



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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2016 AT 10:30 AM @ NANAIMO NORTH LIBRARY

Present:

Mike Donnelly, CHAIR	Manager, Water & Utility Services, RDN
Pat Lapcevic.....	Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Anne Fiddick.....	Environment Community Representative
Chris Cole	Forest Industry Representative, TimberWest
Kate Miller	Manager, Environmental Initiatives, CVRD
Lynne Magee.....	Island Health Representative
Bill Sims	Manager, Water Resources, City of Nanaimo
Morgan Kennah.....	Forest Industry Representative, Island Timberlands (for Ken Epps)
Alan Gilchrist	Academic Community Representative (VIU)
Sonja Zupanec	Islands Trust Representative
Gilles Wendling	Hydrogeologist Representative
Fred Spears.....	Director of Public Works, District of Lantzville
Peter Law	General Public Representative (North)
Nick Leone	Forest Industry Representative, TimberWest
Leon Cake	Water Purveyors' Representative
Bob Weir.....	Director of Engineering, Town of Qualicum Beach
Harriet Rueggeberg.....	General Public Representative (South)
David Vincent	Hydrologist Representative
Rosie Simms	Academic Community Representative (for Oliver Brandes, POLIS)
Sarah Lumley	Mt Arrowsmith Biosphere Region (for Pam Shaw)
Julie Pisani	RDN Drinking Water & Watershed Protection Program Coordinator

Regrets:

Ryan Evanoff	Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Representative
Deb Epps	Ministry of Environment Representative
Oliver Brandes.....	Academic Community Representative
Mike Squire	Operations Manager, City of Parksville

Also In attendance:

Mark Bolton	Golder Associates Ltd.
Lauren Fegan.....	Special Projects Assistant, RDN
Deanna McGillivray	Special Projects Assistant, RDN
Nelson Lovestrom.....	VIU GIS Advanced Diploma Student ; Mt Arrowsmith Biosphere
Gerald St. Pierre	Project Engineer, RDN

CALL TO ORDER

M. Donnelly called the meeting to order at 10:33 am, at the Nanaimo North Library meeting room.

Welcomed new members: Anne Fiddick (Environment Community Rep), Harriet Rueggeberg (General Public - District 68 Rep), Sonja Zupanec (Gabriola Islands Trust Staff Rep), Nick Leone (DFO Rep).

MINUTES

MOVED Lynne Magee, SECONDED Bill Sims, that the minutes from the regular meeting of the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Advisory Committee held November 19, 2015 be adopted.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

For the information of the committee, a revised Terms of Reference (ToR) was presented, to officially note the following members having joined the committee since 2012:

- District of Lantzville – Fred Spears
- Hydrologist – Dave Vincent
- Mt Arrowsmith Biosphere Region – Pam Shaw
- Cowichan Valley Regional District (Inter Regional Education Initiative) – Kate Miller

The original ToR permits membership to change and other organizations to be called on where partnerships are identified that would be of mutual benefit.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION

VIU Wetlands Mapping (N. Lovestrom)

Nelson Lovestrom (VIU student) presented the mapping work done as phase one of the wetland monitoring project partnership with VIU and RDN. One map displayed all wetland areas from several key datasets including Ducks Unlimited Canada, Freshwater Atlas and the Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory. The other maps were using satellite remote sensing to predict where wetland areas were occurring. There were separate maps based on 2010, 2014 and 2015 imagery. The 2014 map was seen to have the best level of accuracy due to the conditions in which the images were captured.

Ground-truthing, field study and devising evaluation methods will be the next steps once a focal water region is selected. Ultimately, the multi-year project will strive to identify key wetlands in the region that are associated with groundwater recharge, to guide land use planning in a manner that protects these crucial features.

Climate Change & Agricultural Water Requirements (A. Gilchrist)

Alan Gilchrist presented his research on agricultural water requirements for crops on Vancouver Island under different climate change scenarios. All modelled scenarios showed a projected increase in crop irrigation needs. The worst case that was described in the model was that in the future 100% more water would be required for irrigation in the growing season, due to increased temperatures and decreased rainfall. The amount of increase will ultimately depend upon future climate change. This consideration of irrigation needs is essential to the viability of agriculture on Vancouver Island over the long term; water sustainability for agriculture, communities and habitat must all strike a balance. There is room for more investigation to be done on farming methods and crop type(s) for the greatest water efficiency.

New Groundwater Regulations (P. Lapcevic)

Pat Lapcevic presented the new groundwater regulations that have come into force under the Water Sustainability Act as of Feb. 29, 2016.

The committee had several questions that will be compiled and sent directly to Water Allocations Branch Section for response. There will likely be a separate session organized with the Province, as a workshop to address these questions.

Water Day 2016 Events (L. Fegan)

Lauren Fegan gave a recap of the two Water Day events that RDN Team WaterSmart hosted this spring. Overall, this format was well received and resulted in more overall participation in workshops than in 2015. Feedback from partners and attendees will be taken into account to shape these now-annual events.

Nanose Water Monitoring – Phase 2 Water Budget (M. Bolton, Golder Associates Ltd.)

Mark Bolton presented the background, key questions, and preliminary scope for the work initiated in 2016 with regards to monitoring water resources in Electoral Area E. Feedback from the committee emphasised the need for robust public consultation and input-gathering. June 9th will be the first public / stakeholder meeting for input on the project scope.

Region-wide Watering Restrictions Framework and Website (J. Pisani)

Julie Pisani presented the new region-wide framework for watering restrictions that has recently been adopted by major water purveyors in the region. This initiative came out of Board direction in September 2015, to streamline watering restrictions communications across the region. The new framework provides consistent definitions for the Stages of watering restrictions, while allowing water purveyors to select what Stage at what time for their service area. The one-window map-based website (accessed via www.teamwatersmart.ca) was presented as the public interface for learning where they get their water from and what restrictions may be in effect in their area.

Support for Stewardship Groups (J. Pisani) – *deferred to next meeting***5 year plan – Englishman River Watershed – MVIHES (P. Law) – *deferred to next meeting***

MUNICIPAL UPDATES

These were deferred to next meeting due to time constraints.

REPORTS

No reports were brought forward at this meeting.

ADDENDUM

NEW BUSINESS

BUSINESS ARISING FROM COMMUNICATIONS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 pm.

Mike Donnelly, Chair