

Meeting Minutes

Regional Water Supply Commission

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

1:30 PM

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

PRESENT

G. Baird (Chair), M. Wagner (Vice Chair), J. Caradonna, C. Graham (EP), S. Gray, C. Green, K. Guiry (EP), S. Hammond (EP), K. Harper (EP), K. Jordison (EP), T. Morrison (EP), T. Phelps Bondaroff (1:33 pm) (EP), J. Rogers, D. Thompson (for S. Kim), M. Westhaver (1:39 pm) (EP), A. Wickheim (1:32 pm) (EP)

EP - Electronic Participation

Regrets: Commissioners Chambers, Coleman, de Vries, Duncan, Kim, Pearson and Stock

STAFF: T. Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer; K. Morley, Corporate Officer/General Manager, Corporate Services; A. Fraser, General Manager, Infrastructure and Water Services; A. Constabel, Senior Manager, Watershed Protection; Q. Daly, Senior Manager, Real Estate and Facilities Management; G. Harris, Senior Manager, Environmental Protection; S. Irg, Senior Manager, Water Infrastructure Operations; J. Marr, Senior Manager, Infrastructure Planning and Engineering; A. Prisniak, Manager, Strategic Initiatives and First Nations Relations; M. Miklea, Deputy Corporate Officer/Manager, Legislative Services; J. Ives, Committee Clerk (recorder)

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm.

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chair Baird provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOVED by Commissioner Rogers, SECONDED by Commissioner Gray,
That the agenda for the Regional Water Supply Commission meeting of May 20,
2026 be approved.
CARRIED**

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1. [26-0582](#) Minutes of the Regional Water Supply Commission Meeting of April 15, 2026

**MOVED by Commissioner Wagner, SECONDED by Commissioner Green,
That the minutes of the Regional Water Supply Commission meeting of April 15,
2026 be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED**

4. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Baird acknowledged the passing of Director Szpak, noting that she was a beloved friend and mentor. He remarked that Director Szpak's impact was far-reaching and that she exemplified the best of what good local governance should be. Chair Baird praised her caring, genuine and hard-working nature and noted that Director Szpak had a profound impact on the policies of the capital region and the stewardship of our water systems.

5. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

There were no presentations or delegations.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

**MOVED by Commissioner Caradonna, SECONDED by Commissioner Rogers,
That consent agenda Items 6.1. - 6.3. be approved.
CARRIED**

- 6.1. [26-0567](#) Summary of Recommendations from Other Water Commissions
There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.
- 6.2. [26-0564](#) Water Watch Report - May
There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.
- 6.3. [26-0575](#) Monthly Drinking Water Quality Dashboard - April
There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

7. COMMISSION BUSINESS

- 7.1. [26-0581](#) General Manager's Verbal Update - May
- A. Fraser spoke to Item 7.1. and provided the following information:
- Stage 1 watering restrictions in effect as of May 1
 - Metro Vancouver's water supply is reliant on snowpack, while the Capital Region's is rain-based, accounting for differences in watering restrictions
 - replacement of the UV system at the Goldstream Water Treatment Plant was completed on schedule and under budget with significant gains in energy efficiency and cost savings resulting from this upgrade

7.2. [26-0530](#) 2027 Service Delivery - Staffing Requirements

A. Fraser presented Item 7.2.

Motion Arising:

MOVED by Vice Chair Wagner, SECONDED by Commissioner Rogers

The Regional Water Supply Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That staff be directed to include the proposed Master Plan Program Project Engineer position (1 FTE) and Field Operation Centre positions (1.5 FTEs) in the Regional Water Supply Service budget for 2027.

CARRIED

Discussion ensued regarding the potential impact of artificial intelligence and managing regional growth and increased technological complexity within existing staffing levels.

7.3. [26-0406](#) Bylaw Nos. 4753, 4769, and 4770 - First Nations' Access to the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area

A. Constabel spoke to Item 7.3.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- frequency, scope and scale of access are key factors to be determined
- protection of the water system is dependent on a multi-barrier approach
- agreements will only facilitate access in ways that are operationally safe
- a stepwise approach built on mutual understanding with First Nations
- the existing requirement to provide access under the *Mineral Tender Act*
- concerns around debris as a result of hunting activities
- the criticality of the Sooke Lake Reservoir to the unfiltered water supply

**MOVED by Commissioner Wagner, SECONDED by Commissioner Caradonna,
That the Regional Water Supply Commission recommend to the Capital Regional
District Board:**

**1. That Bylaw No. 4753, "Capital Regional District Water Supply Area Regulations
Bylaw No. 1, 2000, Amendment Bylaw No. 3, 2026" be introduced and read a first,
second time.**

CARRIED

Opposed: Rogers

Amending Motion:

**MOVED by Chair Baird, SECONDED by Vice Chair Wagner,
That the Regional Water Supply Commission recommend to the Capital Regional
District Board:**

**2. That CRD Bylaw 4753 be amended in Section 1 (o) to read: "In section 30,
'Firearms and Hunting', by removing the words 'in the Leech Water Supply
Area'."**

CARRIED

Opposed: Rogers

T. Morrison left the meeting at 2:40 pm.

**MOVED by Commissioner Caradonna, SECONDED by Commissioner Thompson,
That the Regional Water Supply Commission recommend to the Capital Regional
District Board:**

3. That Bylaw No. 4753 be given third reading and adopted.

CARRIED

Opposed: Rogers, Wickheim, Graham

**MOVED by Commissioner Green, SECONDED by Commissioner Caradonna,
That the Regional Water Supply Commission recommend to the Capital Regional
District Board:**

**4. That Bylaw No. 4769, "Capital Regional District Ticket Information
Authorization Bylaw, 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 90, 2026" be introduced and
read a first, second and third time;**

5. That Bylaw No. 4769 be adopted;

**6. That Bylaw No. 4770, "Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 1, 2025,
Amendment Bylaw No. 4, 2026" be introduced and read a first, second and third
time; and**

7. That Bylaw No. 4770 be adopted.

CARRIED**7.4. [26-0498](#) 2026-2035 Water Conservation Plan for Greater Victoria**

G. Harris spoke to Item 7.4.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- data from smart meters helpful, but some distribution systems are under municipal control
- finding strategies to better manage non-revenue water across the region
- promoting a conservation ethic and relating efficiency to managing costs for consumers

**MOVED by Commissioner Rogers, SECONDED by Vice Chair Wagner,
That the Regional Water Supply Commission:**

- 1. Approve the 2026-2035 Greater Victoria Water Conservation Plan and direct staff to move forward with the actions identified; and**
- 2. Direct staff to forward the 2026-2035 Greater Victoria Water Conservation Plan to the Capital Regional District Board for information.**

CARRIED

7.5. [26-0522](#) Greater Victoria Water Supply Area 2025 Wildfire Management Update

A. Constabel presented Item 7.5. for information.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- a reduction in air patrols owing to wildfire cameras and drones
- pursuing automated fire detection systems
- prescribed burning on a trial basis and plan to use technique on a small scale
- interest from First Nations in collaborating on prescribed burning
- camera views of Sooke Lake Reservoir and Leech Water Supply Area
- working with partners to better understand coastal wildfire risk
- fire reduction corridors and in-stand fire reduction techniques
- planting native deciduous trees that offer more fire-resistance

8. NOTICE(S) OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

9. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

10. ADJOURNMENT

**MOVED by Commissioner Gray, SECONDED by Commissioner Green,
That the Regional Water Supply Commission meeting of May 20, 2026 be
adjourned at 3:16 pm.**

CARRIED

Chair

Recorder