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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SAANICH PENINSULA WATER COMMISSION**  
**Held Thursday, March 21, 2019 in the Saanich Peninsula Treatment Plant Meeting Room,**  
**9055 Mainwaring Road, North Saanich, BC**

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**PRESENT:** P. Wainwright (Chair); M. Thompson (V. Chair); R. Barnhart; M. Doehnel;  
C. McNeil-Smith; G. Orr; M. Weisenberger; K. Wing (9:06 a.m.)

**STAFF:** T. Robbins, General Manager, Integrated Water Services; M. McCrank,  
Infrastructure Operations; I. Jesney, Infrastructure Engineering; G. Harris,  
Environmental Protection; C. Lowe, Environmental Science Officer;  
P. Kickham, Manager, Regulatory Services; D. Dionne (recorder)

**ABSENT:** C. Graham; R. Windsor; M. Underwood

**ALSO PRESENT:** S. Duncan, Township of Sidney; E. Toupin, District of North Saanich;  
T. O'Keef, Township of Sidney

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

The Chair provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

The following two items were added to the agenda under New Business:

- 6.1 Lochside Road Crane Incident Update
- 6.2 Post Disaster Water Supply Plan Presentations to Municipalities

**MOVED** by Commissioner McNeil-Smith, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Barnhart,  
That the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission approve the agenda as amended.

**CARRIED**

**2. Adoption of Minutes from January 17, 2019**

**MOVED** by Commissioner McNeil-Smith, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Orr,  
That the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission adopt the minutes of the meeting held January  
17, 2019.

**CARRIED**

***Commissioner Wing joined the meeting***

**3. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair made the following remarks:

- 1. T. Robbins was interviewed on Radio Sidney regarding the Capital Regional District's (CRD) post emergency water supply plan. The interview is available as a podcast on [www.radiosidney.ca](http://www.radiosidney.ca).

2. As Vice Chair of the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission (the Commission) M. Thompson provides representation on the Regional Water Advisory Committee, a position that is typically held by the Vice Chair. As this Commission's representative, he will occasionally report out on discussions occurring at the Water Advisory Committee. The Water Advisory Committee is expected to meet in May.

#### **4. Presentations/Delegations**

There were no presentations or delegations.

#### **5. Commission Business**

##### **5.1. EEP 19-01 Water Quality Report for Sooke Lake Reservoir – September to December 2018**

G. Harris spoke to the report noting that the Regional Water Supply Commission has requested updates which are provided on a quarterly basis. The report is for information.

**MOVED** by Commissioner Weisenberger, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Doehnel,  
That the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission receive the Sooke Lake Reservoir monitoring results for September to December 2018 for information.

**CARRIED**

##### **5.2. Summary of Recommendations from Other Water Commissions**

**MOVED** by Commissioner McNeil-Smith, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Weisenberger,  
That the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission receive the report for information.

**CARRIED**

##### **5.3. Water Watch**

T. Robbins spoke to the report and noted that the Sooke Lake Reservoir is a little low due to the relatively dry season, snow has just started melting and there has been no rain in the past two to three weeks. With the warmer weather the past couple of days, the snow is starting to melt and the water level is starting to rise. Staff expect to see some precipitation into April and currently do not have concerns but are monitoring the levels and the long range forecasts.

**MOVED** by Commissioner McNeil-Smith, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Barnhart,  
That the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission receive the report for information.

**CARRIED**

#### **6. New Business**

##### **6.1. Lochside Road Crane Incident Update**

T. Robbins reported that on January 24, 2019 a 60 tonne crane rolled over off the side of the road on Lochside Drive in Central Saanich and landed about one metre from CRD

regional water transmission main #4. The owner of the crane was not able to provide a plan to remove the crane and the CRD assumed control of the site, worked with the municipal, provincial and federal governments and hired a consultant to mitigate environmental risks. The crane was removed and the CRD will be seeking cost recovery for the cost to remove the crane. The water main was not compromised throughout the process.

He also advised that, while the crane was still in place, staff were also preparing an emergency plan should the main break. Pipe and couplings were mobilized near the site in case repairs were needed. Staff coordinated with critical services on the Peninsula, the airport, hospital etc. He noted that this incident highlights the vulnerability with some of the sections of the water main. This section continues to be a high priority replacement and staff are contemplating advancing its replacement.

Discussion ensued with the following noted:

- The Ministry of Environment attended the site, providing daily monitoring. They engaged Stantec to prepare an environmental plan which the CRD took over and completed with Stantec. There was regular soil and surface water monitoring with some soil removal. Staff will return to conduct final monitoring and to reseed the area.
- T. Robbins advised that the Province has responded to the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Funding grant application, noting the Province's interest in the project due to its regional nature and direct connections to the First Nations. However, enough submissions that were 'shovel ready' were received and the Province has encouraged the CRD to apply again in the fall.
- The grant application included providing some redundancy to the system by proposing to interconnect the Bear Hill system to the Dean Park system to provide a second feed.

## **6.2. Post Disaster Water Supply Plan**

At its October 4, 2019 meeting the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission made the following motion:

*That the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission request that staff make presentations on the CRD's post disaster water supply plan, to Saanich Peninsula municipal staff, First Nations groups, the Airport Authority and BC Ferries, by the end of the first quarter 2019.*

T. Robbins advised that the equipment delivery was delayed and staff are expecting it in April. Staff will go to Vancouver in the next couple of weeks to conduct pre testing. He noted that once the trailer is ready staff will be presenting it to the municipalities.

Discussion ensued with the following noted:

- The trailer can serve roughly 10,000 people with modules interconnected depending on the area that needs to be served.
- The first Sea Can unit is proposed to be installed at Panorama Recreation Centre as a permanent fixture. Then there would be additional units and modules built and installed in different locations over the coming years.

- It is intended that volunteers will be needed to crew the units during an emergency, as CRD and municipal staff would be responding to emergency repairs. Municipalities would need to review including training and integrating into the Peninsula Emergency Plans.

### 6.3. Other New Business

Commissioner Doehnel advised that the Peninsula Agricultural Commission was requested to breakdown the difference in how each municipality handles their agricultural water rebates. The report is not available online yet, but he can forward by email to anyone interested.

Commissioner Doehnel noted that the District of Highlands has applied for wildfire mitigation funding and that, when reviewing the wildfire risk map, there is a red spot on the peninsula. He asked what the best way is to approach this. Commissioner Orr advised that the red area came out of the community wildfire planning conducted about eight years ago. The map is currently being updated and the Township of Sidney has applied for a grant.

Discussion ensued regarding water supply near Senanus Road, the District of Highlands motion that was approved at the CRD Board on March 13, 2019 and what the CRD is doing around wildfire risk mitigation. Staff noted that the CRD is raising the larger issue of wildfire risk through the Regional Emergency Management Plan.

### 7. Adjournment

**MOVED** by Commissioner McNeil-Smith, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Barnhart,  
That the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission meeting be adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

**CARRIED**

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Chair

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Secretary