

Meeting Minutes

Saanich Peninsula Water Commission

Thursday, July 17, 2025

9:30 AM

Sidney Community Safety Building
2245 Oakville Ave., Sidney, BC

PRESENT:

Commissioners: D. Kelbert (Chair), M. Doehnel (Vice Chair), E. Diller, D. Halldorson, Z. King, C. McNeil-Smith, R. Novek, S. Shrivastava, R. Windsor

STAFF: A. Fraser, General Manager, Infrastructure and Water Services; J. Dales, Senior Manager, Wastewater Infrastructure Operations; S. Irg, Senior Manager, Water Infrastructure Operations (EP); J. Marr, Senior Manager, Infrastructure Engineering; J. Kelly, Manager, Capital Projects; M. Lagoa, Manager, Legislative Services and Deputy Corporate Officer; M. MacDonald, Legislative Services Coordinator; (Recorder)

EP - Electronic Participation

Guests: D. Huang, Connections Planning Associates Ltd., C. Culham, Chief Administrative Officer, Central Saanich, D. Puskas, Director of Engineering, Central Saanich

Regrets: Commissioner P. Jones

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 am.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Kelbert provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

**MOVED by Commissioner King, SECONDED by Commissioner Shrivastava,
That the agenda for the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission meeting of July
17, 2025 be approved.
CARRIED**

3. Adoption of Minutes

3.1. [25-0848](#) Minutes of the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission Meeting of May 15, 2025

**MOVED by Commissioner Halldorson, SECONDED by Commissioner McNeil-Smith,
That the minutes of the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission meeting of May 15,
2025 be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED**

4. Chair's Remarks

Chair Kelbert emphasized the importance of offering a genuine and meaningful Territorial Acknowledgement at each meeting.

5. Presentations/Delegations

There were no presentations or delegations.

6. Commission Business

6.1. [25-0787](#) General Manager's Verbal Update - July

A Fraser presented Item 6.1. and provided information on the successful completion of the alternative approval process for the purchase of the Kapoor Lumber Company land. An introduction was provided for the upcoming Water Resiliency Plan, which is currently in the early stages of development.

6.2. [25-0796](#) Saanich Peninsula Water Service 2025 Mid-Year Capital Projects and Operations Update

J. Marr and J. Dales presented Item 6.2. for information.

Discussion ensued regarding the priority projects, which are determined by the Asset Management Plan.

6.3. [25-0791](#) Saanich Peninsula Water Commission Amalgamation Study Update

A. Fraser introduced the consultant, D. Huang who presented Item 6.3. for information.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- importance of understanding operational and financial implications
- more information is needed prior to approaching affected parties
- consideration of existing bulk water supply agreements with First Nations

**MOVED by Commissioner Doehnel, SECONDED by Commissioner King,
That staff be directed to proceed with further analysis of Scenario 1 (Complete Amalgamation) with a three year transition on pricing.**

Discussion ensued regarding:

- importance of understanding all aspects and potential outcomes
- significance of amalgamation and impacts to many groups
- more information is required to determine the best option

The question was called:

That staff be directed to proceed with further analysis of Scenario 1 (Complete Amalgamation) with a three year transition on pricing.

DEFEATED

**Opposed: Kelbert, Diller, Haldorson, King, McNeil-Smith, Novek, Shrivastava,
Windsor**

**MOVED by Commissioner Windsor, SECONDED by Commissioner McNeil-Smith,
That staff be directed to:**

- 1. Proceed with further analysis of both Scenario 1 (Complete Amalgamation) and Scenario 2 (Partial Amalgamation).**
- 2. Undertake consultation and engagement with Municipal partners.**
- 3. Include the necessary resources to support this work within the 2026 Capital Plan.**

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the Regional Water Supply Commission also needs to be supportive
- Saanich Peninsula member municipalities also need to agree
- transfer of infrastructure and operating costs need to be more defined
- additional information on both options will allow for wholesome discussion and decision making

The question was called:

That staff be directed to:

- 1. Proceed with further analysis of both Scenario 1 (Complete Amalgamation) and Scenario 2 (Partial Amalgamation);**
- 2. Undertake consultation and engagement with Municipal partners; and**
- 3. Include the necessary resources to support this work within the 2026 Capital Plan.**

CARRIED

6.4. [25-0844](#) Summary of Recommendations from Other Water Commissions

A. Fraser presented Item 6.4. for information.

6.5. [25-0846](#) Water Watch Report

A. Fraser presented Item 6.5. for information.

7. Notice(s) of Motion

There were no notice(s) of motion.

8. New Business

8.1. Additional Meeting in September

A. Fraser noted that a Special Meeting will be held in September as there is a time sensitive item that must be considered.

Discussion ensued regarding commission member preference for early September.

9. Adjournment

**MOVED by Commissioner Diller, SECONDED by Commissioner Shrivastava,
That the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission meeting of July 17, 2025 be
adjourned at 11:17 am.
CARRIED**

Chair

Recorder