



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
DRINKING WATER AND WATERSHED PROTECTION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2012 AT 12:30 PM
IN THE RDN BOARDROOM**

Present:

Mike Donnelly, Chair.....	Manager, Water Services, RDN
Bob Weir	Director of Engineering and Utilities, Town of QB
Mike Squire	City of Parksville / Program Manager, Arrowsmith Water Service
Bill Sims	Manager, Water Resources, City of Nanaimo
Chris Jackson	Islands Trust Representative
Gordon Buckingham	General Public Representative (North)
Gilles Wendling	General Public Representative (South)
Pat Lapcevic	Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations
Bob Wylie	Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Faye Smith.....	Environment Community Representative
Ken Epps.....	Forest Industry Representative
Domenico Iannidinardo	Forest Industry Representative
Shelley Bayne	Hydrogeology Representative
Oliver Brandes.....	Academic Community Representative
Alan Gilchrist.....	Academic Community Representative (VIU)
Al Magnan	Fisheries and Oceans Canada Representative
Leon Cake.....	Water Purveyors' Representative

Also in Attendance:

Darren David	Hydrogeologist, Waterline Resources
Ted White.....	Manager, Water Strategies & Conservation, MOE
John Finnie	GM, Regional and Community Utilities, RDN
Christina Metherall	DWWP Coordinator, RDN
Julie Pisani.....	Special Projects Assistant, RDN
Maury Scott.....	Special Projects Assistant, RDN
Bev Farkas	Recording Secretary, RDN

Regrets:

Lynn Magee.....	Vancouver Island Health Authority
John Deniseger.....	Registered Professional Biologist Representative

CALL TO ORDER

M. Donnelly called the meeting to order at 12:33 pm.

DELEGATIONS**MINUTES**

MOVED B. Sims, SECONDED A. Gilchrist, that the minutes from the regular meeting of the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Advisory Committee held June 22, 2011 be adopted.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE**

G. Buckingham, re Aquifer Storage and Recovery, Water Governance. Discussion on the correspondence was deferred Business Arising in the latter part of the agenda.

REPORTS**Living Water Smart and BC Water Act Modernization (T. White)**

T. White announced that the Ministry is focused on revitalizing “Living Water Smart” which was introduced in 2008 and they will be applying considerable effort into branding. T. White then updated the committee on the status of the Water Act Modernization, indicating that a third round of engagement is planned for this spring/summer and will be as close as possible to draft legislation. As the framework is still being developed, the Ministry will be requesting further feedback as the consultation process moves forward.

Changes to DWWPTAC Structure. (M. Donnelly)

M. Donnelly explained that the committee is now a Technical Advisory Committee and political representation now resides with the Sustainability Committee. With the recent inclusion of municipal partners in the DWWP program there will be representation from the Town of Qualicum Beach, the City of Parksville and the City of Nanaimo. M. Donnelly introduced the municipal representatives and invited the committee members to contact him at any time with questions or comments. Recommendations coming forward from this committee will be forwarded to the Board through the Sustainability Select Committee.

Overview of Municipal Projects. (B. Weir, B. Sims, M. Squire)

B. Weir stated that the Town of Qualicum Beach is working toward re-establishing flow monitoring on the Little Qualicum River and is working with Fisheries and Oceans Canada at Cameron Lake. Staff is involved with several grant projects with a focus to advance their interest in watersheds.

B. Sims noted that the City of Nanaimo is on target with their major project; a \$65 million water treatment plant mandated by VIHA for completion by March 2015. The City is beginning to look at augmented supply by 2020 and will focus on conservation, the possibility of a new dam, and the possibility of partnering with Nanaimo Forest Products on water supply.

M. Squire provided a powerpoint presentation to update the committee on the Englishman River Water Service joint venture. The presentation focused on Aquifer Storage Recovery (ASR) and on the status of the intake location and water treatment plant on the Englishman River. M. Squire noted that a meeting of the Englishman River Water Service Management Board will be held on February 22, 2012 at the Parksville Conference and Convention Centre and invited interested members to attend. (Presentation attached.)

Water Budget Project Update – Gabriola. (C. Metherall)

C. Metherall gave a brief overview of the water budget project. The goal is to understand regional water supply and demand. There are two separate projects, one for Vancouver Island and the other for Gabriola, Mudge and Decourcy Islands. The water budget project has four main objectives:

- To gain a 3-dimensional understanding of ground and surface water resources in the area.
- To obtain an estimate of how much water is going in and how much is going out.
- Identification and prioritization of data gaps.
- An assessment of level of stress on certain watersheds in the area.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) went out for the Vancouver Island portion of the project and the successful proponent was Waterline Resources. The RFP for the Gabriola project had been re-released and the successful proponent is SRK of Vancouver, a company with significant experience working with the Gulf Islands. (Presentation attached.)

Water Budget Project Update Vancouver Island. (D. David)

D. David, Principal Hydrogeologist of Waterline Resources, gave a powerpoint overview discussion of the Vancouver Island project of the Water Budget Program (presentation attached). M. Donnelly added that progress reports will be delivered to the committee and that members may be called upon to form sub-committees during the program.

Phase 2 Observation Wells Update. (C. Metherall)

C. Metherall gave an update on the observation well expansion program being undertaken with MOE. M. Donnelly noted that this program was funded by the Towns for Tomorrow program. In 2012, Phase 2 will see 6 new wells drilled in partnership with the Geological Survey of Canada to obtain good quality data through a coring project. In addition a private well monitoring program is being developed with initial sites located on Gabriola Island and Yellow Point. (Presentation attached.)

Community Watershed Monitoring Program. (C. Metherall)

Through a partnership with the RDN, MOE, local stewardship groups and Island Timberlands, water quality is being monitored at 25 sites on local rivers. The stewardship groups include the Nanaimo and Area Land Trust, Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society, Friends of French Creek, Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers, Parksville and Qualicum Fish and Game Club, and the Nile Creek Enhancement Society. The volunteers have provided very consistent, excellent quality data. Both C. Metherall and M. Donnelly expressed gratitude for the invaluable work provided by the volunteers and indicated that the monitoring program will be ongoing as long as volunteer services are available. (Presentation attached.)

Stewardship Update. (J. Pisani)

J. Pisani gave an overview of the work planned for Team WaterSmart in 2012, including six different workshops to be held in eight areas, water irrigation audits and a change to the school education program which will see students participating in stream walks outside the classroom. In addition Team WaterSmart has planned a roundtable workshop with crews from municipalities and school districts. The workshop will be used to develop a list of Best Practices for school and municipal crews and will also be available to contractors. M. Donnelly added that a temporary full time staff position is in place for 2012, enabling the program to run through a full calendar year.

Discussion with Nanaimo Airport. (M. Donnelly)

M. Donnelly noted that there have been two meetings with Mike Hooper of Nanaimo Airport and that Airport management is very cooperative in providing water quality and quantity information to the DWWP program. They have indicated a willingness to contribute funds towards aquifer protection signage in the area.

ADDENDUM**BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS****G. Buckingham, re Aquifer Storage and Recovery, Water Governance.**

G. Buckingham pointed out that his letter was written in the fall of 2011, prior to information about ASR being available. He thanked M. Squire for his presentation on ASR as he felt that it is incumbent on this committee to be aware of such innovative technology. G. Buckingham stated the importance of having early discussions with forestry companies to be in the best position for looking after the watersheds in the future. D. Iannidinaro provided a chart of various agencies and legislation involved in watershed governance (copy attached).

NEW BUSINESS**OTHER**

O. Brandes advised the committee that he recently participated in a forum in Vancouver entitled "Water Gathering: Collaborative Watershed Governance in BC and Beyond - Solutions Forum". The forum was attended by over 100 provincial, national and international delegates. The conference release is being finalized and will be available from O. Brandes for anyone interested. The three priorities identified by the delegates are:

- Prioritize completion of preparation of new Water Sustainability Act
- Establish annual conference of watershed based groups from across BC
- Establish government forum (First Nations and province) re water rights and title in BC

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 pm.

M. Donnelly, Chair