

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE DRINKING WATER AND WATERSHED PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2010 AT 12:30 PM
IN THE RDN BOARDROOM

Present:	Director J. Stanhope	Chairperson
	Joe Burnett	Director Electoral Area A
	Dave Bartram	Chairperson
	Gisele Rudischer	Director Electoral Area B
	Gilles Wendling	General Public Representative (South)
	Lynne Magee	Vancouver Island Health Authority
	Pat Lapcevic	Ministry of Environment
	Faye Smith	Environment Community Representative
	Alan Gilchrist	Academic Community Representative (VIU)
	Domenico Iannidinaro	Forest Industry Representative
	Ken Epps (Alternate)	Forest Industry Representative
	Bonaventure Thorburn	Water Purveyors' Representative
	Oliver Brandes	Academic Community Representative
	John Deniseger	Registered Professional Biologist Representative
	John Finnie	GM, Regional and Community Utilities, RDN
	Mike Donnelly	Manager of Water Services, RDN
	Christina Metherall	Drinking Water/Watershed Protection Coordinator, RDN
	Sara Ellis	Special Projects Assistant, RDN
	Sophie Waterman	Special Projects Assistant, RDN
	Erin Edwards	Special Projects Assistant, RDN
Ping Tang	Sustainability Coordinator, RDN	
Bev Farkas	Recording Secretary	
Regrets:	Shelley Bayne	Hydrogeology Representative
	Gordon Buckingham	General Public Representative (North)
	Makenzie Leine	Forest Industry Representative

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:30 and introductions were made.

MINUTES

MOVED D. Bartram, SECONDED J. Burnett, that the minutes of the Drinking Water Watershed Protection Advisory Committee meeting of February 24, 2010 be adopted. CARRIED

REPORTS

Observation Well Network Progress (M. Donnelly)

M. Donnelly updated the committee on the Observation Well Network program noting the following:

- Grant money is available for installation of wells
- Monitoring of groundwater wells
- Wells will be monitored by MOE
- Field investigations taking place for potential well sites
- Met with groundwater professionals March 30 to identify concerns and data gaps
- Presented existing well network map and potential locations
- MOE will be taking over observation wells
- Density of septic tanks in Area H may mean that a water quality survey is more beneficial here than observation wells
- Next year Phase II looks at alternative locations
- Described locations where wells would be drilled, existing wells would be instrumented with monitoring equipment, and where other potential actions would be taken

Results of Groundwater Professional Meeting and Technical Roundtable Workshop (C.Metherall)

The Groundwater Professionals meeting of March 30 and Technical Roundtable Workshop of May 18 were discussed and the committee members reviewed threats and concerns identified at the roundtable workshop. *The documents together with the maps will be made available digitally for the committee members.*

Team WaterSmart Municipal Partnerships and activities (C.Metherall)

C. Metherall informed the committee that the municipal partners are actively participating in the Team WaterSmart program and reviewed activities planned for the summer including an irrigation audit for high water users. A method of measuring high water users on Gabriola Island is still to be determined. There are a number of community events planned for the summer months including three Community Workshops to engage residents in the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program. The schedule of these workshops will be emailed to committee members who were encouraged to attend.

Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society Phase 1 Report and Request for Phase 2 Funding (M.Donnelly)

The Phase 1 report was distributed to the committee for review together with a draft report to the RDN Board recommending that the RDN support a request from MVIHES for funding for Phase 2.

J. Deniseger advised that MOE are working with the RDN on surface water quality monitoring and the MVIHES study would compliment that work; he therefore strongly supports this recommendation.

MOVED D. Bartram, SECONDED J. Burnett that the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Advisory Committee support partial funding to MVIHES for Phase 2 of the “Lower Englishman River Watershed – Groundwater and Surface water Interaction study” in the amount of \$4,000, and that the funding be provided from the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Volunteer Support budget.

CARRIED

Status of First Nations Involvement and Consultation (J.Finnie)

J. Finnie informed the committee that while First Nations are not currently represented on the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Advisory Committee, efforts are underway to meet with band councils to provide them the opportunity for involvement and/or to gain information and benefit from the program.

OTHER

Chair Stanhope reiterated the importance of this committee and thanked members for their participation and valuable contributions to the committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm. The next meeting TBA.

Chairperson