



Making a difference...together

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE Water Advisory Committee, held Tuesday, June 27, 2023  
at 12 pm, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC**

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**PRESENT: Members:** K. Oppen (Chair); J. Todd (Vice Chair) (EP); M. Doehnel; A. Fernandes; T. Krawczyk; A. McArdle (EP); C. Nowakowski; J. Rogers; D. Timothy; K. Zimmerman

**Staff:** I. Jesney, Acting General Manager, Integrated Water Services; S Irg, Senior Manager, Infrastructure Water Operations; J Zimmerman (EP), Communications Coordinator, Integrated Water Services; D Dionne, Administrative Coordinator, Integrated Water Services; M Risvold, Committee & Administrative Clerk, Integrated Water Services (Recorder)

**REGRETS:** A. Pakvis; C. Davis; W. Scheuer; C. Stock; M. Turner

EP = Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 12:11 pm.

**1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Chair provided the Territorial Acknowledgement.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Groundwater discussion was added to the agenda under New Business.

**MOVED** by K. Zimmerman, **SECONDED** by D. Timothy,  
That the agenda be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**MOVED** by T. Krawczyk, **SECONDED** by A. McArdle,  
That the minutes of the March 28, 2023 meeting be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**4. CHAIR'S REMARKS**

The chair noted that some Water Advisory Committee members participated in some recent tours including a tour of the watershed and water treatment plant. She stated that she enjoyed the tours and the opportunity to learn more.

**5. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS**

There were no presentations or delegations.

**6. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

The Acting General Manager advised that this would be his last Water Advisory Committee meeting upon officially retiring. He advised that the new General Manager, Alicia Fraser, would begin on July 24 and will be at the next Water Advisory Committee meeting in September.

## 7. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

### 7.1. Agricultural Water Rate Review Update

S. Irg introduced the item.

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

- The data contained in the Agriculture Rate Scenario Tool spreadsheet image on page 9 of the Consultant's report.
- The annual average household payment of \$9.60 for the agricultural subsidy shown in item 2.2.3.1 on page 10 of the Consultant's report.
- Getting detailed information directly from BC Assessment.
- Capital Regional District's Regional Food Strategy.
- Freedom of Information and Privacy requirements.

**MOVED** by M. Doehnel, **SECONDED** by D. Timothy,

That the Water Advisory Committee receive full access to the Agriculture Rate Scenario Tool spreadsheet, subject to Freedom of Information Act requirements, from the draft Consultants' report showing the full data related to the 682 accounts.

**CARRIED**

Agricultural Working Group members to prepare a recommendation to the Regional Water Supply Commission to recommend to the Planning and Protective Services Committee to consider looking at its Regional Food and Growth Strategy in a more holistic way:

- funding for water pipes and hookups to support local agricultural food growing operations.
- look at how the CRD can meet its agricultural goals for meeting food production, including groundwater, catchments.
- how does the agricultural water rate affect food production/security.
- Other ways the CRD could do to help support agriculture.

Staff to invite Emily Sinclair, Senior Manager, Regional and Strategic Planning, to present at the next meeting regarding food security.

### 7.2. Summary of Recommendations from Regional Water Supply Commission

I. Jesney noted that the Development Cost Charges report and recommendations were approved at the Regional Water Supply Commission and will be moving to Phase 2.

### 7.3. Water Watch Report

The item was received for information.

#### 7.4. Conservation Strategies for Water Demand Spikes [Discussion]

The Chair led the discussion, and the Committee considered several points on the topic:

- Past conservation efforts including low flow toilets and showers
- Water storage
- Increasing water rates for conservation reasons
- Storage for firefighting purposes
- Landscaping irrigation
- Evening out storage to even out demand spikes
- More education

**MOVED** by M. Doehnel, **SECONDED** by A. Fernandes,

The Water Advisory Committee recommends that the Regional Water Supply Commission consider:

1. Increasing water conservation efforts and messaging and creating a literacy program for sharing water conservation.
2. Storage discussions with member municipalities.
3. Increasing bulk water rates to encourage conservation and to fund increased storage in partnership with municipalities.

**CARRIED**

Staff to invite Dr. Glenn Harris, Senior Manager, Environmental Protection to present to the Water Advisory Committee on the Capital Regional District's (CRD) Demand Management and water conservation efforts.

#### 7.5. Non-Potable Water Reuse [Discussion]

There was a short discussion on the topic.

**MOVED** by J. Rogers, **SECONDED** by T. Krawczyk,

That, when the Vancouver guidelines on the use of grey water are available, staff provide copies for the Water Advisory Committee to review.

**CARRIED**

### 8. WORKING GROUPS

The Committee discussed working groups and what type of working groups might be needed, possibly one for conservation strategies. No formal decisions were made regarding working groups at this time.

The Chair will address the Regional Water Supply Commission at its next meeting to present the recommendations from this meeting.

### 9. NEW BUSINESS

Groundwater Discussion was deferred.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED** by T. Krawczyk, **SECONDED** by M. Doehnel,  
That the June 27, 2023 meeting be adjourned at 2:04 pm.

**CARRIED**

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**CHAIR**

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**SECRETARY**