SAANICH PENINSULA WATER COMMISSION

Minutes of a Meeting held 17 February 2011
at the Saanich Peninsula Treatment Plant Meeting Room
9055 Mainwaring Road, North Saanich

PRESENT: R. Commandeur, M. Doehnel, C. Green, M. Lougher-Goodey, M. Loveless, J. MacGowan, J. Mar, M. Matheson, G. Orr (Chair); CRD Staff: G. Harris, J. Poncelet, T. Robbins, D. Telford, S. Webb, J. Tradewell (recorder)

ABSENT: A. Olsen, M. Sam

1. CALL TO ORDER

T. Robbins called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

T. Robbins called for nominations for the position of chair of the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission for 2011 and G. Orr's name was put forward. T. Robbins called a second and third time for further nominations and, as there were none, G. Orr was declared chair for 2011 by acclamation.

G. Orr took the chair and called for nominations for the position of vice-chair of the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission for 2011 and M. Lougher-Goodey's name was put forward. Chair Orr called a second and third time for further nominations and, as there were none, M. Lougher-Goodey was declared vice-chair for 2011 by acclamation.

R. Commandeur joined the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by M. Lougher-Goodey, **SECONDED** by J. Mar, that the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD 18 NOVEMBER 2010

MOVED by M. Loveless, **SECONDED** by M. Lougher-Goodey, that the minutes of 18 November 2010 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

5. REVIEW OF TASK LIST FROM MEETING HELD 18 NOVEMBER 2010

The task list was reviewed. T. Robbins reported that staff has been working on developing the per capita water consumption data for residential and the other sectors. Kevin Reilly, CRD Demand Management Coordinator, will report on the water coding at the next meeting.

6. 2011 MEMBERSHIP LIST

C. Green's home telephone number will be updated.

MOVED by M. Lougher-Goodey, **SECONDED** by M. Loveless, that the membership list be approved as amended.

CARRIED

7. LINE AND METER READING

T. Robbins reported that year-end 2010 actual consumption ended up a fair bit under the estimated consumption amount largely based on using the five-year average formula to project consumption, and that the January 2011 demand was below the budget estimate based on the three-year average. Updates will be provided at each meeting to track consumption.

MOVED by M. Lougher-Goodey, **SECONDED** by R. Commandeur, that the updated line and meter reading up to year-end 2010 be received for information.

CARRIED

8. WATER WATCH

T. Robbins reported that the reservoir is full and is spilling; water quality is very good.

MOVED by M. Loveless, **SECONDED** by M. Matheson, that the 07 February 2011 issue of *Water Watch* be received for information.

CARRIED

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Water Conservation Bylaw – Update
It was reported that the Regional Water Supply Commission met yesterday and one of the agenda items was related to water conservation and the water conservation bylaw; the outcome was that the current bylaw remains as is.

Discussion ensued, including the following points:

- The community has been very successful in its water conservation efforts and is using less water, but is paying more for it.
- Are the current water restrictions during the summer months too restrictive?
- Amending a bylaw can be a lengthy process.
- Perhaps the water restriction date could be implemented on a yearly basis, i.e., flexibility from year to year based upon the weather conditions; public education may be challenging with flexible restriction dates.

Agricultural Water Usage – Update
M. Doehnel gave an update on the numbers for the agricultural water usage from last year to this year. There was a significant drop in usage due in part to last year's cool spring with part of the equation implying that people are growing less food. Central Saanich had the biggest drop in water usage. The budgeted subsidy amount was $925,000 with the actual usage amount coming in at $675,000. Perhaps there are other uses of a subsidy that could explore such things as expanding local water storage capacity (reclamation areas, ponds, etc.).

A suggestion was made to revisit the above topics at the April meeting to discuss further in the context of the Peninsula.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday, 21 April 2011 at 9 a.m. at the Saanich Peninsula treatment plant meeting room.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by C. Green, **SECONDED** by M. Matheson, that the meeting adjourn at 9:22 a.m.

CARRIED