



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
DRINKING WATER AND WATERSHED PROTECTION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2013 AT 12:30 PM**

Present:

Randy Alexander, CHAIR	General Manager, Regional & Community Utilities, RDN
Gord Buckingham	General Public Representative (North)
Gilles Wendling	General Public Representative (South)
Pat Lapcevic.....	Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Faye Smith	Environment Community Representative
Ken Epps.....	Forest Industry Representative
Alan Gilchrist	Academic Community Representative (VIU)
Mike Squire	Manager of Utilities, City of Parksville / Program Manager, AWS
Bill Sims	Manager, Water Resources, City of Nanaimo
Rosie Barlak.....	Registered Professional Biologist Representative
Bob Weir	Director of Engineering & Utilities, Town of Qualicum Beach
Brad Rodway	Forest Industry Representative
Steve Lorimer	TimberWest Representative
Shelley Bayne	Hydrogeology Representative

Regrets:

Lynne Magee.....	Vancouver Island Health Authority
Leon Cake.....	Water Purveyors' Representative
Mike Donnelly,	Manager, Water Services, RDN
Courtenay Simpson	Islands Trust Representative
Debbie O'Brien	Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
Fred Spears	Director of Public Works, District of Lantzville
Domenico Iannidinardo.....	Forest Industry Representative
Oliver Brandes.....	Academic Community Representative
Kate Miller.....	Cowichan Valley Regional District

Also In Attendance:

Dawn Keim	Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Coordinator, RDN
Julie Pisani	Special Projects Assistant, RDN
Lauren Fegan.....	Special Projects Assistant, RDN
Rebecca Graves.....	Recording Secretary, RDN
Chris Burger.....	Mayor, City of Parksville
Julian Fell.....	Director, RDN, Area 'F'

CALL TO ORDER

R. Alexander called the meeting to order at 12:35 pm.

MINUTES

Minutes from the regular meeting of the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Advisory Committee held December 13, 2012 were adopted.

REPORTS

Gabriola, Mudge & Decourcey Islands Water Budget Project (Phase One) Report

R. Alexander (Report for Submission)

RDN Vancouver Island Water Budget Project (Phase One) Report

R. Alexander (Report for Submission)

Randy Alexander noted that these reports are being submitted as final reports and that these reports are now going forward to the RDN Sustainability Select Committee and the Board for their consideration and internal discussion. After that process the reports will become public. TAC members are asked to send their feedback and comments by July 31st.

Water Conservation Plan Report - R. Alexander (Report for Comment)

Randy Alexander noted that this report is being submitting to the members of the committee for their comments. It has been in the works for over a year and there has been some public consultation so this has produced this version. This report was very recently submitted so now it is available electronically on the RDN FTP site.

Municipal Updates - B. Weir, M. Squire, B. Sims (Overview)

Bob Weir commented that there is now a flow monitoring station in Qualicum Beach on the Little Qualicum River. He noted that the Town has successfully in negotiated access to with Island Timberlands lands. Three new test holes were drilled on the site for well head protection, replacement and well exploration. Bob Weir noted that they currently have a Water Conservation student who is currently preparing data sets. He has taken the water consumption for the town lots and turned those lots into a useful neighbourhood map which identifies possible leaks. The website is not yet public yet but used only as an internal tool.

Mike Squire gave an overview for the City of Parksville noting they are underway with the preliminary design of the intake on the Englishman River and with testing of the Aquifer storage and recovery system. He noted that the ASR well is in final completion and that they are 2 weeks away from injecting water into that well and that 5 test wells were installed within the vicinity. He also noted the RDN and City of Parksville have extended their water use agreement for supply to Nanoose.

Bill Sims reported that the City of Nanaimo is moving forward with the water filtration plant and have successfully completed the five pipelines to that plant over the last eight months. Bill Sims noted that the treatment plant is at excavation stage and that they expect construction for the next year and a half. Target date for completion is March 2015. Recently Council approved water supply to the District of Lantzville for 225 connections.

Public Awareness and Involvement - Watershed Tours - J. Pisani (Presentation)

Julie Pisani provided an overview of Team Watersmart public awareness programs and improvements to school education programs. Julie Pisani commented on the Drinking Water Week presentations that were given to Kindergarten to grade 9 classes focused on where their tap water comes from. The classes were encouraged to create a poster on what they learned from the presentation for a chance to win a Helicopter tour of our region's watersheds. This grand prize was donated by SunWest Helicopters of Qualicum Beach.

Julie Pisani noted that they are looking at how to improve the school education program. She presented the idea of taking students out of the classroom on a field trip to discover their watersheds through experiential learning. Julie commented that Metro Vancouver had consultants develop a watershed field trip program that directly ties into grade 4 and 5 curriculum and that they are willing to share that program design and activity guide with the RDN.

Water Use Management -Water Use Reporting Tool - D. Keim (Presentation)

Dawn Keim gave a presentation on the BC Water Use Reporting Centre and it's free online water-use tracking and reporting system for all medium to large water users (licensed or unlicensed, public or private, surface or groundwater). Water use data is either entered manually or uploaded (XML or CSV) by water users and is securely stored within the web-based tool. Integration with automated real-time data reporting and collection tools is possible. Dawn Keim mentioned that once a user profile is created within the system the MoE Annual Water System Return Report can be automatically generated. The tool is intended to make reporting water use easier for water purveyors, facilitate more frequent reporting and improve the accuracy and timeliness of water usage reports. The stored water use information reported can be used for long-term water management planning in a time of change, infrastructure planning, reconciling water use with license volumes, reviewing water allocations, and tracking efficiency.

Fall 2013 Public Information Sessions - D. Keim (Announcement)

Dawn Keim briefly discussed how there will be weekly public information sessions this coming October. Details of the sessions were provided in the recent DWWP Newsletter. Dawn noted that the idea is to give an overview of the program and achievements to date and share some results of the water budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Julie asked Brad Rodway if Island Timberlands would be interested in the school education program watershed field trips, as Island Timberlands owns land within both Nanaimo and Parksville's drinking watersheds and would be a necessary partner. Brad was interested to explore this idea and also mentioned a career day with Parksville high school students. Steve Lorimer, from Timberwest commented that they would support the watershed field trip program in principle. If Forestry practice codes were followed it would be compatible. Bill Sims noted his concern on how to balance the restricted access into the watershed, with the need for improved education initiatives.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Randy Alexander, Chair