



**MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE
ENGLISHMAN RIVER WATER SERVICE (ERWS) MANAGEMENT BOARD
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, AT 6:00 PM
IN THE PARKSVILLE FORUM**

Present:

Director J. Stanhope, Chair	Regional District of Nanaimo
Director G. Holme	Regional District of Nanaimo
Chris Burger	City of Parksville
Councilor Marc Lefebvre	City of Parksville

Also in Attendance:

C. Mason	Regional District of Nanaimo
John Finnie	Regional District of Nanaimo
Fred Manson	City of Parksville
Mike Squire	City of Parksville
Bob Harary	City of Parksville
Bev Farkas	Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

C. Mason called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

C. Mason called for nominations for the position of Chairperson for the Englishman River Water Service Management Board.

C. Burger nominated J. Stanhope, SECONDED by G. Holme.

There being no further nominations, C. Mason declared J. Stanhope Chairperson for the year 2011.

Chairman Stanhope introduced the Englishman River Water Service Management Board.

DELEGATIONS

MINUTES

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

REPORTS

2011 – 2012 Budgets and 2012 – 2016 Financial Plan

It was noted that the Financial Plan may be revised annually and that both the Budget and the Financial Plan require ratification by the Regional District of Nanaimo Board of Directors and the City of Parksville Council.

MOVED M. LeFebvre, SECONDED G. Holme, that the Englishman River Water Service Management Board recommend the Joint Venturers adopt the Year 2011 Budget as shown on Table 1, dated November 9, 2011. CARRIED

MOVED M. LeFebvre, SECONDED G. Holme, that the Englishman River Water Service Management Board recommend the Joint Venturers adopt the 2012 – 2016 Financial Plan as shown on Table 2, dated November 9, 2011. CARRIED

MOVED M. LeFebvre, SECONDED G. Holme, that staff be directed to work with and engage Associated Engineering (BC) Ltd. to complete Phase 2 works in years 2011 and 2012 at a cost of \$560,000. CARRIED

ASR Field Trip Presentation (M. Squire)

MOVED M. Lefebvre, SECONDED C. Burger, that the powerpoint presentation on the ASR Field Trip be received for information. CARRIED

Englishman River Program Status Update (M. Squire)

MOVED G. Holme, SECONDED C. Burger, that the powerpoint presentation on the Englishman River Program Status Update be received for information. CARRIED

Arrowsmith Water Service Operations Update (M. Squire)

MOVED M. Lefebvre, SECONDED G. Holme, that the powerpoint presentation on the Arrowsmith Water Service Operations Update be received for information. CARRIED

ADDENDUM

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

NEXT MEETING To be announced.

CHAIRPERSON

Following the formal meeting, the Chair opened the floor to questions from the public.

Duane Round – Martindale Road

Mr. Round expressed concern that the new intake may have negative effect on water.

J. Finnie replied that the flow in the river has significantly improved since the dam was built, particularly during low flow periods. The new intake will not increase risk of downstream wells having extraction problems, but may improve ability to extract water. We are maintaining higher flow in the river during low flow periods, which will benefit the groundwater through infiltration through the riverbed.

C. Burger added that this is a supplemental supply system to service partners who are involved in the cost sharing and we are all individually responsible for our own groundwater sources.

Bill Hawking - Upper part of Englishman River

B. Hawking asked if there is potential to build other dams on the Englishman River system to offer potential additional flow in summer.

J. Finnie responded that AWS/ERWS are not currently looking at additional dams. There have been discussions with fisheries groups who are looking at options for installing some low level dams elsewhere in the watershed; however their contribution to the river flow would be limited. B. Harary added that if the existing dam was expanded or new dams built, this would only address storage capacity and not water treatment.

B. Hawking noted that the existing examples cited in the ASR presentation are deep rock aquifers and asked if there are any examples to consider for surface gravel aquifers.

M. Squire said that the area being investigated is quadra sands – the geology is believed to be the old Englishman River gravel bed - an alluvial aquifer which is sand and gravel. There are similar sites in Florida and part of the proposal is to retain the expert who worked on the alluvial gravel aquifers in Florida.

Faye Smith - Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society

F. Smith asked if there are plans to build rainwater management into the process and discussed filling aquifers by capturing rainwater runoff from parking lots, roads, roofs etc.

B. Harary responded that a Drainage Master Plan will be prepared in the near future to identify opportunities to capture rainwater. It is a very long range plan and a different program than that of potable water. Such a plan was not within the mandates of Arrowsmith Water Service or Englishman River Water Service.

Lance Pope – 585 Columbia Drive

L. Pope asked how much has been spent in research since the beginning of Arrowsmith Water Service in 1996.

B. Harary replied that the biggest capital cost has been the purchase of the land for the water treatment plant at a cost of \$1.25M. L. Pope asked that the total amount be emailed to him at lancempope@gmail.com .

L. Pope asked if the water treatment plant will be warrantied.

M. Squire advised that different vendors will offer different warranties.

L. Pope asked about the possibility of privatization in the future.

C. Burger advised that once a certain level of funding is realized from Senior Government there may be direction towards exploring private/public partnerships, however it is unlikely at this level.

L. Pope asked how much of an increase can be expected in property taxes and/or utility rates.

F. Manson replied that until such time as the scope of the project is known, and the amount of funding from Senior Government is known, the increase cannot be determined. The City of Parksville relies on water rates to pay for the supply and distribution of water.

C. Mason added that the RDN uses a combination of property taxes and utility rates based on water usage throughout the year. When final costs are known a projection of water rates and property taxes will be presented to the public for elector assent for borrowing.

Rick Honaizer

R. Honaizer asked if the City of Parksville has ever run out of water.

F. Manson replied that the City has not run out of water.

R. Honaizer asked if the water in the City of Parksville has ever been undrinkable.

F. Manson advised that there has been a Boil Water Advisory issued by Vancouver Island Health Authority in the past which instructed residents to boil their water.

R. Honaizer asked who would be responsible for repairs if a water main were to break between the city metre and a residence.

F. Manson replied that the resident would be responsible for repair costs.

Jesse Schroeder - Northwest Bay Road Nanoose

J. Schroeder asked if studies have been commissioned to investigate alternative proposals to centralize the water treatment facility.

B. Harary replied that a variety of reasonable options were studied and the best practical solution was presented at tonight's meeting. There is a full report and 14 technical papers posted on the website .

J. Schroeder asked if the water treatment facility could be expanded as a modular component to treat groundwater in the future should such treatment be mandated.

F. Manson responded that the plant will be built for today's requirements however at some time in the future if we are required to treat groundwater, the potential would be there for the plant to be expanded.

J. Schroeder asked if Associated Engineering (BC) Ltd. won the tender for Phase 1 and if their fee of \$560,000 was known at the time of award.

B. Harary responded that Associated Engineering won the project by a qualification based selection process and their estimated fee was a part of the selection.

J. Finnie added that the treatment plant is being built to treat river water for certain purposes and that the same purpose may not apply to treating groundwater. If we ever have to treat groundwater it could be a different treatment, different technology.

J. Schroeder asked for clarification that the water we are currently receiving is safe and that the purpose of installing a treatment plant is because we are mandated to do so by new regulations. Mr. Schroeder asked if we have adequate water quality today.

B. Harary responded that the water quality is adequate and that the mandate is to upgrade that quality.

J. Finnie indicated that the drinking water we are receiving today is being extracted at time of the year when treatment is not being required. We are planning to extract the water year round and it has more turbidity in the winter.

J. Schroeder asked if phasing in a non-potable water line to households has been explored.

C. Burger replied that doing so for existing infrastructure would require doubling up on the distribution system, opening up every street, every sidewalk. It may be more practical for new construction.

Robin Robinson

R. Robinson suggested a bylaw forbidding lawn watering in all areas of the RDN in summer.

C. Burger indicated that the Aquastar program is showing early success with reduced water consumption and that the education program will continue.

Peter Simpkin – Parksville

P. Simpkin asked for clarification about interim water control at Top Bridge.

M. Squire replied that his earlier reference to interim means that the surface reservoir in the area is built out to future requirements.

P. Simpkin asked if the water level decline is 7m below ground level in our aquifer, what is the bottom?

M. Squire indicated that we need to look at where the decline is in relation to our wells which are typically 120' deep.

P. Simpkin asked for more information on regulating groundwater extraction.

M. Squire replied that the BC Water Act is an old provincial regulation requiring modernization. In other provinces and states groundwater extraction is licensed, very much like our surface water is licensed. In BC there is currently no requirement to treat well water.

Bill Neufeld

B. Neufeld noted there is a successful ASR operating in Kitchener Ontario and suggested it may be a good location to study as it is located in a gravel pit.

B. Neufeld asked about the temperature spike in the AWS Operations Update report.

M. Squire responded that the temperature was taken by field staff and it had declined by 3 degrees.

Alex Kobelak

A. Kobelak asked about the parameters of the study and about contingency plans.