

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

September 9, 2024

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE CEDAR ROOM OF THE SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT AT 1975 FIELD ROAD, SECHELT, BC.

PRESENT:	Chair	V. Macfarlane
	Vice-Chair	J. Bell
	Members	B. Fielding B. Thicke S. Leech K. Freemantle

ALSO PRESENT:

(Non-voting)	General Manager, Infrastructure Services	R. Rosenboom
	Water Sustainability Coordinator	G. Starsage
	Strategic Planning Coordinator / Recorder	S. Rempel
	Director, Area A	L. Lee
	Director, Area E	D. McMahon

REGRETS:	Members	M. Hennessy L. Chivers S. Fitchell
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CALL TO ORDER 3:33 p.m.

AGENDA The agenda was adopted as presented.

REPORTS

General Manager, Infrastructure Services, gave an update on the status of the SCRD Water Strategy.

Discussion included the following:

- The Draft Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) Water Strategy was presented and recommended by the Committee of the Whole but was not adopted at Board.
- A Committee member questioned whether the Town of Gibsons' operational recommendations were out-of-scope of the current Draft Water Strategy.
- Water Supply Advisory Committee (WASAC) is interested in when the Water Strategy would be going back to the Board, current timeline unknown.

General Manager, Infrastructure Services, discussed the many projects WASAC played a role in developing, and opened the floor to discussion around water project updates.

Discussion included the following:

- Update on Lower Crown Reservoir feasibility and status of grant applications.
- Update on Langdale Wellfield project.
- Importance of comparing and contrasting multiple projects for cost, ability to supply water, and location of water sources.
- Update on groundwater investigations in Sechelt / shíshálh swiya.
- Update on Volumetric Billing Program. WASAC felt a need for a citizen committee to review and assist in the implementation of volumetric rates.
- The ongoing need to fix private side leaks, including an update on Phase 3 Water Meter Installations.
- Question regarding zone metering and managing public infrastructure for leak resolution.
- Question utilizing permanent siphons and raising the dams in Tetrahedron Provincial Park.

Water Sustainability Coordinator led a debrief discussion surrounding WASAC participation and Terms of Reference.

Discussion included the following:

- Review of what went well,
 - Many WASAC members felt they learned a lot from their time on the Committee, which they could share with the broader community.
 - Many members were very engaged and wanted to provide feedback and be of service to the Board.
 - Members felt that the input and recommendations they were able to put forward, while limited, had a meaningful public impact, including developing the Draft Water Strategy.
- Review of what could be improved,
 - Terms of Reference needs to be more clearly defined.
 - A desire for more referrals given between the Board and WASAC, as limited items forwarded to WASAC for input or feedback, leading to few agenda items and poor attendance (lack of relevance).
 - Saw it as difficult for staff and committee members as a result of political shifts, new intergovernmental considerations, and discussions occurring outside the Terms of Reference relating to operational issues and opportunities instead of governance issues and opportunities.
 - Political discussion outside of WASACs control led to not being able to complete the main objective of WASAC of supporting the development and implementation of the Water Strategy. WASAC identified a desire to continue providing feedback on any changes the SCRD Board makes to the Water Strategy, to ensure it involves input from the community and does not differ drastically from the Water Strategy first developed with WASAC.
 - A member of WASAC desired for earlier engagement on projects and reports to help inform final decisions.
- Suggestions for future consideration,
 - Consideration to circulate meeting minutes to the Committee prior to having them go to the SCRD Board.
 - WASAC recognized they could provide valuable community expertise.
 - WASAC sees a need for communicating changes surrounding the transition to volumetric billing and to let the community know that citizen representatives are helping assess the process.
 - WASAC sees value in keeping the same members on as they have already gained knowledge on the SCRD water service and want to continue to utilize that knowledge given the priority of both the Water Strategy and Volumetric Billing.

RECOMMENDATIONS**Recommendation No. 1**

The Water Supply Advisory Committee (WASAC) recommended that the current WASAC term be extended for one-year, focusing on the development and implementation of the SCRD Water Strategy and support the implementation of Volumetric Billing;

AND THAT the WASAC Terms of Reference be amended accordingly.

NEXT MEETING To be determined.

ADJOURNMENT 5:34 p.m.