, Administrative Coordinator (Recorder)

**REGRETS:** E. Cote (Vice Chair); J. Caradonna; C. Nowakowski (Island Health); J. Todd

EP = Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 pm.

**1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Chair provided the Acknowledgement.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Addition to Agenda:

Item 6.1.1: Handout: Summary of Feedback – 2022 Regional Water Supply Master Plan

**MOVED** by G. Baird, **SECONDED** by W. Scheuer,  
That the agenda be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**MOVED** by T. Krawczyk, **SECONDED** by G. Baird,  
That the minutes of the May 13, 2022 meeting be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**4. CHAIR'S REMARKS**

The Chair advised that this would be her last meeting as she and her family are moving. She expressed her appreciation for being elected as Chair and thanked the Committee for their work over this past year.

**5. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS**

There were no presentations or delegations.

**6. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**6.1. Update on the 2022 Master Plan – Engagement Results and Plan Approval [Verbal]**

### **6.1.1. Handout: Summary of Feedback – 2022 Regional Water Supply Master Plan**

T. Robbins provided an overview of the staff report that was presented to the Regional Water Supply Commission on July 20, 2022. He noted that the report included the Water Advisory Committees report and detailed comments.

Staff responded to questions from the Committee:

- Filtration technology and the possibility of taking advantage of new technologies prior to construction.
- The life expectancy of the current Ultraviolet (UV) plant; the reactors are being upgraded within the next two to three years.
- Sediment pond filtration for runoff water; Deception reservoir will operate almost as a sedimentation bed.
- The process for continued input and feedback as projects start to come online; project and budget approvals would be through the five-year budget and capital plan approvals.
- The Water Advisory Committee could play a consultation role on the upcoming projects.

### **6.2. Update on the Agricultural Water Rate Study [Verbal]**

S. Irg provided the following updates:

- The agricultural water rate is funded through the Regional Water Supply operating budget, which funds the difference between the Municipal rate and the agricultural water rate.
- The current agricultural water rate has not changed since 2010.
- Stantec was retained to conduct a review of the current rate and conduct a rate model options study.
- There will be some stakeholder consultation, likely two engagement sessions, one with governing entities and the other would be the agricultural community.
- The objective is to determine a fair rate that supports farming that contributes to the region and a rate structure that encourages water conservation.
- Hoping to have the report finalized by early 2023 to be included in the 2024 budget approvals.
- There was a delay in starting this study primarily due to the effort that staff put into the First Nations Water Rate model which was a priority for 2022.

Discussion ensued:

- Water Advisory Committee's feedback and options were summarized for Stantec's consideration and provided good information and guidance.
- The Master Plan outlined agricultural water use as 3% of annual demand. Need to consider the importance of resiliency in food security for the region.
- Ensuring that the customers providing food and food crops are benefitting from the water rate.
- The Water Advisory Committee would like to be engaged as part of Stantec's consultation process.

- The uniqueness of the Capital Regional District's subsidy model and that there has not been a similar study for comparison, staff were able to draw on some other examples from around BC to include for consideration.

### ***M. Turner left the meeting***

#### **6.2.1. Study Scope and Schedule**

Stantec's scope and schedule was included for information.

#### **6.2.2. Agricultural Water rate Working Group Recommendations**

The Water Advisory Committee's feedback was included as part of the Request for Proposals. A summary of the feedback and suggestions was also provided to Stantec.

#### **6.2.3. Next Steps**

The next steps are for Stantec to:

- Prepare stakeholder list and consultation plan
- Conduct stakeholder consultation

### **6.3. First Nations Water Rate Model – 2023 Implementation Plan [Verbal]**

T. Robbins provided the following updates:

- Staff have been developing a First Nations water rate model.
- The Nations felt that the Regional Water Service wholesale water rates should apply to them the same as it does for Municipal governments.
- Staff are advancing implementation by applying the rate through Regional Water Supply service agreements and drafting the conveyance agreements, subject to Commission approval.
- The 2023 budget has been developed with the conveyance fee allowance included.

### **6.4 Summary of Regional Water Supply Commission Recommendations**

There is no recommendation. The summary of recommendations is for information only.

### **6.5 Water Watch Report**

There is no recommendation. The report is for information only.

## **7. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

### **7.1. Local Government Elections – October 15, 2022 [Verbal]**

The local elections are on October 15, 2022. Once the elections have taken place, Municipalities will appoint Directors to the Capital Regional District Board and standing

committees, including the Regional Water Supply Commission. As such the Water Advisory Committee will not likely meet again this year.

## 7.2. Expiring Terms – December 31, 2022 [Verbal]

Staff noted that members may serve up to three, two-year terms on the Committee. All members whose terms are coming to an end are eligible to serve another term. Staff Will be advertising for vacancies. Members wishing to serve another term should submit their interest to Denise at their earliest convenience. Likewise, any member wishing not to continue for another term should also submit their intention. Staff will follow up with an email to all members.

### 7.2.1. Committee Members – Two-Year Term

- Wilf Scheuer, Commercial & Industrial, Commercial, Institutional (ICI) (ending first term)
- Celine Davis, Resident/Ratepayer (ending first term)
- David Timothy, Fish Habitats (ending second term)
- Jeremy Caradonna, Scientific (ending first term)
- Tayler Krawczyk, Agriculture (ending second term)

### 7.2.2. Water Commission Representatives – Appointed Annually by Each Water Commission

*(Following the establishment of new councils, commission appointments and commission elections)*

- John Rogers, Juan de Fuca Water Distribution Commission Representative
- Gord Baird, Regional Water Supply Commission Representative
- Mike Doehnel, Saanich Peninsula Water Commission Representative

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

C. Davis thanked the Chair for all her work on summarizing and coordinating the Committee's comments and report for the 2022 Master Plan, and for her work as Chair of the Committee this past year.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

**MOVED** by Commissioner T. Krawczyk, **SECONDED** by Commissioner G. Baird,  
That the September 1, 2022 meeting be adjourned a 2:57 pm.

**CARRIED**

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**CHAIR**

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**SECRETARY**