



Making a difference...together

**Minutes of the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission
Held Wednesday 09 June 2010
CRD Integrated Water Services – Main Conference Room
479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC**

Present: Yale Shap (C), Mark LeBlanc, Rob Hancock
CRD Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Director: Mike Hicks
CRD Staff: Colwyn Sunderland, Local Services Engineering Coordinator, Stewart Irwin,
Senior Manager Water Quality, Tim Tanton, Senior Manager, Infrastructure Engineering,
Scott Mason, Manager Regional Infrastructure

Public: Six members of the public were in attendance.

Chair Shap called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

The following items were added under New Business:

- Donation of Equipment (old business)
- Public Input after New Business and before Adjournment

MOVED by Mark LeBlanc, **SECONDED** by Rob Hancock that the agenda of the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission meeting of 09 June 2010 be approved as amended.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting – 23 November 2009

The following changes were made to the minutes:

- Item 5 – Election of Officers to be changed to read:
M. Hicks called for nominations for a commissioner. R. Hancock was nominated and elected by acclamation".
- Add to Item 5 – All AGM minutes will include the names of all those nominated for a position but declined.

MOVED by Mark LeBlanc, **SECONDED** by Director Hicks that the minutes of the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission Annual General Meeting of 23 November 2009 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

It was requested that the minutes reflect that Mark LeBlanc was using a recording device to tape the meeting currently in session.

3. **Approval of Minutes of 29 January 2010**

The following changes were made to the minutes:

Item 6 – Chair's Report

- Change first bullet to read: *An Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in November and Rob Hancock was acclaimed.*
- Add: *the chair indicated the fire that was lit at the lower reservoir 01 September 2009 was determined to be illegal. It is unknown what follow-up action was taken by the East Sooke Fire Commission.*

Item 7 – Presentation

- Change first sentence to read: *Mr. Christopher Gilbert presented a proposal to donate a large portion of land to the CRD or Mt. Matheson Conservation Society.*

Item 8 – Correspondence

- Add: *Mr. Hull confirmed, based on a previous legal opinion concerning a similarly operated water system, that the Wilderness Mountain water users are responsible for all costs arising from the operation of the utility.*
- Change motion to read: **MOVED** by Commissioner Hicks, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Hancock that the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission request that J. Hull write a letter in response to the correspondence received from K. LeBlanc and W. Fleetham and copied to the Commission, to address questions raised in the correspondence received as a result of Mr. Tanton's letter dated 02 December 2009.

Item 13 – Questions from Members of the Public

- Add: *Costs associated with the mailing of Mr. Tanton's letter dated 02 December 2009 (Re: Private Property Concerns) were paid by the Wilderness Mountain water users.*

MOVED by Mark LeBlanc, **SECONDED** by Director Hicks that the minutes of the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission meeting of 29 January 2010 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

4. **Review of Action List**

The action list was reviewed and updated.

Staff reported that all Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission minutes are now posted on the CRD website. Minutes that are not yet adopted will be shown as *Draft*.

A discussion took place on subdivision applications.

5. **Correspondence**

MOVED by Yale Shap, **SECONDED** by Mark LeBlanc that the 11 items of correspondence, as listed in a separate handout, be received for information.

CARRIED

Director Hicks requested that Mark LeBlanc's concerns regarding construction in the vicinity of Wilfred Brook reservoir be noted in the minutes. Mark LeBlanc's concerns were as follows:

- The building is adjacent to the covenant area and a survey was not conducted by CRD.
- A staff report was not brought to the commission.
- Construction of a barn could raise contamination from THM's and animals.

Mark LeBlanc noted that Juan de Fuca Planning staff were very helpful and that he would be following up with them on the issue.

Staff noted that a site visit was conducted by CRD and that Juan de Fuca Planning reviewed the application and had no concerns with the siting.

A member of the public requested information on the presence of THM's and how it would impact the choice of the water treatment plant. Stewart Irwin explained that it would be included as part of the treatment process and that more information is provided in the Drinking Water Quality 2009 Annual Overview.

6. Operations Update

Staff provided a verbal report that included the following:

- No significant operations issues.
- New antenna tower mounted on water storage reservoir. It was bought and paid for by the regional emergency program.
- Explanation of parcel taxes, user charges, operating expenses, capital expense.

The commission requested that residents be notified of the existence of the antenna tower and that staff CRD staff may frequent the location.

MOVED by Director Hicks, **SECONDED** by Yale Shap that CRD staff provide the commission with a comparison between the current fee structure and the originally proposed fee structure (parcel tax only for capital expenses).

CARRIED

7. 2009 Annual Overview of Drinking Water Quality

Stewart Irwin presented a written report entitled *2009 Annual Overview of Wilderness Mountain's Drinking Water Quality*. The commission was assured that the drinking water quality for the Wilderness Mountain service area is safe to drink. It was noted that the report is posted on the CRD website.

Staff provided information in response to questions from the public on:

- Water quality concerns when the distribution system mains are flushed.
- Algae blooms and the effect on water quality.

Questions and answers received via e-mail from Yale Shap to Stewart Irwin regarding Trihalomethane (THMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) were presented and it was requested that they be included in the minutes and posted on the website as follows:

1. What impact do these levels of THMs and HAAs have on our drinking water now and in the future?

Disinfection by-product limits (THMs and HAAs) are categorized as chronic health-related limits not acute health related limits. Exceeding of an acute limit in a drinking water system requires an immediate response since there is an immediate risk of infection or disease. The finding of E.coli bacteria in the distribution system is an example of an acute limit exceedence and typically prompts the immediate imposition of a boil water advisory. This is not the case for disinfection by-products – the limit is actually expressed as an annual running average, not an individual number. The risk of disease (in this case – cancer) is based on a lifetime exposure: people must

consume water containing high levels of disinfection by-products over their lifetime (70 years) and then there is a 1 in 10,000 risk of contracting cancer (based on the presence of chloroform, the THM that is most commonly present in the highest concentrations). Chronic risks are usually dealt with using changes to the treatment process.

2. Are there, or do you think there will be, any advisories that we can expect from VIHA?

Typically, VIHA staff do not issue advisories based on exceedences of chronic health limits. However, they may address the issue as a condition on the operating permit for the water system. I have copied Michael Riefman on this e-mail.

3. You have mentioned, in the past, that these levels have been common in our water for several years. Could you elaborate?

The Wilderness Mountain Water System file contains a letter from Ron King to Gary Hendren dated February 25, 2005 which lists THM results for seven samples collected between March 12, 2003 and December 20, 2004. Five of the seven results show THMs at or exceeding the Health Canada limit of 100 micrograms per litre.

<i>March 12, 2003</i>	<i>100 ug/L THMs</i>
<i>November 19, 2003</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>March 12, 2004</i>	<i>79</i>
<i>July 23, 2004</i>	<i>150</i>
<i>August 25, 2004</i>	<i>150</i>
<i>October 18, 2004</i>	<i>150</i>
<i>December 20, 2004</i>	<i>74</i>

I am not aware of the results of other THM samples that may have been collected between 2004 and 2009. The first THM sample we collected in November 2009 had a THM level of 50.

4. Is there anything that the residents can do to minimize this problem, if required?

As this is a chronic exceedence, residents do not need to take special precautions immediately unless so desired. Carbon filters will remove the THMs and HAAs. Boiling water used for consumption for 1-2 minutes will also reduce the level of these disinfection by-products since they gas off easily. In addition, simply letting the water stand open to the atmosphere for a day or so will also reduce level.

8. Proposed Water Treatment Plant Improvements / Capital

Staff presented a written report to inform the commission of the status of the water treatment improvement project.

It was noted that a project plan should be in place by September 2010.

The commission received the report for information.

9. Subdivision Application: 706 Cains Way

Staff provided a verbal report on receipt of a subdivision application referral by CRD from Ministry of Transportation at 706 Cains Way. The following topics were discussed:

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- variance will be required
- documentation to be reviewed for covenants to ensure the protection of the water service area or any legal impediments.
- Questions that will be brought to the commission to be addressed in future will include acceptance of the application and acceptance of a grant of land.
- The commission approved of the application in principle and expressed a desire for the process to move forward.

10. New Business

Donation of Equipment

A discussion took place regarding infrastructure works located on the property of Doug and Carla Funk. Mr. Funk was in attendance and agreed that the infrastructure works located on his property are now property of the CRD.

10 (a) Public Input

In response to questions from the public, staff reported as follows:

- On-line banking is available to pay the CRD utility bill.
- There has never been a request by a company to locate a cell phone tower by the reservoir.
- Strategic planning is a focus of the CRD for all of its utilities.

MOVED by Yale Shap, **SECONDED** by Mark LeBlanc that the late charges of \$26.35 applied to Mr. Stephen N. Jacobs who was unable to pay his water bill on time due to illness, be reversed.

CARRIED

The next meeting will be scheduled for September. The date will be determined.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.