



Making a difference...together

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE Water Advisory Committee, held Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 12 p.m., Goldstream Meeting Room, 479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC**

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**PRESENT: Members:** C. Davis (EP) (12:39pm); M. Doehnel; K. Harper; T. Krawczyk; A. McArdle; K. Oppen; A. Pakvis (EP); T. Pedersen; J. Rogers; W. Scheuer; D. Timothy; K. Zimmerman

**Staff:** A. Fraser, General Manager, Integrated Water Services; S Irg, Senior Manager, Infrastructure Water Operations; J. Marr, Senior Manager, Infrastructure Engineering; K. Wilson, Environmental Protection; D. Buckle, Environmental Protection; M. Irwin, Environmental Protection; D. Dionne, Integrated Water Services (Recorder)

**Also in Attendance:** G. Baird, Chair, Regional Water Supply Commission

**REGRETS:** M. Turner; A. Fernandes; C. Nowakowski

EP = Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm.

**1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Regional Water Supply Commission Chair, G. Baird, provided the Territorial Acknowledgement.

**2. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

G. Baird called for nominations for Chair of the Water Advisory Committee for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.

K. Zimmerman nominated K. Oppen. K. Oppen accepted nomination.

G. Baird called for nominations a second time.

G. Baird called for nominations a third and final time.

Hearing no further nominations, K. Oppen was acclaimed as Chair for 2024.

**3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

The Chair called for nominations for Vice Chair of the Water Advisory Committee for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.

T. Krawczyk nominated K. Zimmerman. K. Zimmerman accepted nomination.

The Chair called for nominations a second time.

The Chair called for nominations a third and final time.

Hearing no further nominations, K. Zimmerman was acclaimed as Vice Chair for 2024.

#### 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**MOVED** by K. Zimmerman, **SECONDED** by T. Krawczyk,  
That the agenda be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

#### 5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

**MOVED** by A. McArdle, **SECONDED** by T. Krawczyk,  
That the minutes of the September 26, 2023 Water Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.

**CARRIED**

#### 6. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair made the following remarks:

- Water is a high priority and the Committee has an ambitious list of work to do.
- Important for the Committee to remember it is an advisory committee to the Regional Water Supply Commission and understand how we fit into that role and do our best work.
- We make recommendations to the Commission, and we need to work within their timeline and priorities, there is still opportunity to bring forward new ideas.
- We have a lot of expertise and enthusiastic commitment to water on the Committee.
- She expressed her appreciation of the professionalism and the skills that everyone brings to the Committee.

#### 7. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

There were no presentations or delegations.

#### 8. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Fraser provided the following updates:

There are two significant programs underway:

- The Regional Water Supply Development Cost Charge program – staff are wrapping up municipal consultations and will be presenting the findings of that consultation to the Regional Water Supply Commission in March. This has been a significant amount of work which is also linked to the Master Plan that was approved in 2022.
- The 2022 Master Plan has recently garnered some attention. Staff will be presenting an overview to the Regional Water Supply Commission of the Master Plan this Friday at 9 am. Committee members are invited to tune in to the live webcast of that meeting to learn more about the Master Plan.

A. Fraser provided the Committee with an overview of the various plans that guide the management of a utility:

- **Strategic Plan** – is the vision statement of what the key priorities are and of where we want to go – essentially the aspirational goals.
- **Master Plan** – is how we get there, how we reach the Strategic Plan. It outlines the medium and long-term projects and infrastructure investments needed to achieve the Strategic Plan. It provides for staff and Commissions to look at the bigger issues at a conceptual level. All the projects identified in the Master Plan still need to be approved in the Capital Planning process.

- **Operational Plans** – as a utility there are a lot of operational plans which are internal documents that direct the day-to-day operations.

The Water Advisory Committee will be engaged on the design of the Strategic Plan and the implementation of the 2025 Master Plan.

Discussion ensued and staff responded to questions regarding:

- Managing the Master Plan and the Strategic Planning process
- Priority planning, key trends and the ability to adjust to changes
- Watershed Management Plan
- Ownership of Leech and Goldstream watersheds

## 9. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

### 9.1. Water Conservation Bylaw Amendment [Presentation]

Environmental Protection staff provided a presentation.

Discussion ensued and staff responded to questions from the Committee regarding:

- Instantaneous peak demand
- Residential demand and peaks is what the bylaw will focus
- Data analysis
- Focus on summer outdoor demand
- High density housing outdoor use
- Indoor versus outdoor demand
- Focussing on irrigation industry
- Proposing to move to overnight watering for timed irrigation and changing watering days
- Drought implications
- Once through cooling (OTC) units

**MOVED by** T. Pedersen and **SECONDED by** T. Krawczyk,  
That the Water Advisory Committee express its support for the proposed Bylaw amendment.

**CARRIED**

### 9.2. Regional Water Supply 2017 Strategic Plan Closeout – Regional Water Supply Commission Staff Report for Information

A. Fraser spoke to the report noting that this Committee will be engaged on the Strategic Plan refresh for 2025. She highly recommended that the Committee read through the 2017 Strategic Plan and the accomplishments on the actions that have been undertaken. It will be very helpful in informing the new plan. She noted that there are some items in the 2017 Plan that would likely be carried forward to the new plan.

Discussion ensued and staff responded to questions from the Committee regarding:

- Consultation process
- Committee input
- Draft framework and outline being presented at next Committee meeting
- Public outreach

A. Fraser emphasized that she would like the Committee to familiarize itself with the attached report and the previous Strategic Plan. She advised that staff are not looking for options or input yet as staff first must draft the new Strategic Plan and would be looking to present the draft for feedback at the May meeting. Prioritizing can take place following the framework coming back in May.

### 9.3. Agricultural Water Rate Study – Overview

S. Irg provided an update noting that Stantec had been hired as the consultant to conduct the review, which was completed in Phase 1. Phase 2 will be a more in-depth report with a draft scope of services, which will be seeking feedback on.

Discussion ensued and staff responded to questions from the Committee and the following feedback was received:

- Needs to have a sense that we are working in the best interests of keeping our food local.
- Create greater equity in the system.
- Costly hookups are a barrier.
- Look at how farms are assessed, expanding the eligibility, review the methodology and include the BC Assessment Act.
- Regarding comments received about the “establishment of a maximum annual total” staff to change the wording in the general scope of Item 5a to read “consider the establishment of a maximum total and the impact of that”.

### 9.4. Summary of Recommendations from Regional Water Supply Commission

There was no discussion, the item was received for information.

### 9.5. Water Watch Report

There was no discussion, the item was received for information.

## 10. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

**MOVED** by T. Krawczyk, **SECONDED** by W. Scheuer,

That the February 27, 2024 meeting be adjourned at 2 pm.

**CARRIED**

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**CHAIR**

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**SECRETARY**