



Town of Qualicum Beach

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ARROWSMITH WATER SERVICE (AWS)
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2004 AT 1:35 PM
AT THE PARKSVILLE CIVIC AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE**

Present:	Director Joe Stanhope	Regional District of Nanaimo
	Kelly Daniels	Regional District of Nanaimo
	John Finnie	Regional District of Nanaimo
	Pauline Bibby (Alternate)	Regional District of Nanaimo
	Councillor Marc Lefebvre	City of Parksville
	Gary O'Rourke	City of Parksville
	Brian Hackwood	City of Parksville
	Fred Manson	City of Parksville
	Councillor Scott Tanner	Town of Qualicum Beach
	Councilor Anton Kruyt	Town of Qualicum Beach
	Mark Brown	Town of Qualicum Beach
	Bob Weir	Town of Qualicum Beach
Also in Attendance:	Bob Lapham	Regional District of Nanaimo
	Bev Farkas	Recording Secretary, RDN

1. CALL TO ORDER

J. Stanhope called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

2. MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting of the Arrowsmith Water Services Management Committee held June 16, 2004 were adopted.

3. OPERATIONAL UPDATE / STATUS OF RESERVOIR

G. O'Rourke reported that the dam was at 65% of capacity in early August. Release from the dam attempts to maintain a flow of 1.6 cms past the hydrometric gauge downstream at the highway bridge. The release was reduced to maintain 1.2 cms at the gauge with the approval of WLAP to change the Operational Rule for the dam. Currently (September), the dam is discharging at the maximum rate possible (due to head limitations) but only 0.8 cms can be maintained at the gauge during the current extreme low flows in the river. The dam is still wide open and discharging at this time; there is concern the reservoir may lose ability to release water before the end of October. Technical information was

discussed on infiltration and required flows and it was stated that more information will be available as historical data is recorded.

G. O'Rourke confirmed that discussions with the Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection and Department of Fisheries and Oceans regarding making changes to the Operational Rules would continue later in the fall. J. Finnie added that Fisheries have indicated a willingness to accommodate changes from year to year on an as-needed basis.

There was discussion for the need to address public perception regarding water quantity; and to focus on the message of conservation regardless of the available quantity. Daniels noted that the next issue of the RDN publication "Regional Perspectives" which is sent to all RDN homeowners, will clarify the water situation in the regional district in an effort to clear up any public misconceptions.

4. STATUS OF EBA HYDROGEOLOGICAL REPORT

J. Finnie advised the Committee that the EBA report, which was partnered by City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach, RDN and Breakwater has been received in draft form. There are some concerns identified with respect to groundwater supply in the report and some of the recommendations focus on conservation. It will be reviewed in detail and finalized within the next month and brought to the Committee at the next meeting. Breakwater does have a copy of the report.

5. AWS CAPITAL PLAN

K. Daniels informed the Committee that Administration is looking for an approach to satisfy the concerns of the Town of Qualicum Beach about sharing of water supplies. He met recently with Joe Stanhope, Mayor Wesbroek and Mark Brown and together with Koers & Associates will be developing a presentation to the Town with a comparative analysis of two or three options. The intent is to have recommendations on the most likely approach for a capital plan and timeline for the development of AWS by the end of 2004. The presentation will first be brought to the Committee and K. Daniels will be looking to the Committee for support. It was noted that a concern brought forward by Mayor Wesbroek at the recent meeting is a request for monitoring of the Town of Qualicum Beach supplies for at least one year after the incorporation of Chartwell before any approach is decided. If this were recommended, there would need to be a firm option to fall back on which would first be endorsed by the Committee.

MOVED M. Lefebvre, SECONDED S. Tanner that Koers & Associates be mandated to assist with the presentation to the committee and Town of Qualicum Beach.

J. Stanhope requested that he be made aware when the flow is cut back. B. Weir indicated that Engineers would prepare a political briefing note in such events.

6. DEVELOPMENT AND WATER ISSUES

B. Lapham gave a presentation which had been developed for the RDN Board and stated that the presentation would focus on full build out at 25 years.

J. Finnie noted that one Nanoose well that was originally used in the allocations is no longer available. B. Lapham stated that the wells were recognized as included for allocations however wells were not thoroughly tested. While the well supply is not certain it is adequate at present. B. Weir commented that AWS was never intended to replace ground water supplies, only to supplement them. B. Lapham responded that the RDN is not asking developers to bring on new water. J. Finnie said the RDN is considering alternate ground water sources to supplement the reductions in ground water supply since the AWS water licence was issued.

7. ADDENDUM – No items

8. OTHER

DESALINATION PLANTS

The committee discussed desalination plants and concluded that while the technology is developing, they are only used in areas where there are extreme water shortages and they are extremely expensive.

BLOCK 602

K. Daniels informed the committee that the agreement with the province for the purchase of Block 602 is being finalized. The agreement will be brought to AWS to ensure the interests of all parties are secured.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Arrowsmith Water Service Management Committee will be held Wednesday, November 10, 2004 at 1:30 pm at the City of Parksville offices.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED M. Lefebvre, SECONDED S. Tanner, that this meeting terminate and move to an In Camera session.

TIME: 3:15 PM