

Meeting Minutes

Regional Water Supply Commission

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

11:30 AM

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

PRESENT:

G. Baird (Chair); K. Harper (Vice Chair); J. Caradonna; N. Chambers; C. Coleman; Z. de Vries (11:48); S. Duncan (EP); C. Graham (EP); C. Coleman (12:01); S. Gray; C. Green (EP); K. Guiry; S. Hammond (EP); K. Jordison (EP); S. Kim (EP); T. Morrison; K. Pearson (for D. Lajeunesse); T. Phelps Bondaroff (EP); J. Rogers; C. Stock; M. Wagner; M. Westhaver (EP); A. Wickheim (EP)

STAFF:

T. Robbins, CAO; N. Chan, CFO; A. Fraser, General Manager, Integrated Water Services; A. Constabel, Senior Manager, Watershed Protection; G. Harris, Senior Manager, Environmental Protection; S. Irg, Senior Manager, Water Infrastructure Operations; S. Mason, Water Supply Engineering & Planning; P. Stephens, Project Engineer; J. Zimmerman, Communications Coordinator; D. Dionne, Manager, Business Support Services; M. Risvold (recorder)
Also in attendance: Shaun Heffernan, Urban Systems

EP = Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair provided a territorial acknowledgement.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOVED by Commissioner Stock, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wagner,
That the agenda be approved as circulated.
CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1. [24-1201](#) Adoption of the Minutes of the October 16, 2024 Meeting

Attachments: [Draft Minutes: October 16, 2024](#)

MOVED by Commissioner Stock, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Guiry,
That the Minutes of the October 16, 2024 meeting be adopted.
CARRIED

4. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair provided the following remarks:

- This is the last meeting of 2024.
- There are lots of items for discussion on today's agenda.
- If more time is needed for unfinished business, the meeting can resume on Friday, November 22.
- Sent best wishes to D. Lajeunesse with his move to Provincial politics.

5. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

5.1. Presentations

- 5.1.1. [24-1203](#) Saanich Peninsula Water Commission Amalgamation Study - Dan Huang, Connections Planning Associates

Attachments: [Presentation: Saanich Peninsula Water Commission Amalgamation Study](#)

D. Huang provided a presentation on the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission Amalgamation Study.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- How debt will be absorbed
- Staffing implications
- Concern for farming community regarding land use and zoning changes
- Impacts to local farms
- Asset retirement obligation

There is no recommendation. The presentation is for information only.

5.2. Delegations

- 5.2.1. [24-1243](#) Delegation - Mehdi Najari, member of the public: Re: Agenda Item 8.1 Regional Water Supply Development Cost Charges Waivers or Reductions

M. Najari spoke to agenda item 8.1.

- 5.2.2. [24-1244](#) Delegation - Bev Highton, representing the Grumpy Taxpayers of Greater Victoria: Re: Agenda Item 8.2 Regional Water Supply Strategic Plan - Community Input (Phase 1) Engagement Summary

B. Highton spoke to agenda item 8.2.

5.2.3. [24-1245](#) Delegation - Kathy Whitcher, representing the Development Industry: Re: Agenda Item 8.2 Regional Water Supply Strategic Plan - Community Input (Phase I) Engagement Summary

The Chair introduced Delegation Kathy Whitcher.

MOVED by Commissioner Coleman, SECONDED by Commissioner Wickheim,

That the Regional Water Supply Commission approve the request to extend the delegation period from 3 minutes to 20 minutes as requested by the delegate.

FAILED

OPPOSED: Wagner, Stock, Rogers, Morrison, Harper, Caradonna, Chambers, de Vries, Gray, Guiry, Kim, Phelps Bondaroff, Duncan, Hammond, Wickheim, Green, Westhaver, Graham

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Other avenues to provide feedback to the commission
- Fairness and equity for all speakers
- Concern regarding setting a precedent
- The importance to allow delegates an opportunity to be heard by the commission
- Procedural fairness
- The ability for others to request additional speaking time

MOVED by Commissioner Kim, SECONDED by Commissioner Caradonna, That the requested delegation extension time be reduced from 20 minutes to 6 minutes.

FAILED

OPPOSED: Wagner, Stock, Rogers, Morrison, Harper, Coleman, Chambers, de Vries, Gray, Guiry, Pearson, Green, Hammond, Phelps Bondaroff, Duncan, Hammond, Wickheim, Green, Westhaver

B. Mycroft spoke to agenda item 8.2. A presentation will be shared with the commission outside of the meeting.

6. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

There was no report.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED by Commissioner Coleman, SECONDED by Commissioner Wagner

That the consent agenda items 7.1. through 7.2. be approved.

CARRIED

7.1. [24-1205](#) Summary of Recommendations from Other Water Commissions

Attachments: [Summary of Recommendations](#)

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

7.2. [24-1192](#) Water Watch Report

Attachments: [Water Watch Report](#)

There is no recommendation. The report is for information only.

8. COMMISSION BUSINESS

8.1. [24-1202](#) Regional Water Supply Development Cost Charges Waivers or Reductions Options

Attachments: [Staff Report: RWS DCC Waivers or Reductions Options](#)
[Appendix A: USL Memorandum](#)

J. Marr spoke to item 8.1.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- If there is a Development Cost Charges (DCC) program for the Capital Regional Housing Corporation
- Financial authority and budget
- Government efficiencies and potential administrative burdens
- Fairness to municipalities with smaller staff
- Budget amendment for prior costs
- Implications and timeline
- Prior analysis and previous direction
- Too soon to limit options and potentially limit outcomes

MOVED by Commissioner Graham, SECONDED by Commissioner Wagner,

That item 2 of the recommendation be amended to replace "or grant in aid policy" with "focused on not-for-profit, non-governmental agencies."

FAILED

OPPOSED: Baird; Harper; Chambers; Coleman; de Vries; Duncan; Coleman; Gray; Green; Guiry; Hammond; Jordison; Kim; Morrison; Pearson; Phelps Bondaroff; Rogers; Stock; Wagner; Westhaver

MOVED by Commissioner Chambers, SECONDED by Commissioner Wagner,
1. That, subject to Regional Water Supply Commission approval of the Regional Water Supply Development Cost Charges Bylaw, staff be directed to develop a waivers or reductions program and make the necessary amendments to the 2025-2029 financial plan.

2. That, once funding is in place, staff be directed to proceed with the development of a waivers or reductions bylaw, or grant-in-aid policy for the Regional Water Supply Development Cost Charges program.

CARRIED

OPPOSED: Jordison

8.2. [24-1194](#) Regional Water Supply Strategic Plan - Community Input (Phase 1) Engagement Summary

Attachments: [Staff Report: RWS Strategic Plan-Community Input \(Phase 1\) Engagement Summary](#)
[Appendix A: What We Heard Report](#)

A. Fraser spoke to item 8.2.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- The validity of the survey engagement
- If DCC's could have been part of this engagement
- Ways to reach the younger demographic

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

8.3. [24-1200](#) Bylaw No. 4652, Water Advisory Committee Bylaw Amendment

Attachments: [Staff Report: Bylaw No. 4652, Water Advisory Committee Bylaw Amendment](#)
[Appendix A: Bylaw No. 2541](#)
[Appendix B: \(Revised\) Amendment Bylaw No. 4652.pdf](#)
[Appendix B: Amendment Bylaw No. 4652](#)
[Appendix C: \(Revised\) Bylaw No. 2541, Unofficial Redlined Consolidation](#)
[Appendix C: Bylaw No. 2541, Unofficial Redlined Consolidation](#)
[Appendix D: Water Advisory Committee Terms of Reference - Current](#)
[Appendix E: \(Revised\) Updated Water Advisory Committee TOR, Redlined Version](#)
[Appendix E: Updated Water Advisory Committee TOR, Redlined Version](#)
[Appendix F: \(Revised\) Updated Committee Terms of Reference - Clean Version](#)
[Appendix F: Updated Committee Terms of Reference - Clean Version](#)

Agenda item 8.3 was postponed to November 22, 2024 at 9 am.

8.4. [24-1191](#) Capital Project - Field Operations Centre Building

Attachments: [Staff Report: Capital Project - Field Operations Centre Building](#)
[Appendix A: Conceptual Draft building siting, 3D rendering, and floorplans](#)

Agenda item 8.4 was postponed to November 22, 2024 at 9 am.

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

8.5. [24-1196](#) 2024 Public Education Summary - Greater Victoria Water Supply Area

- Attachments:** [Staff Report: 2024 Public Education Summary](#)
[Appendix A: Black Press Article \(June 5, 2024\)](#)
[Appendix B: Times Colonist Article \(July 7, 2024\)](#)

Agenda item 8.5 was postponed to November 22, 2024 at 9 am.

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

9. NOTICE(S) OF MOTION

Agenda item 9 was postponed to November 22, 2024 at 9 am.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Agenda item 10 was postponed to November 22, 2024 at 9 am.

12. ADJOURNMENT

**MOVED by Commissioner Baird, SECONDED by Commissioner Stock,
That the November 20, 2024, Regional Water Supply Commission meeting be
adjourned at 1:09 pm and reconvene at 9:00 am on Friday, November 22, 2024.**

CARRIED

OPPOSED: Graham

CHAIR

SECRETARY