

Meeting Minutes
Regional Water Supply Commission

Friday, March 1, 2024

9:00 AM

6th Floor Boardroom
625 Fisgard St.
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

Special Meeting

PRESENT

COMMISSIONERS: G. Baird (Chair); K. Harper (Vice Chair); J. Caradonna (EP);
N. Chambers; C. Coleman; Z. de Vries (EP); S. Duncan; C. Graham (EP);
S. Gray; C. Green (EP); K. Guiry; S. Kim; D. Lajeunesse (EP); T. Morrison (EP);
T. Phelps Bondaroff; J. Rogers; C. Stock; M. Wagner; M. Westhaver (EP);
A. Wickheim (EP)

STAFF: T. Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer; A. Fraser, General Manager, Integrated Water Services; A. Constabel, Senior Manager, Watershed Protection; G. Harris, Senior Manager, Environmental Protection; J. Marr, Senior Manager, Infrastructure Engineering; S. Irg, Senior Manager, Infrastructure Water Operations; S. Mason, Manager, Water Supply Engineering and Planning; T. Duthie, Manager, Administration Services, Integrated Water Services; M. Lagoa, Manager, Legislative Services and Deputy Corporate Officer; P. Stephens, Project Engineer, Infrastructure Engineering; J. Zimmerman, Communications Coordinator; D. Dionne, Administrative Coordinator, Integrated Water Services; M. Risvold, Committee & Administrative Clerk, Integrated Water Services

GUEST: Dr. Benusic, Chief Medical Office, Island Health

EP - Electronic Participation

REGRETS: S. Hammond; K. Jordison

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair provided a territorial acknowledgement.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOVED by Commissioner Gray and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wagner,
That the agenda be approved as circulated.
CARRIED

3. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

3.1 Presentations

- 3.1.1 [24-241](#) Dr. Benusic, Island Health: Re: Item 4.2 - Correspondence: Island Health: Filtration of Greater Victoria Water Supply System, February 6, 2024

Attachments: [Presentation: Water Filtration - Island Health](#)

Dr. Benusic provided a presentation and spoke to the following:

- roles and responsibilities
- drinking water treatment objectives and filtration exemption
- future of greater Victoria water supply system

Discussion ensued and Dr. Benusic and staff responded to questions regarding:

- Turbidity issues with Comox Lake
- Plan to build something that future population will not be able to support.
- What will be used to clarify water
- Concentrated aluminum and correlation to dementia
- Filtration system only at the Leech Water Supply
- Health authorities in BC that have ordered filtration in the past 5 years.
- Cyanotoxins and algae blooms that require filtration.
- Confidence in the time frame laid out in the 2022 Master Plan.
- Boil water advisories
- Constant monitoring the current exemption until 2038.
- Alum treatment

The presentation was received for information.

3.2 Delegations

There were no delegations.

4. SPECIAL MEETING BUSINESS

- 4.1 [24-216](#) Regional Water Supply 2022 Master Plan Overview and Status Update

Attachments: [2022 Master Plan Overview & Status Update](#)

A. Fraser spoke to item 4.1 and provided a PowerPoint presentation.

J. Marr spoke to long term water supply planning and capital projects.

S. Irg spoke to the water transmission system.

Staff responded to questions regarding:

- Ecological carrying capacity of the catchment lands
- Projection beyond 2050
- Deadlines for system alterations based on population growth and demand changes
- Specific initiatives to reduce water usage
- Risk assessment for multi-year droughts
- Climate action service and projection
- Tourism and water usage
- Necessary planning for future generations
- Public engagement for long-term projects

- The blending of ecosystems by diverting Leech River into Sooke Lake
- If the strategic plan will be revisited with water mixing
- Current financial model and funding
- Limited resources that come with being on an island
- Emergency preparedness and seismic vulnerabilities considered
- Steps being taken for a clear public communication plan
- Water treatment impacts to fish population (salmon)

This presentation was received for information.

4.2 [24-217](#) Correspondence: Island Health: Filtration of Greater Victoria Water Supply System, February 6, 2024

Attachments: [Correspondence: Island Health, Filtration of Greater Victoria Water Supply System](#)

This correspondence was received for information.

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Commissioner Stock and SECONDED by Commissioner Coleman,
That the March 1, 2024 Regional Water Supply Commission special meeting be
adjourned at 11:40 am.
CARRIED

CHAIR

SECRETARY