



Making a difference...together

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at 9 am in the Goldstream Conference Room,
479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC

PRESENT: R. Mersereau (Chair), M. Thompson, P. Elworthy, F. Schultz (9:15 am), G. Orr, J. Rogers, R. Neuman, M. Doehnel, T. Wood, B. June, B. Wilkes, C. Nowakowski
Staff: T. Robbins, A. Constabel, M. Montague (Recorder)

ABSENT: M. Williams, M. Gingras, R. Machin

The meeting was called to order at 9 am.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by T. Wood and **SECONDED** by P. Elworthy,
that the Water Advisory Committee approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2015

MOVED by G. Orr and **SECONDED** by B. Wilkes,
that the Water Advisory Committee adopt the minutes of the meeting held September 2,
2015.

CARRIED

3. CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair remarked as follows:

- She attended the last Regional Water Supply Commission meeting to report on the activities of the Water Advisory Committee.
- Staff presented the results of the Leech Open Houses.

The Vice-Chair remarked as follows:

- He attended the Regional Water Supply Commission Budget Sub-Committee meeting and noted there was general support for funding of a post disaster emergency water supply.
- Suggestions put forward by the Water Advisory Committee regarding alternative terminology for the agricultural subsidy was incorporated into the budget documents.

4. PRESENTATIONS

- There were no presentations.

5. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO BYLAW 2804 TO INCLUDE THE LEECH WATER SUPPLY AREA

Annette Constabel spoke to the report. She reported that, since 2013, a process has been underway to inform a recommendation to amend Bylaw 2804 to incorporate the Leech Water Supply Area and consider provision for authorized public recreational access and First Nation Cultural use access.

Discussion ensued on the following points:

- When the Leech may be needed
- Involvement of First Nations
- Mineral claims
- Communication
- Permit process and cost implications
- Insurance requirements
- Restricted access during High and Extreme fire rating

MOVED by P. Elworthy, **SECONDED** by B. Wilkes,

That the Water Advisory Committee recommend that the Regional Water Supply Commission direct staff to prepare an amendment to the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area Protection Bylaw No. 2804 to:

- a. include the Leech Water Supply Area with the intention that the Leech Water Supply Area be fully closed to unauthorized public access effective June 1, 2016;
- b. allow for First Nations cultural use access in the Leech Water Supply Area in accordance with an access agreement; and
- c. not allow for public recreational use access by permit in the Leech Water Supply Area.

CARRIED
B. June OPPOSED

It was decided that the Committee will present and distribute the rationale for their recommendation to the Regional Water Supply Commission directly during their regular update at the October 21, 2015 meeting.

6. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

- a) Water Value and Conservation
 - Another editorial piece has been published in the Times Colonist.
 - Alternatives to implementing a more standardized approach to conservation will be investigated. This item will be added to the next working group agenda for discussion.
- b) Water for Food
 - M. Doehnel noted that irrigation was discontinued by September 15, which made it possible to stick to the general watering target.
- c) Disaster Preparedness
 - The working group has prepared an outline for a plan and would like to work with staff to develop it.

7. QUESTIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None.

8. **WATER WATCH**

MOVED by M. Thompson, **SECONDED** by P. Elworthy,
That the Water Advisory Committee receive the report for information.

CARRIED

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

Elk Lake Water Quality Challenges and Potential Implications for Contingency Water Supply Planning – B. Wilkes reported that the quality of water in Elk Lake has been deteriorating rapidly over the past 20 years and supports efforts to do what is necessary to restore it. M. Thompson suggested that Elk Lake is a good location for an emergency water supply in the event of a disaster. C. Nowakowski noted that Elk Lake is similar to St. Mary's Lake on SSI. It was felt that septic tanks around St. Mary's Lake were a concern, but further investigation determined they were not a factor in the lake's deterioration. Elk Lake could be used as an emergency water supply, but at what cost. T. Robbins noted that Parks and Environmental Services is dealing with this issue and Integrated Water Services will continue to monitor the work.

Status of Engagement with First Nations – Staff continue to work with First Nations on this item.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by T. Wood and **SECONDED** by F. Schultz,
That the meeting of the Water Advisory Committee be adjourned at 11:30 am.