



## Minutes

### Water Services Advisory Committee Meeting

March 22, 2024, 9:00 a.m.  
Council Chambers  
10150 Bottom Wood Lake Road  
Lake Country, British Columbia V4V 2M1

Council Present: Mayor Blair Ireland  
Councillor Tricia Brett

Staff Present: Kiel Wilkie, Utilities Manager  
Mike Mitchell, Utility Superintendent  
Nick Van Dalen, Engineering Technician I  
Janice Pederson, Infrastructure Clerk  
Sarah Graham, Engineering Technician I

Committee Members Present: Keith Veerman (chair)  
Berry Van De Snepcheut  
Dave Allingham  
Ron Buss, electronically  
Al Gatzke  
Tobi McNeil  
Brad Krahn  
Keith Hanson

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#### 1. Call to Order

*We acknowledge that we are conducting our business today on the unceded territory of squilx"/syilx (Okanagan) peoples. As a Committee of Council, we recognize the importance of doing our best to build respectful relationships that contribute to stewarding the land and waters in the community with integrity and consideration for future generations.*

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

#### 2. Adoption of Agenda

It was moved and seconded

THAT the Water Services Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda of March 22, 2024 agenda be amended by adding small scale farming discussion to the agenda be adopted.

**Carried.**

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

THAT the Water Services Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2023 be adopted

**Carried.**

**4. Election of Chair**

*It was moved and seconded*

*THAT Keith Veerman is Chair of the Water Services Advisory Committee for the 2024 calendar year.*

*Carried.*

**5. Council and Organizational Updates**

The Utilities Operations Manager updated the Committee on the recent organizational changes that have happened recently.

- Paul Gibbs is the new Chief Administrator Officer.
- Greg Buchholz is no longer with the District.
- Roger Bailey can no longer participate in being a committee member.

**6. Snow Pack**

The Utilities Operations Manager presented to the Committee information on what the snowpack is this year.

- Both Beaver Lake and Oyama Lake levels are slightly below what they were this time last year
- Snowpack is 100% of normal at the end of February 2024.
- Anticipating an early spring
- Possibility of accessing storage 2 - 4 weeks earlier, however this can change if more rain and cooler temperatures happen

Committee members discussed the usage of spill water to optimize soil moisture prior to using reserve water.

**7. March 12, 2024 Water Outage**

The Utilities Operations Manager presented details on the March 12, 2024 water outage and the mainline valve that was replaced at the corner of Camp and Bond Roads. Some of the extensive planning that goes into replacing aging infrastructure was reviewed with the committee. Items

such as shutdown and drainage plans, repair plans, communications plans, and IHA protection of public health plans which includes sampling.

District staff have replaced three important valves within the distribution system since initiating the Mainline Valve Replacement Program in 2022. Planning for more valve replacement continues.

## **8. Water Conservation Plan**

The Engineering Technician updated the committee on the 2024 Water Conservation Plan and highlighted the following:

- The purpose of the plan is to seek endorsement which then allows staff to begin work on the Agricultural Irrigation Use plan.
- The intent of this plan is to be proactive and prepared for times of drought.
- Reducing allotments was never a recommendation of the Water Conservation Plan.
- The Water Conservation Plan identified initiatives to conserve water that will
  - reduce operational costs
  - better prepare community for water shortages
- Identified as a critical component of grand funding applications.
- Gives direction for initiatives to include Agricultural Irrigation Usage Plan.

The sequence of planning documents are:

- The Water Master Plan that was adopted by Council in 2023.
- Currently seeking endorsement for the Water Conservation Plan.
- After endorsement of the Water Conservation Plan it will allow staff to work on creating an Agricultural Irrigation Use Plan and
- Continue work on the Water Management Plan.
- A Water Scarcity Plan will then follow .

2024 Water Conservation Plan Revisions since December meeting are as follows:

- Recommendation structure has changed so it will clearly identify what the purpose of the plan is.
- Clearly stated water reserves allocated for agriculture to remain.
- Incorporated Provincial modelling tools to drive decisions of the Agricultural Usage Plan.

*It was moved and seconded*

*THAT the Water Services Advisory Committee recommends that Council adopts the revised 2024 Water Conservation Plan*

*AND THAT a terms of reference be developed for the Agricultural Irrigation Use Plan and reviewed with the committee.*

*Carried.*

## **9. Carr's Landing Water Servicing Plan Update**

The Utilities Manager gave an update on the Carr's Landing Water Servicing Strategy to the committee and highlighted the following:

- The study area is located in Carr's Landing and consist of individual private water intakes, Moberly Water Society, the Barkley Water Users Group, Eastside Utility, and the Coral Beach Water System.
- All these water systems have challenges such as uncompliant to IHA standards, aging infrastructure, insufficient water system storage for fire protection.
- The objective of this strategy is to extend the public water system to the service area that moves towards compliance with the District's Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaw standards.
- Ultimately the property owners in the service area will vote whether to proceed via a Local Service Area process.

There are 2 phases involved in the communications of this servicing strategy.

- Phase 1 will explain the issues, benefits, and challenges in extending the public water system some of the key issues are
  - Lack of fire protection
  - Aging infrastructure
  - IHA water quality guidelines
  - Lack of system reliability
  - Not grant eligible
  - Private water system operations
- Communication Challenges:
  - Beaver Lake water quality
  - Potential varying levels of support
  - Cost vs benefit
- Phase 2 will focus on educating the public on the local service area process.

Outstanding items that still need to be determined are:

- Benefit to larger community and should there be any subsidy from larger community.
- O'Rourke development and does this fit into the servicing strategy.

- Coral Beach Water System being a District owned and operated satellite water system, how to allocate their cost.

Discussion ensued about the following:

- Potential benefits to the larger community from a wildfire perspective if the water system was improved.
- Benefit to private water intakes if invasive mussels enter into Okanagan Lake.
- Benefit to property owners in property value.
- Servicing plan effort level should be moderated to only progressing to a level where property owners can make an informed decision.

**10. Small Scale Farming**

A. Gatzke introduced to the group the concept and benefits that small scale farms without farm status should be able to access water at the same price as other agricultural properties with farm status. To be added as an agenda item for future meeting to discuss further.

**11. Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be scheduled at the call of the Chair.

**12. Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:10 am.

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Keith Veerman, Chair

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Janice Pederson, Recording Secretary