

Meeting Minutes

Water Advisory Committee

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

12:00 PM

Goldstream Meeting Room
479 Island Hwy
Victoria BC V9B 1H7

PRESENT:

K. Harper (Chair), C. Davis, M. Doehnel, A. Fernandes (EP), A. McArdle, C. Nowakowski (EP),
K. Oppen, T. Pedersen, W. Scheuer, M. Turner (12:10 pm) (EP), M. Wagner (EP), K. Zimmerman

Staff: A. Fraser, General Manager, Infrastructure and Water Services (IWS); J. Ussery, Manager, Watershed Resource Planning, Watershed Protection; D. Dionne, Manager, IWS Business Support Services; M. Lagoa, Manager, Legislative Services and Deputy Corporate Officer; D. Pagani, Administrative Coordinator, IWS Business Support Services (EP); M. MacDonald, Legislative Services Coordinator (Recorder)

EP – Electronic Participation

Regrets: C. Davis

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Harper provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Election of Vice Chair

Chair Harper called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Water Advisory Committee for 2025.

W. Scheuer nominated K. Zimmerman

K. Zimmerman accepted the nomination.

Chair Harper called for nominations a second and third time.

Hearing no further nominations, Chair Harper declared K. Zimmerman the Vice Chair of the Water Advisory Committee by acclamation.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by A. McArdle, SECONDED by W. Scheuer,
That the agenda for the Water Advisory Committee meeting of March 25, 2025 be
approved.
CARRIED

4. Adoption of Minutes

- 4.1. [25-0366](#) Minutes of the Water Advisory Committee Meeting of November 26, 2024

**MOVED by M. Doehnel, SECONDED by K. Oppen,
That the minutes of the Water Advisory Committee meeting of November 26, 2024
be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED**

5. Chair's Remarks

The Chair expressed gratitude for the ongoing work of Committee members, including the past Chair and Vice Chair.

6. Presentations/Delegations

There were no presentations or delegations.

7. Committee Business

- 7.1. [25-0338](#) General Manager's Verbal Update

A. Fraser presented item 7.1. for information and provided the following updates:

- the Sooke Lake Reservoir hit capacity in late February
- recent earthquakes did not damage water infrastructure
- progress on the purchase of the Kapoor Lumber Company lands
- the Board has implemented a rate freeze for Development Cost Charges until 2027
- the Regional Water Supply Master Plan Implementation Study is underway
- a presentation on the Master Plan will be brought to the Committee in future

M. Turner joined the meeting electronically at 12:10 pm.

- 7.2. [25-0372](#) Regional Water Supply Strategic Plan Verbal Update

A. Fraser presented Item 7.1. for information and provided the following updates:

- public engagement for the Strategic Plan began in February
- results of the engagement will be brought to the next meeting

- 7.3. [25-0373](#) Letter to Brenda Bailey, Minister of Finance, re: Review of Conditions Required for Farm Classification by BC Assessment Authority

The Chair spoke to item 7.3 for information.

Discussion ensued regarding the importance of advocating for preserving land intended for agricultural use, and the critical role played by local governments in this matter.

7.4. [25-0367](#) Risk Assessments Relating to Wildfire in a Changing Climate

J. Ussery presented item 7.4 for information.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- wildfire risk reduction techniques being implemented in the watershed
- the importance of monitoring and enhancing the integrity of the watershed
- reducing potential risks to water quality
- watershed tours and other water related engagement opportunities
- ongoing restoration of the Leech Water Supply Area

There is no recommendation. This presentation is for information only.

7.5. [25-0368](#) Summary of Recommendations from Regional Water Supply Commission

A. Fraser presented item 7.5. for information.

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

7.6. [25-0369](#) Water Watch Report

A. Fraser presented item 7.6. for information.

8. Notice(s) of Motion

There were no notice(s) of motion.

9. New Business

There was no new business.

10. Adjournment

**MOVED by K. Zimmerman, SECONDED by A. McArdle,
That the Water Advisory Committee meeting of March 25, 2025 be adjourned at
1:48 pm.
CARRIED**

CHAIR

RECORDER