



Making a difference...together

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission, held Monday, February 6, 2023 at 9:30 a.m., In the Goldstream Meeting Room, 479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC

PRESENT: Commissioners: D. Pepino (Chair); M. Lechowicz (Vice Chair); A. Wickheim (Electoral Area Director); L. Cutler
Staff: S. Irg, Senior Manager, Water Infrastructure Operations; T. Duthie, Manager, Administrative Services; M. Risvold, Committee and Administrative Clerk (Recorder)

The meeting was called to order at 9:30.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Senior Manager called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission for the term ending December 31, 2023.

M. Lechowicz nominated D. Pepino. D. Pepino accepted the nomination.

The Senior Manager called for nominations a second time.

The Senior Manager called for nominations a third and final time.

Hearing no further nominations, the Senior Manager declared D. Pepino Chair of the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission for the term ending December 31, 2023 by acclamation.

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission for the term ending December 31, 2023.

L. Cutler nominated M. Lechowicz. M. Lechowicz accepted the nomination.

The Chair called for nominations a second time.

The Chair called for nominations a third and final time.

Hearing no further nominations, the Chair declared M. Lechowicz Vice Chair of the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission for the term ending December 31, 2023 by acclamation.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Report from McElhanney was added to item 10.3
- Preparation of 2024 Budget – Capital Project Priorities was added to item 11.1

MOVED by L. Cutler, **SECONDED** by M. Lechowicz,
That the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Item 3 of the minutes from November 21, 2022 were amended to read:
“The following documents are on file and are available upon request by contacting
IWSAdministration@crd.bc.ca”

MOVED by L. Cutler, **SECONDED** by M. Lechowicz,
That the minutes of the November 21, 2022 meeting be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

MOVED by L. Cutler, **SECONDED** by M. Lechowicz,
That the minutes of the November 28, 2022 meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

5. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair provided the following remarks:

“I want to introduce the meaning of “Objective” as defined in the Cambridge dictionary:

Objective – something that you aim to do or achieve.

As WMWS Commissioners, our objective was to deliver for our small community “the Highest Quality water, at the lowest possible costs, through continuous improvement”. We have been pretty consistent in that objective, and that should be readily apparent through our supplied analysis, and CRD meeting minutes over the last few years.

I have received today's agenda at 4:13 PM on Friday Feb 3, 2023. This meets the CRD guideline for advance notice. What it does not deliver is the opportunity for serious review from a Commissioner who might not have the skills nor time needed to adequately prepare to represent their constituents at the meeting on a Monday morning first AM. Luckily WMWS members have the skills and time needed to adequately prepare.

In that preparation, I have uncovered a number of details that individually might not mean much but taken collectively forces me to ask myself, is the CRD Objective really “making a difference....together”?

From our detailed research on the Local Government Act, VIHA's SWTO documentation, the Community documents starting in the early 2000's, through to today's agenda and correspondence that I reviewed, I come to a totally different objective for the CRD which is:

“CRD do what we want, when we want, regardless of your input, to maximize our financial gain”

Your objective for today is to change my mind.”

6. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

There were none.

7. SENIOR MANAGER'S REPORT

The Senior Manager advised the water system is running quite well and the turbidity for most of January was 0.7 NTU. There are currently no issues.

8. COMMISSION BUSINESS

8.1. Project and Operations Update

S. Irg provided the capital projects and operational update and responded to the following questions:

- Which dams were included in the dam maintenance. Staff advised all three dams were part of the maintenance.
- If staff have had a discussion with the person living in their trailer near the lower dam. Staff advised it was not noted in the inspections and will have it checked in the next inspection.

8.2. Referral From Electoral Areas Committee – Electoral Areas Water Conservation Bylaw No. 1, 2022 (Bylaw No. 4492)

S. Irg introduced the Electoral Areas Water Conservation Bylaw.

The committee provided the following feedback:

- Advised Wilderness Mountain is a compact tightly integrated community without wells that is mutually dependent on the water system.
- Does not wish to support the salary and operating cost for the enforcement effort, nor grant restricted access to private properties.
- There are no functioning water meters in the system or no concrete evidence of a claim in court.
- Document is written in obscure legalese phrasing and emphasizes what can't be done to the detriment of what is allowed under stage 1, 2 and 3. Unclear how to integrate cistern water with drinking water. Feels a communications officer is needed.
- Bylaw is not plain English, and bylaw needs to be reworked.
- Bylaw is a double negative and badly written.
- Finds the bylaw restrictive regarding planting trees.
- No water meters to monitor the water flows.
- Commission feedback is that the bylaw is not a go unless it is substantially modified.

Discussion ensued.

9. WILDERNESS MOUNTAIN WATER SERVICE COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

Regular meetings of the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission shall be held in the Goldstream Conference Room, 479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC on Monday, February 6, Monday, June 12 and a date to be determined in November to approve the Operating and Capital Budget. Meetings will commence at 9:30 am unless otherwise determined.

Staff responded to the following questions:

- Can the Chair provide input on agenda items. Staff advised the Chair's input is welcome and can be provided to the Senior Manager prior to the meeting.
- Whether there is budget for additional meetings. Staff advised additional meetings can be requested at the call of the Chair and will confirm if there are any additional costs to the service for holding additional meetings.

Discussion ensued regarding holding a fourth meeting to specifically discuss the budget.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1. WMWS – Cover Letter Final Report: Associated Engineering December 2022

Staff advised the letter was provided to Island Health (IH). The commission provided the following points and discussion ensued:

- Appreciates this was brought to Associated Engineering (AE).
- Not content with AE's response regarding manganese.
- Where a claim can be made against AE. Staff advised CRD will not be providing a complaint. Commission members can make complaints as individuals.
- The commission felt that how AE reviewed the commission's analysis was unprofessional.
- Feels there are qualified professionals with RPBio designations who would be well suited to complete the research.
- Feels a large portion of the effort went towards the dissolved air filtration (DAF). Staff advised the original contract did not include the intake. After a meeting with the Commission and AE, a floating intake was provided as an option.
- The Commission would like a low-cost upgrade for treatment under \$250,000.

10.2. Associated Engineering to Island Health Letter: Manganese clarification

There was no discussion.

10.3. Wilderness Mountain Update to Island Health Letter February 2023

There was no discussion.

11. NEW BUSINESS

MOVED by M. Lechowicz, **SECONDED** by L. Cutler,

That CRD-IWS staff should formally report the WMWSC's dissatisfaction with the work performed under the contract awarded to Associated Engineering for the project entitled "*Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission Treatment Concept Updates*" and

That from start to finish of the project Associated Engineering did not engage effectively with the WMWSC, and

That the two written critiques of Associated Engineering's draft report previously submitted to CRD-IWS staff by the WMWSC be filed as a matter of record for deficient supplier performance, and

That the WMWSC considers the final report submitted by Associated Engineering to be poor value for the monies we invested on behalf of the WMWS Community.

CARRIED
Opposed: Wickheim

MOVED by M. Lechowicz, **SECONDED** by L. Cutler,

That the CRD-IWS staff responsible for preparing the November 2023 proposal for the 2024 WMWSC budget should strive to develop a budget proposal in support of project 23-01 (Water Treatment Plant Upgrade) to specifically assess the merit and feasibility of installing a floating intake in Wilfred Reservoir:

1. That would involve contracting appropriately qualified professionals (i.e. RPBio certification with expertise in limnology) to undertake a study along the lines proposed by the WMWSC in February 2022 entitled “*A proposal to evaluate the potential utility of an offshore intake for the WMWS Treatment Plant*”, and
2. That ensured meaningful consultation and involvement of the WMWSC at all stages of the project from procurement through completion of the final report.

CARRIED

Discussion ensued regarding:

- The Commission requesting a subsequent meeting in June to provide costs, priorities and preference of where funds should go
- Community Works Funds
- Obtaining a professional with an RPBio designation to assist with the study

Staff will provide a cost estimate to the commission to hire a professional with an RPBio designation. The commission will provide language to staff to use to obtain costs from other companies.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by M. Lechowicz, **SECONDED** by L. Cutler,

That the February 6, 2023 meeting be adjourned at 10:52.

CARRIED

CHAIR

SECRETARY