

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
DRINKING WATER AND WATERSHED PROTECTION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

12:30 P.M.

RDN Board Chambers

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
 - 3.1 **Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Technical Advisory Committee Meeting - March 21, 2017** 3

That the minutes of the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Technical Advisory Committee meeting held March 21, 2017 be adopted.
 - 3.2 **Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Technical Advisory Committee Meeting - July 18, 2017** 5

That the minutes from the Drinking Water and Watershed Technical Advisory Committee meeting held July 18, 2017 be adopted.
4. INVITED PRESENTATIONS
 - 4.1 **Roundtable Updates**
 - 4.2 **Update on Policy B1.21 Review**
Staff will provide presentation.
 - 4.3 **Update on Hydrometric Monitoring**
Staff will provide presentation.
 - 4.4 **Update on Volunteer Monitoring Well Network Expansion**
Staff will provide presentation.
 - 4.5 **State of our Aquifers - Reports & Newsletter**
Staff will provide presentation.
 - 4.6 **DWWP Data Management Framework**
Staff will provide presentation.
 - 4.7 **GIS Water Map**
Staff will provide presentation.

4.8 Upcoming GSC Workshop at VIU
Staff will provide presentation.

5. DELEGATIONS

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Letter Dated July 17, 2017 re A Fiddick

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7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. ADJOURNMENT



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
DRINKING WATER AND WATERSHED PROTECTION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2017 AT 12:30 PM
RDN BOARD CHAMBERS**

Present:

Anne Fiddick	Environment Community Representative
Alan Gilchrist	Academic Community Representative (VIU)
Pat Lapcevic	BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Peter Law	General Public Representative (North)
Lynne Magee	Island Health
Kate Miller	Cowichan Valley Regional District
Harriet Rueggeberg	General Public Representative (South)
Barbara Sileniaks	Municipal Representative, City of Parksville (for Mike Squire)
Jocelin Teron	Island Timberlands Representative (for Ken Epps)
Bill Sims	Municipal Representative, City of Nanaimo
Fred Spears	Municipal Representative, District of Lantzville
Bob Weir	Municipal Representative, Town of Qualicum Beach
Gilles Wendling	Hydrogeologist Representative

Regrets:

Oliver Brandes	Academic Community Representative (POLIS)
Leon Cake	Water Purveyors (Coastal Water Suppliers)
Chris Cole	Forest Industry Representative
Deb Epps	Ministry of Environment
Ken Epps	Forest Industry Representative
Ryan Evanoff	Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Nick Leone	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Pam Shaw	Mt Arrowsmith Biosphere Region
Mike Squire	Municipal Representative, City of Parksville/Arrowsmith Water Service
David Vincent	Hydrologist Representative

RDN Staff:

Chris Midgley, CHAIR	Manager, Water Services & Asset Management, RDN
Joe McCallum	Special Projects Assistant, RDN
Julie Pisani	Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Coordinator, RDN
Gerald St. Pierre	Project Engineer, RDN
Paul Thompson	Manager of Long Range Planning, RDN
Jeremy Holm	Manager of Current Planning, RDN
Rebecca Graves	Recording Secretary, RDN

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12:39 PM and respectfully acknowledged the Coast Salish First Nations on whose traditional territory the meeting took place.

MINUTES

MOVED H. Rueggeberg, SECONDED B. Sims, that the minutes from the regular meeting of the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Advisory Committee held November 10, 2016 be adopted.

CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

Anne Fiddick, Environmental Community Representative, re referral process from Province to RDN for culvert installation and removal.

A. Fiddick commented on issues with small wetlands that are being drained and the effect on adjacent landowners and water courses. A letter is requested to be written to MFLNRO, who is in charge of the permits, regarding that the system be amended so that private land owners would be made aware of any change and be allowed to comment on how it would affect their properties.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MUNICIPAL UPDATES

Updates were given by District of Lantzville, Town of Qualicum Beach, City of Parksville, City of Nanaimo, and Partners on projects, current winter water levels, snowpack, and update on various water systems.

UPDATE PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION

J. Pisani and J. McCallum gave presentations regarding a Planning and Policy update, Expanded Water Monitoring in various locations, an analysis on State of our Aquifers 2017, Stream Assessments for 2017, the Stewardship Seed Funding program, and updated Committee on various outreach/rebate programs including Water to Earth Month, Landscape Water Efficiency rebate and DWWP Video Project.

REPORTS

ADDENDUM

NEW BUSINESS

BUSINESS ARISING FROM COMMUNICATIONS

C. Midgley suggested that in regards to the correspondence given from A. Fiddick, staff will map out a process for permit jurisdiction and points of influence pertaining to drainage concerns in rural areas.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting is adjourned at 2:57pm.

Chairperson

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

**MINUTES OF THE DRINKING WATER AND WATERSHED PROTECTION TECHNICAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday, July 18, 2017

12:30 P.M.

RDN Board Chambers

In Attendance:	C. Midgley	Regional District of Nanaimo
	M. Leine	Forest Industry Representative (for Ken Epps)
	L. Magee	Island Health
	K. Miller	Cowichan Valley Regional District
	H. Rueggeberg	General Public Representative (South)
	B. Sims	Municipal Representative (City of Nanaimo)
	F. Spears	Municipal Representative (District of Lantzville)
	G. Wendling	Hydrogeologist Representative
	M. Squire	Municipal Representative (City of Parksville)
P. Lapcevic	BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations	
Regrets:	A. Fiddick	Environment Community Representative
	A. Gilchrist	Academic Community Representative (VIU)
	P. Law	General Public Representative (North)
	B. Weir	Municipal Representative (Town of Qualicum Beach)
	O. Brandes	Academic Community Representative (POLIS)
	Leon Cake	Water Purveyors (Coastal Water Suppliers)
	C. Cole	Forest Industry Representative
	D. Epps	Ministry of Environment
	R. Evanoff	Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
	N. Leone	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
	P. Shaw	Mt Arrowsmith Biosphere Region
	D. Vincent	Hydrologist Representative
	Sonja Zupanec	Islands Trust Representative
Also in Attendance:	J. McCallum	Regional District of Nanaimo
	J. Pisani	Regional District of Nanaimo
	G. St. Pierre	Regional District of Nanaimo
	J. Holm	Regional District of Nanaimo
	H. Cao	City of Nanaimo

CALL TO ORDER

Quorum not present.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Adoption of Minutes will be deferred to next DWWP TAC meeting as Quorum was not present.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Update on Policy Review - RDN Policy B1.21

TAC sub-committee assisting with policy review (on Groundwater Assessment requirements for re-zoning) has met twice. Draft for feedback to be provided at next TAC meeting.

Update on State of our Aquifers Project

Draft circulated for comment prior to meeting. Feedback includes minimize technical language for the mail-out version of the report; elaborate on the “why” behind trends (acknowledged that may be answered in follow up studies); refer to names of Aquifers not just numbers.

Englishman River Groundwater / Surface Water Study Phase 2 Report

Dr. G. Wendling provided an overview of the findings on how the river gains and loses flow between different bedrock fault lines in the channel.

Update on Rebate Programs

Rebates to date (Jan. 1 – July 18, 2017):

- 46 well water testing rebates and 5 wellhead upgrade rebates;
- 28 rainwater harvesting rebates allocated of 55 available;
- New rebate program for efficient irrigation upgrades and soil amendments launched in June; 5 applications received to date.

Update on Water Monitoring - Water Budget Phase 2 Recommendations

There are 15-18 new Volunteer Observation wells planned for 2017 in Electoral Areas A, E, F, G.

Update on Stream Assessments - Cat Stream and Annie Creek

Summary of Cat Stream and Annie Creek Assessments provided in advance of final reports. Riparian cover, stormwater inputs and dumping were all concerns. Cat Stream report will be shared with City of Nanaimo environment, drainage and planning staff.

CWMN Data Trend Analysis proposed for 2018

Consultant project proposed for 2018 supported by the TAC. Involve MoE insofar as they can advise on Water Quality Objectives framework. Maintain focus on land use impacts within jurisdiction of RDN.

Watershed Roundtables and Watershed Governance Models

Discussion on watershed governance; existing governance structures; summary of Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable’s work to date and upcoming transition to new convener as NALT has to step down. General support for investigating options of watershed-specific roundtables coordinated under DWWP umbrella. Will await specific correspondence requesting this. Maintaining high level of public

involvement is important. Recognition that work being coordinated on the watershed scale in our region is informing provincial decision makers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Flow Chart

Inquiring about notification to adjacent or downstream landowners was provided by C. Midgley. Beaver dam removal requires Provincial notification / authorization and must follow best practices. Consultation with nearby landowners is not part of that process.

Video Project moved to 2018

DWWP Video project deferred to 2018. City of Nanaimo suggested partnering with their in-house videographer where appropriate.

ADJOURNMENT

CHAIR

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Ladysmith, BC
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Phone: 250-245-2754
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July 17, 2017

Anne Fiddick
Environmental Community Representative
RDN Drinking Water & Watershed Protection Technical Advisory Committee

Re: 60 acre RDN property in Yellow Point watershed

Legal Description of Property:

- Area 04, Jurisdiction 768, Roll 03478-200
- PID 000959090
- Folio Number 768003478.200
- Legal Description: Lot B, Section 1, Range 5, Cedar District, Plan 39634
- Plan Number VIP39634

Dear Anne,

This letter is being sent on behalf of RDN and CVRD Yellow Point residents who are concerned about development of a 60 acre RDN property, located in our watershed/wetland. We represent about 70 active residents and have collected about 500 petition signatures against this land development.

In January 2017, this property was purchased by a numbered company owned by Coastland Wood Industries and has recently been sold to the Snuneymexw however, the BC Land Title office still shows the numbered company as owners. Communications in February of this year, indicated Coastland intended to log this entire 2nd growth forested property and build 11 residences.

The Issue

As you are probably aware, Yellow Point is a highly fragile, drought sensitive region where groundwater wells can expire in summer months. This entire region is highly dependent on seasonal rainfall. Our concern with development of this forested property is that it is a significant wetland catchment basin for seasonal rainfall to 4 lakes, Geovando Lake, Whiting Lake, Long Lake and Quennel Lake. Numerous watercourses cover this property supplying a few reservoirs above Long Lake. Where the landscape slopes to the south and south-east, streams flow through the Yellow Point watershed supplying Long Lake, Yellow Point Bog Ecological Reserve and Yellow Point Park, including various streams and lakes ending at Blue Heron Park on Stuart Channel. We

are very concerned that the current RDN zoning regulations do nothing to protect the Yellow Point watershed for the environment or groundwater wells of residents living in the RDN and CVRD regions. Even though riparian areas can be protected, logging and excavating will prove devastating to our watersheds.

We have sent letters, talked with and attended meetings with representatives of RDN and CVRD Planning Departments, MoE, MoFLNR, Parks, the RDN Area 'A' Director and attended meetings with Coastland representatives. In 6 months, we have not received assistance or advice from these contacts. There seems to be a prevailing attitude that, "This is private property, and there's nothing we can do."

Questions:

The RDN Area 'A' Environmentally Sensitive map, identifies the 60 acre property as a 'Wetland,' an "Ecosystem with wet soil and moisture-dependent plants; bog, fen, marsh, swamp, shallow water, wet meadow" and the greater region as the Yellow Point Aquifer DPA.

From the CVRD Area 'H' OCP, Part 3 - Natural Environment, Policy 3.1.8, page 14, "The Regional District will assist in safeguarding important groundwater recharge areas including Woodley Range, Cassidy and Bush Creek Aquifers and the Long Lake-Priest Lake areas by discouraging excessive development or extensive clearing and by encouraging appropriate provincial government agencies to secure long term formal protection for these water recharge areas."

- How do we encourage the RDN and CVRD Planning Departments to take responsibility for protecting the watershed in this region? We want to prioritize a long term management plan for the Yellow Point wetland/watershed now. How do we do this?
- Can the RDN/CVRD planning departments require the proponents to establish development plans that mitigate the effects of logging and excavation, and possibly reduce the density of this development to protect the existing Yellow Point/Long Lake wetland/watershed region?
- We are in favour of a Public Open House Project Information Event before development begins on this property.

Any advice you or other members of the Drinking Water & Water Protection Technical Advisory Committee can offer will be greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,

Pauline Hunt

Enclosed:

- Sharon Hartwell's 'Preliminary Ecological Survey of the 60 Acres Property
- RDN Environmental Map

Background Notes

1. We are attaching a *Preliminary Ecological Survey of the 60 Acres Property* by Sharon Hartwell B.Sc. Botany that was conducted on our behalf on January 30/31, 2017.
2. The property is in the fragile Yellow Point Aquifer. It contains the headwater catchment basins for creeks that flow north into Quennell Lake (which is fish bearing) and east into Long Lake (also fish bearing), Yellow Point Bog Ecological Reserve and Yellow Point Park. It is a major component of the watershed, which supplies over 500 wells in the Yellow Point area.
3. The Yellow Point Aquifer is located in fractured bedrock, and is slow to recharge. Rainwater is our only water supply. Mature forests enable water to seep much more slowly into the aquifer, preventing erosion and maintaining a healthy ecosystem, so the property is very important to our community.
4. The fragile terrain includes a series of moss-covered rock-ridges, streams, ponds and marshes. Logging, road building and development risk changing the water flow, disrupting the watershed and impacting the Ecological Reserve and wildlife habitats.
5. The forest is a mature endangered Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem and contains many species at risk, unique plant communities, and habitats for many birds and animals. The 60-acres is also a keystone section of a wildlife corridor that provides ecosystem connectivity from Hemer Park to the ocean, including Quennell Lake, Wildwood Forest, Whiting Way Park, Yellow Point Bog Ecological

Reserve, Yellow Point Park, Blue Heron Park, and the land at Yellow Point Lodge.

6. Preservation of the property would support the creation of a world-class 650-acre wilderness corridor, including adjacent parks and conservation areas, uncrossed by any roads, with the hope that we can preserve the wilderness corridor for future generations.