



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ENGLISHMAN RIVER WATER SERVICE (ERWS) MANAGEMENT BOARD
HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2013
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 (alternate)
Councillor M. Lefebvre	City of Parksville
Mayor C. Burger	City of Parksville

Also in Attendance:

M. Donnelly	Regional District of Nanaimo
R. Alexander	Regional District of Nanaimo
W. Idema	Regional District of Nanaimo
G. St. Pierre	Regional District of Nanaimo
F. Manson	City of Parksville
M. Squire	City of Parksville
S. Tanner	Town of Qualicum Beach
B. Weir	Town of Qualicum Beach
R. Graves	Recording Secretary

Regrets:

P. Thorkelsson	Regional District of Nanaimo
M. Brown	Town of Qualicum Beach
J. Marsh	Town of Qualicum Beach

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Stanhope called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM.

DELEGATIONS

Englishman River Habitat Status Report – F. Smith/P. Law (verbal PowerPoint presentation)

F. Smith and P. Law made a presentation on the Englishman River Habitat Status Report and how it is based on a review of published reports compiled over the past 25 years, focusing on the river's aquatic ecosystems.

MOVED Director Lefebvre, SECONDED Director Tanner, that the Englishman River Habitat Status Report be received for information.

CARRIED

MINUTES

MOVED Director Holmes, SECONDED Director Lefebvre, that the minutes from the regular meeting of the Englishman River Water Service Management Board held June 6, 2013, be adopted.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

REPORTS

Program Update Report – M. Squire (verbal Powerpoint Presentation)

Mike Squire provided an update on the program including health of the water shed and how the fish are a huge component in the Englishman River water management. Stewardship for the water shed is key while working on the new intake, the new location, the water treatment plant and the ASR. All these have benefits to going forward for the environment and future public water consumption. M. Squire discussed the slides on intake location and the goals and objectives involved as well as possible future phases.

Director Burger enquired about the Nano-filtration option and if it was too early to get an energy profile that might be required in order to push water through that system, or any indication that there is enough of a cost savings that might make this a viable option in the environment where we're anticipating significant increasing in energy costs?

Mike Squire replied that it was too early to know and that we have asked the consultants to look into comparing the trade-off between capital and energy costs and chemical free option compared to the costs of chemicals and disposal of treatment wastes. Once the treatability tests are complete samples will be taken to a lab to see if the Nano-filtration would work and if it does the consultant can determine the costs over the 40 years.

Director Lefebvre enquired about the river bank pump station and asked if it would be built above the 200 year flood plain and also, in looking at normal high winter river flows how long would it take to fill the aquifer being used for ASR?

Mike Squire replied that the pump station and electrical equipment will be located above the flood plain and set back on the bank. In regards to aquifer storage preliminary estimates suggest 3 – 5 months of injection and several months of storage. Then during the critical summer months there would be 2 months of extraction.

Director Lefebvre questioned what measures were in place if something tumbled into the river on either side of the bridge and what kind of emergency response would be in place if it was a contaminate?

Mike Squire commented that currently there is nothing in place and we rely on our first responders to inform if there are contaminants in the river. The Health Authority did identify this as a risk and it has been remedied by locating the intake above those risks and above the majority urban development area.

Director Lefebvre asked if there have been any discussion with the Ministry of Transportation in regards to making the bridge safer in terms of higher barriers, etc? M. Squire mentioned that it has been noticed that accidents have occurred due to the abrupt grade break and the major concern is the drainage scuppers going directly off the bridge and directly into the river. The location of the planned intake is upstream of the bridge which would avoid possible contamination from that source.

Director Stanhope asked if the weir is approved by Fisheries and will it affect the fish returning or leaving?

Mike Squire commented that the purpose of doing the preliminary design is to get the concept approved by Department of Fisheries and Ministry of Environment fisheries branch. MOE has been very cooperative and want to be part of the design process. Fisheries do not have the resources so we will supply the design to them for approval and or recommendations/comments.

MOVED Director Lefebvre, SECONDED Director Holme that the report be received.

CARRIED

ERWS 2014 Provisional Budget – M. Squire (to be distributed)

M. Squire reviewed the budget and background information was read from the provisional budget. Englishman River Water Service Joint Venture agreement between the City of Parksville and the Regional District of Nanaimo requires that on or before December 15 of the year preceding each fiscal year of the Joint Venture, the Management Committee will submit to the Management Board for its review a provisional operating, maintenance and capital expenditure budget. With the formation of the Englishman River Water Service and further advancement of the Capital Plan, the 2013-2017 Financial Plan was reviewed and updated in an effort to outline funding requirements for operations and capital expenditures for the next five years. It was determined that unspent funds from 2013 will need to be added to the 2014 budget to account for works deferred to the new year. A year 2014 Provisional budget and a 2014-2018 Financial Plan has been prepared for consideration by the ERWS Management Board.

MOVED Director Burger, SECONDED Director Lefebvre, that the ERWS 2014 Provisional Budget be received.

CARRIED

ADDENDUM

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER

IN CAMERA

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Englishman River Water Service Management Board will be at the discretion of staff.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM.

MOVED Director Holme, SECONDED Director Burger that the meeting be adjourned. CARRIED

J. Stanhope, CHAIRPERSON

QUESTIONS

The Chair opened the floor to questions from the audience.

Charlie Stone, Parksville, BC

Mr. Stone questioned if there are reports that show more than one way that the aquifer was confined and if those reports could be shared?

Mike Squire responded that once the investigation is done a full report will be available for public viewing by April 2014.

Mr. Stone also mentioned that at a previous meeting he did enquire about trying to take water only when the water was flowing more clear and colorless and when is it better to take water from the river?

Mike Squire responded that this was mentioned in the first report and we have looked at the treatability of the Englishman River.

Dwayne Round, Parksville, BC

Mr. Round questioned the comments in regards to the Martindale aquifer and the chemical free option that's going to be explored. If you are going to start using the old gravel pit to put sludge in and create aquifer recharge would that not instigate a change of work order, and would that not also instigate a requirement for a full environmental review?

Mike Squire commented that this is very new and conceptual and our consultants will look at that and bring it forward to the both the province and other regulatory bodies.

Mr. Round commented that at the June ERWS meeting he asked a question in regards to the residents on Martindale Road and Mr. Thorkelsson stated that our residents would be contacted in regards to developing a plan to shut off their water systems and we have not heard back.

Mike Donnelly stated that conversations in regards to that matter had taken place and we will work with our Emergency Program Coordinator, Jani Drew, and get back to him this week with a time line.