

Notes from Feb. 26 Meeting with Parker Road Area Residents re Water Monitoring Program

- RDN staff and GW Solutions Hydrogeologists brought a proposed monitoring program forward to the group.
- Well inventory in the area had been updated since the last meeting, with most area wells accounted for. Well owners that had not yet confirmed information about a well on their property were encouraged to get that info to the RDN as soon as possible.
- Parker Road area monitoring is proposed to be a Phase 1 of a Nanoose (Area E) wide monitoring program over the long term.
- Monitoring of private wells in the Parker Rd area will be done for at least one year - During this 12 month period, there are proposed to be pump tests on the subject well – a 6 hr pump test, a 72 hr pump test and a one month pump test, during the dry season.
- The one month pump test will be performed at an intermediate flow rate (around 50 USgpm); during the last days of the pumping flow rate will be increased (around 75 USgpm) to stress the aquifer and monitor its reaction. Flowmeter test will be performed in the subject well during this pump test to confirm locations of inflows (fractures producing water) along the borehole.
- There were concerns with where the water from the pump test will be sent... Residents (and the RDN) do not want to see that water go to waste; and it should not be “recharged” to the vicinity of the Parker Road area, to ensure no interference with the monitoring of groundwater levels during the pump test.
- RDN staff said that it is possible to send pump test water into the RDN Nanoose Peninsula water system; the water would be treated before entering the pipes. This would mean that the water would be used by service area residents (i.e. not ‘wasted’ in a ditch running off to the ocean) and it would not interfere with observing the impacts of the pumping.
- Connecting the subject well to the RDN Nanoose water system for the duration of the pump test would test the well in a realistic manner. Pumps from other Nanoose water system wells could be adjusted during the pump test to accommodate the influx of water from the subject well if necessary.
- Wells in the Parker Rd area would be closely observed to investigate impact from the pump test – observed drawdowns would be compared with modelled drawdowns .
- Objective of the monitoring program is to understand long-term capacity of the aquifer and determine sustainable operating parameters for the subject well, so that wells in the surrounding area are not “significantly impaired”.
- “Significantly impaired” still needs to be defined.... Currently no Provincial guidance on this, but may be coming with new Water Sustainability Act. “

- Maelstrom Creek will also be monitored for changes in level/flow in relation to the pumping of the subject well. There will be baseline level data collected at 3 proposed sites on the Creek starting in March.

- It was mentioned that other big users in the proximity (local farms) drawing large volumes of water should be monitored during the pump test. This is taken into consideration so as to not associate those separate, existing, impacts with the subject well. Gilles mentioned that the controlled pumping in the subject well would show up distinctly in the level loggers so there would be a way to differentiate impacts.

- Overall, the group was pleased with the plan for monitoring. The proposed "Phase 2" Nanoose-wide monitoring was also well-received.

- GW Solutions and RDN will go back and confirm the recommended monitoring wells and proceed to contact well owners to receive permissions and access. The monitoring equipment should be installed and operating before the end of March.

- The RDN will keep the group updated via emails and a web page.