



Making a difference...together

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission, held Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 9:30 a.m., In the Goldstream Conference Room, 479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC

PRESENT: Commissioners: D. Pepino (Chair); M. Lechowicz (Vice Chair); L. Cutler; A. Wickheim (EA Director)
Staff: S. Irg, Senior Manager, Infrastructure Water Operations; C. Moch, Manager, Water Quality; M. Risvold (Recorder)

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Senior Manager called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission for the term ending December 31, 2024.

M. Lechowicz nominated D. Pepino. D. Pepino accepted the nomination.

The Senior Manager called for nominations a second time.

The Senior Manager called for nominations a third and final time.

Hearing no further nominations, the Senior Manager declared D. Pepino Chair of the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission for the term ending December 31, 2024, by acclamation.

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission for the term ending December 31, 2024.

L. Cutler nominated M. Lechowicz. M. Lechowicz accepted the nomination.

The Chair called for nominations a second time.

The Chair called for nominations a third and final time.

Hearing no further nominations, the Chair declared M. Lechowicz Vice Chair of the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission for the term ending December 31, 2024, by acclamation.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by L. Cutler, **SECONDED** by M. Lechowicz,
That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Item 5.1.5 was amended to read:

“There was a discussion regarding the Associated Engineering report and the Commission noted that the class D estimates plus or minus 50% are ~~reports’ recommendation was too~~ risky.”

The following was added to item 7:

“The commission advised the Wilderness Mountain Water Service community does not find these two options affordable or desirable. The community is confident that Source Water Treatment Objectives can be achieved through affordable, incremental trials of improvements to the present treatment system.”

MOVED by D. Pepino, **SECONDED** by A. Wickheim,

That the minutes of the November 10, 2023 Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission meeting be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

5. CHAIR’S REMARKS

The Chair made no remarks.

6. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

There were none.

7. SENIOR MANAGER’S REPORT

S. Irg provided the following updates:

Boil water advisory (BWA): the BWA that was issued October 28, 2023, was rescinded on January 24, 2024. Discussion ensued regarding the BWA procedures.

Manganese advisory: The manganese advisory was rescinded January 29, 2024. Current turbidity is 0.65NTU.

The committee asked if there is a document that outlines the steps to be taken in an emergency. Staff advised there is an internal Emergency Response Procedures (ERP) document that covers different scenarios and is referred to as needed. The committee requested a copy of this document and staff further advised it is not a public facing document and is required by the *Drinking Water Protection Act*.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Turbidity
- Suspended particles
- ERP
- Dissolved organic matter
- Manganese
- Lake turnover

8. COMMISSION BUSINESS

8.1. Project and Operations Update

S. Irg spoke to item 8.1.

Staff responded to a question regarding the status of the application for the intake platform. Staff advised this is a two-part process. The pre-screening has passed which means it meets the required criteria. The formal application will be submitted once the Board approves the budget in March 2024. The report was received for information.

9. WILDERNESS MOUNTAIN WATER SERVICE COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

Regular meetings of the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission shall be held in the Goldstream Conference Room, 479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC in February, June, and November to approve the Operating and Capital Budget. Meetings will commence at 9:30 am unless otherwise determined.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1. Wilderness Mountain Water System (Capital Regional District), 706 Cains Way, Sooke, BC

Staff responded to a question from the commission regarding how the letter was drafted. Staff advised the letter resulted from the change to the Operating Permit from Island Health, which requested a plan moving forward. The General Manager of Integrated Water Services wanted to provide an update to Island Health, as required. As of today, there has not been a response from Island Health.

11. NEW BUSINESS

M. Lechowicz provided a document to the commission titled “to address identifying and funding an affordable offshore extension of the WMWS source water intake”. The document is available upon request.

MOVED by M. Lechowicz, **SECONDED** L. Cutler,
That:

- A. CRD-IWS staff seek bids from qualified contractors to construct a floating intake on the lines described subsequently and at an explicitly specified total final cost below the \$132,000 allowed by CRD-IWS staff in their previously proposed project 21-01; and
- B. The floating intake be designed and installed by a contractor fully qualified to assess and if necessary, remedy any hydraulic constraints imposed by the existing intake pump on the intake pipe extension; and
- C. The new intake be hung at ~3-m depth on a float anchored in the ~9-m deep pool offshore from the present nearshore intake and screened to ensure debris free source water is drawn from well above the sediments; and
- D. The intake depth be readily adjustable ± 2 m using simple onshore controls to allow for seasonal changes in the reservoir level or the depth profile of water quality; and
- E. Before any construction contract is undertaken all required funding must have been sought and obtained through a grant requiring no more than \$13,200 support from the WMWS Capital Reserve Fund.

DEFEATED

Opposed: Pepino, Cutler, Wickheim

Staff provided the following comments:

- The use of public funds for the design and build of a new pumpstation.
- A professional engineer is required for the design.
- Could hire someone to provide a design to receive a Class A estimate.
- Higher chance of successfully obtaining a grant by having a design ready.
- The system is unable to meet Island Health's objectives and requirements with only completing the floating intake.
- Recommends considering showing a floating intake design for the ability to apply for grants.
- Island Health having the ability to provide an order for the water system.
- It is CRD's responsibility for centralized treatment, infrastructure, operations and following industry standards.

The commission noted the following and discussion ensued regarding:

- The commission wants to provide high quality water at a low cost.
- Potential financial burden for a small community.
- Raising the intake instead of building a new one.
- Manganese and e. Coli concerns.
- The commission would like to work with CRD and Island Health to result in a compromise.

MOVED by D. Pepino, **SECONDED** L. Cutler,

That:

- A. CRD-IWS staff seek bids from qualified contractors to construct a floating intake on the lines described subsequently and at an explicitly specified total final cost below the \$132,000 allowed by CRD-IWS staff in their previously proposed project 21-01; and
- B. The floating intake be designed and installed by a contractor fully qualified to assess and if necessary, remedy any hydraulic constraints imposed by the existing intake pump on the intake pipe extension; and
- C. The new intake be hung at ~3-m depth on a float anchored in the ~9-m deep pool offshore from the present nearshore intake and screened to ensure debris free source water is drawn from well above the sediments; and
- D. The intake depth be readily adjustable ± 2 m using simple onshore controls to allow for seasonal changes in the reservoir level or the depth profile of water quality; and
- E. Before any construction contract is undertaken all required funding must have been sought and obtained through a grant requiring no more than \$13,200 support from the WMWS Capital Reserve Fund
- F. To be considered as part of the tasking for conversation at the November meeting, in preparation of the 2025 budget.

CARRIED

Staff advised this motion will remain dormant until the November Budget meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by M. Lechowicz, **SECONDED** by L. Cutler,
That the February 15, 2024 Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission meeting be
adjourned at 11:04

am.

CARRIED

CHAIR

SECRETARY