



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
ENGLISHMAN RIVER WATER SERVICE (ERWS) MANAGEMENT BOARD  
HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2014  
IN THE PARKSVILLE FORUM**

**Present:**

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Director J. Stanhope, Chair | Regional District of Nanaimo             |
| Director G. Holme           | Regional District of Nanaimo (alternate) |
| Mayor C. Burger             | City of Parksville                       |
| M. Lefebvre                 | City of Parksville                       |

**Also in Attendance:**

|                |                              |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| P. Thorkelsson | Regional District of Nanaimo |
| M. Donnelly    | Regional District of Nanaimo |
| R. Alexander   | Regional District of Nanaimo |
| G. St. Pierre  | Regional District of Nanaimo |
| M. Squire      | City of Parksville           |
| V. Figueria    | City of Parksville           |
| R. Graves      | Recording Secretary          |

**Regrets:**

|           |                              |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| S. Tanner | Town of Qualicum Beach       |
| W. Idema  | Regional District of Nanaimo |
| F. Manson | City of Parksville           |
| B. Weir   | Town of Qualicum Beach       |

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Stanhope called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

**DELEGATIONS**

**MINUTES**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE**

## REPORTS

### **Update on Community Input and Survey Results (M. Squire)**

M. Squire discussed the public engagement process and survey results. Some of the project key points included the need to be publicly acceptable, affordable, simple to operate, robust and sustainable. The use of the internet engaged public discussions and the survey was done to get community input and involvement in this project. The project also involved a community working group that includes various stakeholders, resident associations and major stakeholders including Nanoose First Nations. A lot of good feedback was received from the various groups and individuals.

M. Squire reviewed some of the responses that were received from the studies within the community. 93% of the community is committed to reducing water. There was support for enhanced water conservation efforts to defer future expansion phases past 2025. The biggest input was to pursue other options like grey water use within new buildings or retro fit existing buildings and to reduce amount of water used to irrigate public green spaces. Also, messaging to tourists and visitors that they can reduce water was identified.

The treatment technology brought forward many responses with the emphasis on minimal use of chemicals and lowering operational costs. Nano filtration versus membrane filtration was discussed and it was determined that nano filtration costs were higher. If that technology does become cheaper in the future it would be allowed for in future expansion. There was general support for the facility to have public meeting areas to educate the public and host operation courses that could generate revenue.

Once all this information is gathered from the public and the reports are received from engineering consultants, we will proceed with the detailed design. At 30% of the detailed design an extensive value engineering exercise will be carried out August or September of this year.

MOVED Director Lefebvre, SECONDED Director Holme that the report on Community Input and Survey Results be received.

CARRIED

### **Report on Consent on Capital Cost Allocations for the New Water Intake, Treatment Plant, Supply Mains and Aquifer Storage and Recovery Wells (M. Squire)**

M. Squire reviewed the executive summary which included details on the public referendum and what is required in regards to bylaws and approvals prior to the referendum. The report included estimated costs for the river intake, treatment plant, site works, operation building and annual operating and maintenance costs along with each jurisdictions' cost allocation.

MOVED Director Lefebvre, SECONDED Director Holme that the Englishman River Water Service Management Board adopt the capital cost allocations for the new water intake, water treatment plant,

transmission mains and aquifer storage and recovery wells as shown in Appendix A entitled ERWS Project Cost Allocations, dated June 24, 2014.

CARRIED

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **OTHER**

The Chair opened the floor to questions from the audience.

#### **Elaine Hofer, Parksville, BC**

E. Hofer asked if there was an agreement that turned the bulk water service into a regional water service? Ms. Hofer also commented that if Aquifer Storage & Recovery (ASR) is going to be situated in Nanoose it should be paid for by Nanoose residents and questioned who decided how residents should pay for storage.

M. Squire explained that water supply infrastructure has been added onto over the years and is not effectively suited to the supply of bulk water. The purpose of the ERWS is to convey water supply from the bulk river water supply to the communities of City of Parksville and Nanoose region. It has always been envisioned that each region would pay for their own infrastructure benefiting each communities system.

ASR could potentially play a major role in water supply strategy for the region. There have been numerous discussions on how it could benefit each community. ASR can store water and when we have the abundance of water it can be stored during the winter and save it for the summer. ASR allows for stored water to supply any emergency purposes for both communities.

E. Hofer questioned if rather than ASR would it not be desirable to take into account water from the Parksville wells.

M. Squire replied that yields from both the RDN and Parksville ground water wells are not enough to sustain summer demands. There are also concerns with quality and quantity with the wells. Studies have been done on both the Parksville and Errington aquifer water which indicate there is insufficient recharge to meet demand.

C. Burger commented that when the original bulk water system was proposed it was to augment the ground water supplies. There is no question that wells are stressed and there is growth around our well fields including agriculture demands.

#### **Al Pasters, Parksville, BC**

A. Pasters commented that we should ask for an extension on the deadline. The operating costs are going to be extremely high and will mean higher water rates in Parksville. Mr. Pasters also enquired if a peer review of the overall plan had taken place and if so what were the results.

M. Squire replied that there was an extensive peer review done by GSI Innovations out of Oregon.

M. Lefebvre commented that the costs of water and delivery will cause our rates to go up. Water has been under-valued for a long time and we are still using an above average amount of consumption. If we want a reliable resource of potable water it will cost us more.

C. Burger commented that there will be a report coming forward to the next meeting of council which outlines what costs will be and the implications for the upcoming referendum in November.

A. Pasters questioned why the Craig Bay pump station is being replaced in 2018 and why can it be being deferred until 2035 if the ASR is ok at the Claudet field? Is there anything wrong with the pump at Craig Bay?

M. Donnelly replied that there is nothing wrong but it is undersized for future use. A new pump station would offer additional pumps for back up purposes. If we have the ASR capable within the Claudet area within Nanoose it can provide an additional benefit and postpone the need for the pump station until 2035.

A. Pasters also questioned why do we need to have the mezzanine floor, meeting rooms and viewing rooms in the water treatment plant? If we're going to provide an education component maybe the Department of Education should kick in to help with funding.

J. Stanhope commented that it won't just be the students going into the treatment plant, the whole population need to understand the water system. The fisheries component, which benefits all of us, is outstanding as a result of the Arrowsmith dam.

**Paul Reitsma, Parksville, BC**

P. Reitsma commented that the referendum be postponed until grant funding was established

**Bill Newfield, Parksville, BC**

B. Newfield questioned what is Plan B if Claudet well isn't successful? What if the ASR well doesn't work, are we going to build a silo or a storage pond?

M. Squire replied that Plan B is to build the Craig bay pump station during the peak summer demand which would provide sufficient water supply to Nanoose.

**Robert Hurst, Parksville, BC**

R. Hurst commented on human population, sustainability, consumption and considering limiting growth. Why cut the water consumption in half if we allow the population to increase?

C. Burger replied that discussions, in regards to a bulk water supply has been going on for a long time, and have recognized the need to have a reliable water supply in place for next generation. Surface water supplies will provide our community with half of our future needs so relying on groundwater is not realistic

M. Lefebvre commented about the lack of use of grey water and that we should do more in the future. We need to discuss water catchment systems and how it could take a big load off of our water consumption now.

**NEXT MEETING** will be at the discretion of staff.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

MOVED Director Holme, SECONDED Director Lefebvre that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

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J. Stanhope, CHAIRPERSON