



Making a difference...together

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held Thursday, May 23, 2019 at 1:30 p.m., Goldstream Conference Room, 479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC

PRESENT: **Members:** G. Baird; D. Blundon; R. Hunsinger; T. Krawczyk; P. Lennox; C. Nowakowski; J. Rogers; S. Sinclair; M. Thompson; D. Timothy (1:37 p.m.)
Staff: T. Robbins, General Manager, Integrated Water Services; T. Urquhart, Communications Coordinator; D. Dionne (Recorder)
Absent: A. Gibson; M. Demeulenaere; T. Wood

ALSO PRESENT: R. Mersereau, Chair, Regional Water Supply Commission

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m.

1. Introductions

T. Robbins explained the process for the first Water Advisory Committee meeting of 2019 and provided an overview of the Committee and its membership. He welcomed the newly appointed members and congratulated the reappointed members.

D. Timothy joined the meeting.

Introductions were then made around the table.

T. Robbins advised that in the previous term the Committee met every month, with one month being the business meeting and the second month being a working group meeting. The working group meeting is only a meeting of the Committee members to discuss potential business items, staff do not attend these meetings, no formal decisions are made and no agenda or minutes are prepared.

T. Robbins provided background on the Terms of Reference. He reviewed the current membership and outlined the elections process.

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

T. Robbins called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Water Advisory Committee for 2019.

D. Blundon nominated R. Hunsinger.
R. Hunsinger accepted the nomination.

T. Robbins called for nominations a second time.

S. Sinclair nominated G. Baird.
G. Baird declined the nomination.
G. Baird nominated D. Blundon.
D. Blundon accepted the nomination.

R. Hunsinger declined his nomination in favour of D. Blundon's nomination.

T. Robbins called for nominations a third time and hearing none, declared D. Blundon elected as Chair of the Water Advisory Committee for 2019 by acclamation.

D. Blundon assumed the Chair and called for nominations for Vice Chair of the Water Advisory Committee for 2019.

G. Baird nominated R. Hunsinger.
R. Hunsinger accepted the nomination.

The Chair called for nominations a second time.

D. Timothy nominated J. Rogers.
J. Rogers declined the nomination.

The Chair called for nominations a third time and hearing none, declared R. Hunsinger elected as Vice Chair of the Water Advisory Committee for 2019 by acclamation.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by G. Baird and **SECONDED** by J. Rogers,
That the agenda for the May 23, 2019 Water Advisory Committee meeting be approved.

CARRIED

4. Regional Water Supply Commission Chair, Rebecca Mersereau, Introduction and Remarks

R. Mersereau addressed the Committee noting the three main priorities from the last term of the Water Advisory Committee and what staff have done to move the priorities forward.

- Emergency preparedness and the water supply and understanding the risks and vulnerabilities in the system. Staff have developed a multi-year plan and approved capital assets to implement a post-disaster water supply plan. Initial Committee discussions were around earthquakes and increasingly more thought was given to forest fires.
- Agriculture water rates and municipal water use and the connection of those two items. The Committee identified the need for a better understanding of agricultural water rates and use in the region. Staff began studying agricultural use and looking at whether the agricultural water rate is meeting its objective.
 - T. Robbins provided some background noting that the rate was established based on it being an opportunity to support sustainable food production, but has that initial objective might not be being met due large properties being hobby farms that are not really producing food. The agricultural demand has been increasing therefore the agricultural subsidy has been increasing. The CRD partnered with the Province to establish an agricultural land use inventory and with this partnership there is a water demand model being established as well. Staff have been advised that the Province has finished the work and are ready to have the Province come and present the study.

- Water value and conservation. The Committee has, over the years, published open editorials in the Times Colonist to raise awareness. There has been reductions in water use across the Region, with more efficient appliances in residential homes. The region is relatively efficient in water use. The focus now is how to ensure reliable funding.

R. Mersereau noted the following items from the Regional Water Supply Commission:

- Conservation is a priority. The Commission reviewed key conservation messages and through discussion didn't think the messaging was adequate. The Commission supports firmer conservation action.
- The Commission supported a motion to request that the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board not support the Province constructing an emergency route through the watershed.

5. Adoption of Minutes of September 26, 2018

MOVED by G. Baird and **SECONDED** by S. Sinclair,
That the minutes from the September 26, 2018 Water Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

6. Chair's Remarks

The Chair reflected on his term as Vice Chair and on the discussions from the Committee during that time and hoped that this term there could be a focus on institutional water conservation.

7. Water Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

MOVED by G. Baird and **SECONDED** by S. Sinclair,
That the Water Advisory Committee receive the Terms of Reference for information.

CARRIED

8. 2019 Meeting Schedule and Membership List

T. Robbins noted that the next meeting scheduled for June would be a working meeting if the Committee chooses to meet and discuss working group items, staff typically do not attend the working group meetings.

The Committee discussed whether or not to hold a working group meeting in June and the following motion was put forward:

MOVED by G. Baird and **SECONDED** by D. Timothy,
That the Water Advisory Committee not hold a working group meeting in June.

CARRIED

MOVED by J. Rogers and **SECONDED** by G. Baird,
That the Water Advisory Committee receive the Meeting Schedule and Membership List for information.

CARRIED

R. Mersereau left the meeting

9. Regional Water Supply Orientation (presentation)

T. Robbins presented the water services orientation.

He noted key initiatives for this Committee this term:

- Reevaluate filtration versus chloramination at the treatment plant. One of the major risks to the watershed is wildfire and while the CRD takes many steps to prevent wildfire, if a one occurred, without filtration, there is the possibility of not being able to supply potable water to the service.
- Long-term supply planning for resiliency and redundancy.

C. Nowakowski left the meeting

- Addressing / balancing water demand - sector targeting.
- Post disaster water supply.

10. Regional Water Supply Strategic Plan (handout)

The handout was received for information.

11. Regional Water Supply Commission Agenda and Reports, May 15, 2019 Meeting

MOVED by S. Sinclair and **SECONDED** by G. Baird,
That the Water Advisory Committee receive the Regional Water Supply Commission May 15, 2019 Agenda and Reports for information.

CARRIED

R. Mersereau rejoined the meeting

12. Hotsheets from the Regional Water Supply Commission January to May 2019

MOVED by G. Baird and **SECONDED** by R. Hunsinger,
That the Water Advisory Committee receive the Hotsheets from the Regional Water Supply Commission January to May 2019 for information.

CARRIED

13. Reports From Working Groups

R. Mersereau advised that during the last term of the Water Advisory Committee there were three working groups, agriculture, emergency preparedness and water conservation.

14. Water Watch Reports January to May 2019

T. Robbins noted that these reports are important to the public and that they are updated weekly and posted on the CRD's website. They provide storage level data, average and consumption data.

MOVED by G. Baird and **SECONDED** by D. Timothy,
That the Water Advisory Committee receive the Water Watch Reports January to May 2019 for information.

CARRIED

15. New Business

There was no new business.

J. Rogers left the meeting

16. Adjournment

MOVED by S. Sinclair and **SECONDED** by T. Krawczyk,
That the May 23, 2019 Water Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

CARRIED

Chair

Secretary