



**REPORT TO REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024**

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**SUBJECT**     **Designation 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. 4225, CRD Parks Regulation.

**BACKGROUND**

Bylaw No. 2804, CRD Water Supply Area Regulations, designates personnel authorized 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 July 2023 and currently there are five appointed. A review of roles and training indicates there is one additional Watershed Security Officer to be designated at this time. CRD staff appointed as Watershed Security Officers receive 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 Bylaw No. 4225 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 officers provide compliance and enforcement regardless of whether an infraction occurs within or outside of the trail corridor. Regional Parks and Watershed Protection staff liaise 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*

The Regional Water Supply Commission recommends that the Capital Regional District Board: Appoint Nathan Prenger as Watershed Security Officer 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 no additional Watershed Security Officers be appointed at this time.

**IMPLICATIONS**

*Service Delivery 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.

Nathan Prenger’s qualifications for bylaw enforcement are supported by his completion of the Bylaw Compliance, Enforcement & Investigative Skills Level 1 Certificate. In addition to this key certification, he has undergone training in managing aggressive behavior, including Verbal Judo and Violent and Aggressive Behaviour Management courses. His training also includes a documented review of Watershed Security Patrol Procedures with Security Program staff. These courses equip him with the necessary skills to enforce bylaws, manage aggressive behavior, and conduct security patrols effectively.

*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 increasing pressure as 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.

**CONCLUSION**

To enforce CRD Bylaw No. 2804 Water Supply Area Regulations and Bylaw No. 4225 Parks Regulation, it is recommended that the CRD Board make resolutions for appointment to the office of Watershed Security Officer.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Regional Water Supply Commission recommends that the Capital Regional District Board: Appoint Nathan Prenger as Watershed Security Officer 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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