

Meeting Minutes

Water Advisory Committee

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

12:00 PM

Goldstream Meeting Room
479 Island Hwy
Victoria BC V9B 1H7

PRESENT:

K. Harper (Chair), K. Zimmerman (Vice Chair), M. Doehnel, A. Fernandes (12:11 pm) (EP), A. McArdle, K. Oppen, T. Pedersen, W. Scheuer, M. Turner, M. Wagner

STAFF: A. Fraser, General Manager, Infrastructure and Water Services; Laura Hardiman, Senior Manager, Corporate Asset and Maintenance Management, Marlene Lagoa, Manager, Legislative Services and Deputy Corporate Officer (EP); Megan MacDonald, Legislative Services Coordinator (Recorder)

EP - Electronic Participation

Regrets: C. Davis, C. Nowakowski

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Harper provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by W. Scheuer, SECONDED by A. McArdle,
That the agenda for the Water Advisory Committee meeting of May 27, 2025 be
approved.
CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

3.1. [25-0525](#) Minutes of the Water Advisory Committee Meeting of March 25, 2025

MOVED by M. Wagner, SECONDED by A. McArdle,
That the minutes of the Water Advisory Committee meeting of March 25, 2025 be
adopted as circulated.
CARRIED

4. Chair's Remarks

Chair Harper advised that the Regional Water Supply Commission has previously considered some of the items on the agenda. She expressed appreciation for staff bringing the information to the committee. All members were encouraged to be engaged and further their understanding of the water system as a whole.

5. Presentations/Delegations

There were no presentations or delegations.

6. Committee Business

6.1. [25-0596](#) General Manager's Verbal Update - May

A. Fraser presented Item 6.1. and provided the following information:

- the CRD received an award for the best tasting water in BC
- a first place award for the water operators challenge
- hosting a recent water symposium
- peak demand challenges have decreased, public education is ongoing

Discussion ensued regarding:

- alternative options to reduce water usage during peak times
- responses from the Province related to agricultural water rates

A. Fernandes joined the meeting electronically at 12:11 pm.

6.2. [25-0615](#) Regional Water Supply Strategic Plan - Public Engagement Summary

A. Fraser presented Item 6.2. for information.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- importance of ongoing communication and engagement opportunities
- mixed feedback received on responses about water conservation
- First Nations engagement is underway
- water consumption rates vary by municipality

6.3. [25-0526](#) Asset Management Strategy

L. Hardiman presented Item 6.3. for information.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- critical importance of having spare parts available
- natural assets which provide services or benefits will be included in future
- strategies to mitigate cost increases during uncertainty related to trade tariffs
- financing/loan repayment timelines relate to the life span of each asset

7. Notice(s) of Motion

There were no notice(s) of motion.

8. New Business**8.1. Fluoride in Water**

Committee member K. Oppen noted that most regions in the province do not have fluoride in drinking water despite potential benefits.

A. Fraser noted that direction to pursue implementation of a fluoridation system would need to be provided by Island Health.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- public health concerns and operating costs
- benefits of fluoride for preventing tooth decay

9. Adjournment

**MOVED by W. Scheuer, SECONDED by A. McArdle,
That the Water Advisory Committee meeting of May 27, 2025 be adjourned at
2:02 pm.
CARRIED**

Chair

Recorder