

**REPORT TO REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020**

SUBJECT **Appointment of Watershed Security Officers**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To appoint additional Watershed Security Officers with authority to enforce Bylaw No. 2804, Capital Regional District (CRD) Water Supply Area Regulations and Bylaw No. 3682, CRD Parks Regulations.

BACKGROUND

Appointment of Watershed Security Officers

Bylaw No. 2804, CRD Water Supply Area Regulations provides authority to authorized personnel to enforce the bylaw. Authorized personnel are defined as “peace officer, conservation officer, or person appointed or employed by the CRD as a park officer, animal control officer, bylaw enforcement officer, *watershed security officer*, or other authorized CRD employee”.

Watershed Security Officers were last appointed in 2017 and staffing changes require an update to those appointed. CRD staff appointed as Watershed Security Officers have received bylaw training and have experience with bylaw compliance and enforcement for the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area (GVWSA). Watershed Security Officers supplement the existing service of CRD Bylaw Enforcement Officers who will continue to provide advice, additional coverage, and assistance with serious and complex incidents in the GVWSA.

The CRD Parks Regulation was amended in June 2017 to include Watershed Security Officers to provide authority to enforce park regulations along the Sooke Hills Wilderness Trail (portion of the Great Trail) through and near the GVWSA. Parks Officers were already designated with authority to enforce the Water Supply Area Regulation.

Both CRD Regional Parks and Watershed Protection have the ability to provide compliance and enforcement regardless whether an infraction occurs within or outside of the trail corridor. Regional Parks and Watershed Protection staff work to provide a consistent approach with the public in providing compliance and enforcement along the trail.

Pursuant to Section 233 of the *Local Government Act* and Section 28(3) of the *Offence Act* and in accordance with CRD Bylaw No. 2681, the Regional Board must make resolutions for appointment to the office of Watershed Security Officer.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

That the Regional Water Supply Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board to:

Appoint Patrick McCoubrey and Devon Barnes as Watershed Security Officers; and that Don Herriott (retired) be removed from appointment; for the purpose of Section 233 of the *Local Government Act* and Section 28(3) of the *Offence Act*, and in accordance with Capital Regional District Bylaw No. 2681.

Alternative 2

That this report be referred back to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Social Implications

The ability to enforce the Water Supply Area Regulation is important in maintaining compliance and society's expectation for a closed watershed for drinking water. The Sooke Hills Wilderness Trail and the increased residential growth in the Langford and Goldstream areas are creating increasing pressure as more members of the public look for new and interesting areas for recreation nearby. Existing security infrastructure (gates and fences) provides a visual barrier and a barrier to vehicles and motorcycles, but cannot keep out pedestrians and cyclists without presence and enforcement.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

Service Delivery and Regional Water Supply Strategic Plan Implications

The appointment of Watershed Security Officers assists CRD staff in delivering on compliance and enforcement of the Water Supply Area Regulation to protect drinking water for Greater Victoria for the long term.

CONCLUSION

In order to enforce the CRD Water Supply Area Regulation that protects the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area for drinking water production, it is recommended that the CRD Board make resolutions for appointment to the office of Watershed Security Officer.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional Water Supply Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board to:

Appoint Patrick McCoubrey and Devon Barnes as Watershed Security Officers; and that Don Herriott (retired) be removed from appointment; for the purpose of Section 233 of the Local Government Act and Section 28(3) of the Offence Act, and *in accordance* with Capital Regional District Bylaw No. 2681.

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