



Town of Qualicum Beach

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ARROWSMITH WATER SERVICE (AWS) MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2009 3:00 pm
AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO**

Present:	Councillor Marc Lefebvre, Chair	City of Parksville
	Fred Manson	City of Parksville
	Mike Squire	City of Parksville
	Al Metcalf	City of Parksville
	Councillor Barry Avis	Town of Qualicum Beach
	Bob Weir	Town of Qualicum Beach
	Director Joe Stanhope	Regional District of Nanaimo
	Director George Holme	Regional District of Nanaimo
	Carol Mason	Regional District of Nanaimo
	John Finnie	Regional District of Nanaimo
	Bev Farkas	Recording Secretary

Also in attendance:

Councillor Chris Burger	City of Parksville
Bernie Pearce	Arrowsmith Parks & Land Use Council

CALL TO ORDER

M. Lefebvre called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

MINUTES

MOVED Joe Stanhope, SECONDED B. Avis, that the minutes from the meeting of the Arrowsmith Water Services Management Committee held January 9, 2009, be adopted.

CARRIED

J. Finnie noted that a meeting with BC Conservation Foundation had taken place and they are looking at opportunities for establishing additional storage within the Englishman River watershed. Mr. Finnie will prepare correspondence indicating an interest to continue discussions with BCCF, particularly if it would support AWS's water licence ability to extract water.

WEYERHAEUSER DRAFT WATERSHED ASSESSMENT – Staff Briefing

The Weyerhaeuser Draft Watershed Assessment of the Englishman River Watershed dated September 17, 2002 was commissioned by Weyerhaeuser and AWS was invited to be part of the process at that time. At the time of planning the Arrowsmith Dam, it was determined that logging processes were acceptable to AWS provided Weyerhaeuser continued to log in compliance with the Prescriptions as set out in this document. Island Timberlands still use this to guide their process today; in addition to meeting standards set by Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Private Managed Forest Lands Council.

RIPARIAN AREA REGULATIONS

It was noted that provincial Riparian Area Regulations differ from regulations for private forest lands. A better understanding of this information was requested and C. Mason referred the committee to a recent presentation of the Private Managed Forest Land Council to UBCM (copy attached). J. Finnie added that in discussion with the timber companies they have advised that their goal is to “meet or beat” the regulations as set by the province. Staff will update the political representatives at the next meeting on this topic.

ISLAND TIMBERLANDS FUTURE LOGGING PLANS – Staff Briefing

J. Finnie stated that staff usually meet with Island Timberlands and Timberwest at the beginning of each year to review harvesting plans in the watershed for the year. While the maps and plans are available for viewing at these meetings, copies are not provided to take off-site; the information presented by the logging companies is for information purposes only. Although communications have been very good in the past, this year the early meeting with Island Timberlands did not occur. However staff recently met with Island Timberlands (February 16, 2009) and indicated the need for improved and consistent communications. Staff were asked if possible, to get an update from IT on their future logging plans for the remainder of this year in the Oceanside area realizing that these plans are subject to change based on market requirements. As annual harvesting plans are flexible; significant changes should warrant notification to AWS. In addition, staff from the RDN and municipalities have been contacted to meet independently with Island Timberlands.

It was discussed that Island Timberlands was in compliance with regulations and prescriptions regarding the recent harvest in Englishman River. AWS was not contacted prior to this event and again it was mentioned that focus on communications with the logging companies is paramount.

PRIVATE MANAGED FOREST LANDS COUNCIL INFORMATION BULLETIN

M. Lefebvre read aloud a letter from the Private Managed Forest Lands Council (PMFLC) to the committee (copy attached).

It was noted that while there may be inconsistencies with the Private Managed Forest Lands Council report and other sources of information, the information presented in the PMFLC report was acceptable. In addition, B. Avis stated a concern for safety, lack of communication, and for the extra trees sacrificed for the harvest.

CITY OF PARKSVILLE COUNCIL RESOLUTION -0-060

M. Lefebvre informed the committee that the City of Parksville has had no response from the province re the City’s invitation to meet to discuss the current state of the Englishman River

Watershed. The Town of Qualicum Beach has also forwarded correspondence to Island Timberlands stating their concern.

UPDATE ON CAPITAL PLANNING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PROCESS

M. Squire indicated that the Request for Proposals closes on March 13th, to be followed by several weeks to review the submissions and conduct the interview process. The selection process is anticipated to be completed by the end of April or early May. The committee will meet shortly thereafter to learn the results of the process.

OTHER

Bernie Pearce (393 Temple Street, Parksville) asked the committee if there is a regular program of testing Englishman River water upstream from the intake. M. Squire responded that there is an annual full spectrum analysis and that the raw water meets community drinking water guidelines. This information is available online at the City of Parksville website, and the AWS website. The annual testing is done in early spring or fall. In addition, all RDN and City of Parksville water systems are checked on a weekly basis after the water has been treated.

Ms. Pearce also asked who would be liable if water were contaminated. J.Finnie responded that it was his opinion that the individual municipality or regional district would be responsible as the provider of water to the consumer.

City of Parksville Councillor Chris Burger provided a handout to the committee outlining an inventory of trees harvested from “Bear Island”. Mr. Burger stated that this is an “old growth forest” similar to Cathedral Grove and that the removal of these trees is a very “big deal” to many people. Mr. Burger added that this is sacred land and should be protected. Mr. Burger encouraged everyone to come together as local politicians (outside AWS) and speak with a unified voice that this is not acceptable. Mr. Burger suggested that politicians have some leverage and suggested a moratorium – no rezoning on any FLR lands.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 PM.

NEXT MEETING

To be announced.

M. Lefebvre, Chairperson