



Making a difference...together

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission, held Monday, June 24, 2024 at 9:30 a.m., In the Goldstream Conference Room, 479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC

PRESENT: Commissioners: D. Pepino (Chair); L. Cutler (Vice Chair); A. Wickheim (EA Director); P. Twamley
Staff: S. Irg, Senior Manager, Infrastructure Water Operations; C. Moch, Manager, Water Quality; M. Risvold (Recorder)

REGRETS:

EP = Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 9:30.

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Election of Vice Chair was added to the agenda as item 3.
Item 6.1 was removed from the agenda as it was included in error.

MOVED by L. Cutler, **SECONDED** by A. Wickheim,
That the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission for the term ending December 31, 2024.

A. Wickheim nominated L. Cutler. L. Cutler accepted the nomination.

The Chair called for nominations a second time.

The Chair called for nominations a third and final time.

Hearing no further nominations, the Chair declared L. Cutler Vice Chair of the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission for the term ending December 31, 2024, by acclamation.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by L. Cutler, **SECONDED** by A. Wickheim,
That the minutes of the February 15, 2024 Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission meeting be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

5. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed Paula Twamley to the Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission.

Director Wickheim provided an overview of the commission selection process for members of the commission.

P. Twamley noted the following:

- Importance of water
- Curious to learn more about the water source
- How can we better water source
- Boil water advisories (BWA's) and health advisories

6. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

There were none.

7. SENIOR MANAGERS REPORT

S. Irg provided advised that the turbidity of treated water this morning was .6NTU, noting that being under 1NTU is strived for. There was an event in early June where the turbidity reached 1NTU. Staff changed the filters, and the issue corrected itself.

Staff responded to a question from the commission regarding waterfowl. Staff advised waterfowl is not monitored. If there are large numbers of geese that land and introduce feces and nutrients that could potentially be added to the lake. Fecal coliform and e. Coli are from excreted from many different animals and fish.

8. COMMISSION BUSINESS

8.1. 2023 Annual Report

S. Irg spoke to item 8.1.

Staff advised that the recognition of risks associated with manganese has resulted in regulation changes over the years. With this, there was a manganese advisory for Wilderness Mountain. Island Health has urged CRD to report and monitor exceedances to determine how long the exceedances last. Typically, metals are sampled quarterly but they are now being sampled monthly based on Island Health's requirement and instruction. A suite of metals is tested at the same time and there does not appear to be any alarming concentrations in other metals. Iron does coincide with manganese; however, iron does not have a health limit from Health Canada, it is more aesthetic due to colour. Staff noted that manganese can be removed at the treatment plant by adding additional features, such as a media filter, which come at a cost.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Lake turnover
- Lake recharge and runoff into the lake
- Intake close to bottom of lake bringing in manganese

- Manganese treatment
- More filtration
- Chlorine and manganese oxidizing

8.2. Capital Project Status and Operational Update

S. Irg spoke to item 8.2.

Staff advised quotes have been received for the platform, which were all within budget. Work depends on contractor availability.

Staff responded to the following questions:

- If inspections can be done on the same day to minimize the amount of trips to Wilderness Mountain. Staff advised that operators attend the Wilderness Mountain Water System on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and dam inspections are conducted monthly. Site inspections are conducted on the same trip as scheduled maintenance. Additional trips are not made unless necessary or required. Staff may make additional trips to keep NTUs down if there are concerns regarding turbidity.
- Where turbidity samples are taken. Staff advised one is taken near the UV treated water and one from raw water.
- If the water storage tanks can be used as a delay system for chlorine contact time. Staff advised significant improvements and upgrades would be needed to make this a full treatment plant which would cost millions of dollars.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Suspended particles
- Dissolved organic compounds

8.3. SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PLAN AND ISLAND HEALTH COMPLIANCE

S. Irg provided the following updates:

- The source water protection plan (SWPP) is a condition of a permit at the time from Island Health, when there was a filtration exemption.
- The service no longer has a filtration exemption.
- There are lots of good options that are available at a cost that staff are happy to discuss.

Staff responded to the following question regarding filtration deferral. The Drinking Water Officer reserves the right to retract a filtration exemption. Staff noted that the existing treatment plant has filters but is not considered a filtration plant.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1. Correspondence from B. Chapman

Questions in the correspondence were responded to and addressed by staff.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Staff combining all trips to the Wilderness Mountain Water Service.

- The intake will be discussed at the November meeting.
- Receiving the agenda items on a Friday before the meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS

L. Cutler provided a handout including SCADA data and shared concern regarding short pump cycles occurring.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Filling the tanks at night
- Filter maintenance and changes
- Pumps can be triggered remotely through SCADA system
- A turbidity lockout would automatically turn off the pump if there is a turbidity exceedance.
- The reason for short pump cycles
- Filter breakthrough in flow data
- Increase in flow rate when the pump turns on

Requests from the commission:

- Staff to review if there are short pump cycles happening and to provide an update at the next meeting.
- To have “review of action items” as a standing item on the agenda.
- Staff to provide a copy of the water license and the current status of the water license application.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by A. Wickheim, **SECONDED** by L. Cutler,
That the June 24, 2024 Wilderness Mountain Water Service Commission meeting be adjourned at 10:50 am.

CARRIED

CHAIR

SECRETARY