

## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

### MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE DRINKING WATER AND WATERSHED PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2010 AT 12:30 PM  
IN THE RDN BOARDROOM

<b>Present:</b>	Dave Bartram	Chairperson
	Gisele Rudischer	Director Electoral Area B
	Gordon Buckingham	General Public Representative (North)
	Gilles Wendling	General Public Representative (South)
	Lynne Magee	Vancouver Island Health Authority
	Pat Lapcevic	Ministry of Environment
	Faye Smith	Environment Community Representative
	Shelley Bayne	Hydrogeology Representative
	Alan Gilchrist	Academic Community Representative (VIU)
	Al Chatterton (alternate)	Forest Industry Representative
	Deb Epps (alternate)	Registered Professional Biologist Representative
	John Finnie	GM, Regional and Community Utilities, RDN
	Mike Donnelly	Manager of Water Services, RDN
	Christina Metherall	Drinking Water/Watershed Protection Coordinator, RDN
	Sara Ellis	Special Projects Assistant, RDN
	Bev Farkas	Recording Secretary
<b>Regrets:</b>	Director J. Stanhope	Chairperson
	Joe Burnett	Director Electoral Area A
	Makenzie Leine	Forest Industry Representative
	Domenico Iannidinardo	Forest Industry Representative
	Bonaventure Thorburn	Water Purveyors' Representative
	Oliver Brandes	Academic Community Representative
	John Deniseger	Registered Professional Biologist Representative

#### CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:30 and introductions were made.

#### MINUTES

The minutes of the Inaugural Drinking Water Watershed Protection Advisory Committee meeting of November 5, 2009 were approved. The minutes of the Drinking Water Watershed Protection Technical Working Group meeting held January 18, 2009 were deferred to the Communications / Correspondence section of the agenda.

#### REPORTS

##### Review of 2010 Programs

C. Metherall gave a presentation to the committee (attached) outlining the following components of the program as planned for 2010.

Key components of the 2010 program include the development of:

- Observation well network
- Private well safety education program
- Outreach and education program
- The DWWP Website
- Private well monitoring program
- Surface water quality monitoring partnership
- Information management
- Water suppliers working group
- Watershed prioritization and scoping

The following points were discussed:

- A great deal of potential exists for partnerships in the community.
- Small Water Purveyors – historical data would be helpful information – VIU network may be able to capture this information.
- Feedback sought from hydrogeologists prior to drilling 6 wells by end of 2010.
- A strong communication plan will be developed – social marketing very important aspect of program.
- Hydrogeology studies carried out as part of the Development Permit Application process are a valuable tool for residents and communities (*M. Donnelly to confirm legal implications of releasing these studies*)
- Ministry of Environment is carrying out Attainment Monitoring on the Englishman River in 2010 as part of their ongoing program and on French Creek in partnership with the RDN.
- Information management includes gathering, managing and presenting information.
- The data collection and maintenance structure needs to be well planned before collecting data. Use existing dbases wherever possible; the information gathered can provide valuable information to planners and to communities.
- Over 200 private water purveyors in area; RDN wanting to discuss issues and concerns with smaller system purveyors (on VIHA list) in a non-regulatory manner. (*L Magee will provide contact information for Sustainable Infrastructure Society and Small Water Users Association of BC.*)
- Draft Stormwater Management Plan completed in 2002 went through process of prioritizing watersheds; this plan will form part of the information background for watershed prioritization and scoping, *a copy of this report will be made available to committee.*
- Must be seen as a region-wide program with benefit to all the region even if particular actions need to be taken in certain priority areas.
- Priority issues and actions will be different in different areas.
- Prioritization must be a defensible decision – science based and not a political decision.
- Watershed prioritization and scoping timeline for 2010: workshops and survey to Technical Working Group and then to the community in late May and develop workplan in spring/summer to take to the public by the end of the year.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion ensued regarding the fact that land use decisions for Gabriola Island are not made by the RDN and there is no representation by Islands Trust on the committee.

MOVED G. Rudischer and SECONDED D.Bartram that the Terms of Reference for the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Advisory Committee be amended to include representation by Islands Trust and that a letter be sent to Islands Trust to invite their participation on the committee. CARRIED

The Chair informed the committee that the following recommendations were endorsed by the UBCM executive:

“work with the Ministry of Community and Rural Development on developing an inter-ministry structure and framework for addressing local government small water system issues.”

*and*

“call for the creation of a provincial drinking water working group that would address water quality and infrastructure issues for communities of all sizes.”

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm. The next meeting TBA.

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Chairperson