MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ENGLISHMAN RIVER WATER SERVICE (ERWS) MANAGEMENT BOARD
HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2012
Immediately following the AWS Management Board Meeting
IN THE PARKSVILLE FORUM

Present:

Director J. Stanhope, Chair	Regional District of Nanaimo
Director G. Holme	Regional District of Nanaimo
Councillor M. Lefebvre	City of Parksville
Mayor C. Burger	City of Parksville

Also in Attendance:

P. Thorkelsson	Regional District of Nanaimo
W. Moorman	Regional District of Nanaimo
M. Donnelly	Regional District of Nanaimo
W. Idema	Regional District of Nanaimo
F. Manson	City of Parksville
M. Squire	City of Parksville
S. Tanner	Town of Qualicum Beach
M. Brown	Town of Qualicum Beach
B. Weir	Town of Qualicum Beach
B. Farkas	Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Stanhope called the meeting to order at 2:25 PM.

DELEGATIONS

MINUTES

MOVED Director Holme, SECONDED Director Lefebvre, that the minutes from the regular meeting of the Englishman River Water Service Management Board held July 16, 2012, be adopted.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

Bill Wrathall, VIHA, re Proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery Program

M. Lefebvre stated that he had recently attended the Aquifer Recharge Conference in Vancouver which was also attended by VIHA representatives who were very receptive to the ASR project.

MOVED, Director Lefebvre, SECONDED Director Stanhope, that the correspondence be received.

CARRIED

REPORTS

ERWS Program Update Report (M. Squire) powerpoint.

M. Squire provided the members with an update on the ERWS program.

In July 2012 a clay bank collapsed and the river station had to be shut down for the first time, using municipal wells as the backup source. Through discussion with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations it has been suggested that by partnering with all levels of government there may be an opportunity to obtain grants for remediation of the Englishman River clay banks; project costs approximate $1 million.

M. Squire stated that the Environmental Assessment Office considers water injected into the ASR as groundwater, and would therefore require a full environmental review if extraction were to be greater than 75 litres per second. As the time required to complete a full review (2-5 years) would be the biggest constraint on the implementation plan, we need to look at a reduced yield. Testing the ASR will confirm if a smaller yield will meet the demand. Full ASR well injection/extraction testing has been deferred to May 2013.

ERWS Provisional Budget (M. Squire) to be distributed

M. Squire reviewed the Englishman River Water Service 2013 Provisional Budget with the members.

MOVED Director Holme, SECONDED Director Lefebvre, that the Englishman River Water Service Management Board recommend the Joint Venturers adopt the Year 2013 Provisional Budget and the 2013-2017 Financial Plan as shown on Table 1, dated December 5, 2012.

CARRIED

ADDENDUM

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

C. Burger advised that he also recently attended the Aquifer Recharge Conference presented by The American Ground Water Trust and suggests that ASR will be commonplace in the future to maintain agricultural and residential needs. He indicated that the agencies attending the conference were very receptive and commented on the need to increase the public's knowledge of ASR.

OTHER

IN CAMERA

NEXT MEETING will be at the discretion of staff.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM.

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J. Stanhope, CHAIRPERSON

QUESTIONS

The Chair opened the floor to questions from the audience.

Elaine Hofer, Parksville, BC

Ms. Hofer made reference to the Aquifer Recharge Conference which she had also attended. Ms. Hofer voiced her concern about the Environmental Assessment Office review process being slow and asked if an economic study will be done.

M. Squire replied that he has asked the consultant team if the project will be feasible with a reduced yield.