



Making a difference...together

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE Sticks Allison Water Local Service Committee, held Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 9:30 a.m., In the Goldstream Conference Room, 479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC

PRESENT: Committee Members: H. Schofield (Chair); J. Fenby (Vice Chair); P. Brent (EA Director); C. Menyhart (EP); B. Russell (EP)
Staff: J. Marr, Senior Manager, Infrastructure Engineering; D. Robson, Manager, Saanich Peninsula and Gulf Islands Operations; S. Henderson, Senior Manager, Real Estate and Southern Gulf Islands Administration; L. Hardiman, Manager, Asset Management; Q. Al-Rawi, Senior Manager, Corporate Asset and Maintenance Management; M. Risvold (Recorder)

EP = Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 am.

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by H. Schofield, **SECONDED** by J. Fenby,
That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by H. Schofield, **SECONDED** by J. Fenby,
That the minutes of the February 14, 2024 Sticks Allison Water Local Service Committee meeting be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

4. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair thanked the committee and staff for attending the meeting today and provided the following remarks:

- Glad to see the water analysis in the agenda package
- Private water system issues, CRD's response and assistance
- More demand on the aquifer with the sale of the property on West Sticks Allison Road, adjacent to the western boundary of the Sticks Allison Water System

5. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

There were none.

6. SENIOR MANAGER'S REPORT

6.1. Union of British Columbia Municipalities Grant for Disaster Risk Reduction - Climate Adaptation 2024

Staff have applied for a grant for water conservation signage for the service. Staff are proposing to have water restriction boards, including water conservation stages, to be posted within the community. Staff will report back on the status of the grant funding.

D. Robson provided updates on the following:

- The 2025 service budget process is currently underway. Staff will be reviewing the operating and capital budget and preparing the 5-year financial plan for the committee's review and consideration in the fall.
- Electoral Areas Water Conservation Bylaw – stage 1 is currently in effect as of May 1. Water conservation signage is posted within the community. Advanced stages may be triggered if necessary, noting that aquifer and drought levels will be monitored.
- D. Robson advised he is taking on a more senior role and will be the primary contact for the Sticks Allison Water Service.

Follow-up items from previous meeting:

- The process for electronic water bill inserts. Staff advised there are currently 9 of 37 receiving electronic bills for the service which is essentially the same as mailed out water bills. Mailed out inserts are not received by customers subscribed to receive their bills electronically. Staff are reviewing software and working on a solution.
- Confirm the percentage of water usage that will trigger an alert for high water usage. There is no trigger for an alert based on increased water volume. However, if there is a trigger of at least 40% increase in the base dollar value from the previous comparable billing period. Staff are reviewing improvements to the billing process which could entail the installation of smart meters.

7. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

7.1. 2023 Annual Report

D. Robson spoke to item 7.1.

Staff responded to the following questions:

- If there is an inexpensive way to determine where the leaks are such as a non-toxic dye. Staff advised dye testing is not an option as it will not help identify anything at the surface. Leak detection options are traceable gas and sound equipment which is most cost effective.
- If it would be helpful for homeowners to monitor for leaks themselves. Staff advised the leaks that staff are looking for are not on the private side. Homeowners can address leaks by doing detection themselves by taking a water meter reading while everything is off in the house.
- What can be done about the suspected leak between the reservoir and Sticks Allison Road. Staff noted that leaks are difficult to find when they are not at the surface. Tracer gas testing can be employed for the area but is very expensive as it involves draining the distribution system and injecting the gas. Staff advised the current level of leak detection being used is appropriate and is being tied in with the preventative maintenance program.

- If the main waterline is under the road. Staff advised it is not under the road, it is primarily on the road shoulder.

7.2. Asset Replacement Report Card

L. Hardiman spoke to item 7.2.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Stakeholders' preference may be to self-insure with respect to assets nearing end of service life.
- The service would like to consider addressing the watermains first, since asbestos cement (AC) watermains are reaching the end of service life.
- Low-cost options are essential for the Sticks Allison Water Service considering the demographic.
- Saltwater intrusion is a concern for the system.

Staff responded to the following questions:

- If flagged items can be reviewed by operations staff. Staff advised part of the preventative maintenance program is to review and check equipment. Asbestos cement pipe has a shorter lifespan than some other pipe materials, however, installation can play a significant part in the lifespan of the pipe.
- At which point should the committee discuss this with stakeholders. Staff advised it would be a good idea to share this information with the community prior to the budget meeting in the fall, noting that the public is welcome to attend and listen to meetings.

The report was received for information.

7.3. Capital Project Status Reports and Operational Updates – June 2024

D. Robson spoke to item 7.3.

Staff responded to the following question from the committee regarding the frequency of Island Health facility inspections. Staff advised the inspections are as and when requested by Island Health.

The report was received for information.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

9. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by H. Schofield, **SECONDED** by J. Fenby,
That the June 25, 2024 Sticks Allison Water Local Service Committee meeting be adjourned
at 10:42 am.

CARRIED

CHAIR

SECRETARY