

**SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT
WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

March 7, 2022

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD OVER ZOOM.

PRESENT:

Chair	S. Thurber
Vice-Chair	D. McCreath
Members	T. Adams T. Beck B. Fielding R. Hanson M. Hennessy D. Marteinson A. Skelley

ALSO PRESENT:

(Non-voting)	Director, Area F	M. Hiltz
	Director, Area D	A. Tize
	Director, Area A	L. Lee
	Mayor, Town of Gibsons	B. Beamish
	GM, Infrastructure Services	R. Rosenboom
	Manager, Strategic Initiatives	M. Edbrooke
	Administrative Assistant/Recorder	G. Lawrie
	Strategic Planning Coordinator	A. Wittman
	Public	1
REGRETS:	Members	K. Chi T. Silvey

Directors, staff, and other attendees present for the meeting participated by means of electronic or other communication facilities in accordance with Sunshine Coast Regional District Board Procedures Bylaw 717.

CALL TO ORDER 3:36 p.m.

AGENDA The agenda was adopted as presented.

REPORTS

The Strategic Planning Coordinator provided the Committee with a presentation on the draft SCRD Water Strategy Engagement Plan.

Discussion included the following:

- Suggestions to improve the draft engagement plan:

- SCRD should seek input on guiding principles from community, so the public can guide the Water Strategy in the long-term
- Important to have a feedback survey available at all open houses and public engagements
- Agree on a ‘One Water, One Region’ approach; staff agreed, one guiding principle has been included called ‘Think and Act Like a Region’ to promote a consistent approach across all SCRD managed water systems
- Is the engagement plan missing any key target audiences?
 - Suggestion to include the Sunshine Coast Conservation Association on the project stakeholder list
 - Suggestion to include various community associations across the region, First Nations, industrial sectors, heavy water users, breweries, and farms on the project stakeholder list
- Should the engagement plan include a second WASAC workshop or would the Committee prefer to engage in roundtable discussions within their community?
 - No decision determined. Suggested survey before the end of term in May

The Manager of Strategic Initiatives provided the Committee with a presentation on the 2022 Water Rate Structure Review Process.

Discussion included the following:

- Concern about “too much public involvement”
- An identification of stakeholder groups to start could be useful
- Estimated date for any changes to the current rate structure review: not before January 1st, 2024
- Pricing for different types of uses (i.e. industry/agriculture)
- Conservation rate structures could include progressive rates or higher volume usage rates
- Suggestion that if a Water Strategy guiding principle is fair it would be unnecessary to consult public regarding rate structure and the rate should be based on operating costs to make system viable
- Discussion about UBC Metrics report comparing water utility rate structures
- Suggestion that the more you use, the more you pay, and conservation will result

The General Manager, Infrastructure Services provided the Committee with an update on current water supply projects.

Discussion included the following:

- Church Road Well Field Development Project started March 7 2022:
 - Currently clearing brush/trees
 - Intent for project to be ready in September 2022, timeline will be dependant on delivery time for some materials
 - New pipes will be layed down the middle and the side of the road
- Environmental Flow Needs (EFN) proposal:
 - Currently with BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development for review

- Phase 2 of Exploratory Groundwater Investigation at Potential Reservoir Site:
 - Permit for geotechnical drilling will be completed by September 2022
 - The drilling will enable the SCRDR to confirm the feasibility of developing a reservoir at the site

- District of Sechelt Reclaimed Water Feasibility Study:
 - Final report is due back by the next WASAC meeting in May
 - Currently at 80%
 - Will go to District of Sechelt Council first and then the SCRDR Infrastructure Services Committee agenda or at minimum to WASAC

- Gas vs. Chlorine Upgrade to Chapman Water Treatment Plant:
 - The urgency for the 2.2-million-dollar project was that the system was not functioning from a safety perspective due to proximity to the community and location at the top of the hill with road access
 - Gas used less and less in industry due to safety

NEW BUSINESS None

OTHER BUSINESS

- Vice-Chair McCreath asked that WASAC have a standing agenda item regarding long-term source protection to discuss watershed protection. This topic would generally align with the Advisory Planning Commission. Staff can consider how this topic would fit under the Committee's Terms of Reference.
- The 2-year appointment for WASAC members ends in June 2022, a call for applications will be posted Spring 2022. Current WASAC members can reapply. It will be put out to public for about 6 weeks and then forwarded to the SCRDR Board for their consideration.

NEXT MEETING May 9, 2022 @ 3:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT 5:23 p.m.