



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

NOTES OF THE OPEN HOUSE BEAVER CREEK WATER SOURCE OPTIONS HELD ON NOVEMBER 4, 2013 at 7:00PM

Gill Elementary School – 5520 Beaver Creek Rd. Port Alberni BC

STAFF PRESENT: Russell Dyson, Chief Administrative Officer
Andy Daniel, Manager of Environmental Services
Teri Fong, Manager of Finance
Brenda Sauve, Administrative Assistant
Bruce Forsyth, Maintenance Technician Leadhand
Keith Looker, Maintenance Technician

Members of the Public: 51

John McNabb opened the meeting at 7:00pm with an introduction of himself as the Electoral Area Director for Beaver Creek. The public was informed that the purpose of the open house was to inform the tax payers of Beaver Creek about water source options and the plan to meet the requirements of the Island Health Authority.

Russell Dyson, CAO pointed out the emergency exits and restrooms. He introduced the Beaver Creek Water Advisory Committee and the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District staff members present.

The proposed water supply and treatment plan was presented by R. Dyson with cost implications and a summary of the assessment provided by McElhanney and Associates.

The slides are attached to this report. It includes an outline of the values of the Regional District Board of Directors, which are to provide quality services at an affordable rate for the tax payers. Their priority is to come up with all options that are available and to inform the public with this information before making a decision. The Board of Directors will be required to make a decision on water supply this fall followed by the decision on taxes and tolls in the new year.

The members of the public were informed that the Board prioritized water systems for the Gas Tax funds received in 2013. Of this the Beaver Creek water system received \$1.55 million for a new Reservoir, water main upgrade on Strick Rd. and the construction of the Strick Rd. pumphouse. None of which were funded by the tax payers of Beaver Creek.

John McNabb opened up the question period.

- 1) The City of Port Alberni is not interested in using its existing water source for the Regional Water option. What does that mean?

-
- City is not prepared to hand over existing supply, unless there is participation in other services, such as recreation and heritage. However they will look into Sproat Lake as a regional option.
- 2) Prices for bulk water – how did the rates get figured out over 25 years?
- The rates are based on the McElhanney study, which is posted on the ACRD website. The bulk water option is at an overall cost of \$0.66/m³. The rates are based on the City's five year plan and estimates over a 25 year period.
- 3) Why are we looking at getting water from the City all year round, why not just during times of high turbidity?
- Staying with the existing water source and pumpstation, would require both upgrades to the Stamp River infiltration gallery system and water treatment facilities. There is also the issue with the current right away and the owners wishing to terminate it. This would result in a cost of approximately \$1.5 million which would have to be borrowed and paid back over 5 years, costing approximately an extra \$300/per household per year.
- 4) Is VIHA still supporting Regional water?
- VIHA is not interested in governance but how the requirements for 4-3-2-1 are met.
- 5) The pumphouse is in the 200 year floodplain?
- Yes the existing pumphouse is in the 200 year floodplain, however the Strick Rd. pumphouse is not.
- 6) Is the new pumphouse on Strick Rd. built with earthquake specifications.
- Yes it is.
- 7) A filtration system for \$300 to \$500 thousand was suggested by Wayne Hasler for the Stamp River supply. If we had land we could put in our own filtration and uv light, the cost seems more reasonable, especially with the cost of land decreasing drastically. We may be able to sell bulk water. This might be an option?
- The ACRD will keep options available, including new technological advances. At this time, McElhanney investigated all the options that were being considered by the Beaver Creek Improvement District. An independent supply on the Stamp River is the most expensive.
- 8) What about investigating a 4th option, where filtration systems are put in the individual residents homes. This is allowable with 500 services per service area. We could divide

the service area into two, this would meet legislation regulations. This could possibly be a more affordable option?

- We will make note of this and bring it forward to the Board.

9) What are the monthly water toll rates going up to? Can't read the turbidity levels on the computer. Why not spend money on our own system instead of looking at bulk water? Someone should work hard at settling the legal matter concerning the Stamp River and pumpstation.

- The water tolls will go up to approximately \$55/month. The Computer technician is working on adding more security to the computer system, which was subject to hacking on account of the access to turbidity readings. There are many costly issues as indicated in the McElhanney study with maintaining the existing supply. The lawyers are working on the legal matter and the ACRD is open to dialogue with the land owner regarding the right of way.

10) Do we really want to tie our water into one water source in the valley?

- We are not giving up our Water License on Stamp River. The goal of the Board is to offer quality service at an affordable price. They have to come up with a plan in order to meet the VIHA 4-3-2-1 requirements and they are looking at all of the options presented to them.

11) How much money has the Beaver Creek Fire Hall upgrades cost and where did the money come from?

- The project cost is approximately \$240, 000 and it was paid by the taxpayers of Beaver Creek. These funds were put away in a reserve over the last few years. Therefore it's already been paid for and not coming from any future taxes from Beaver Creek.

12) Who decided that Sproat Lake would be a good water source?

- This is based on the studies conducted and more research will be completed before a commitment is made.

13) How much will it cost for all of these other studies for the Regional Water option.

- The cost will be shared with the City, we will utilize our own resources and provincial grant as much as possible.

14) Before going to the Regional District the Maintenance workers would take samples from the watershed, is that being done?

- No this is not being done. The resources were put in to eliminating boil water advisories. The ACRD relies on the private forest companies to manage their lands within the regulating requirements and dialogue with the companies which is ongoing.

15) Can you explain how the boil water advisories were reduced?

- The commitment of the Maintenance technicians, a Fire truck was purchased to pump water from the City during times of high turbidity and having an additional reservoir capacity at Kitsuksis. Boil water advisories were avoided on 4 events.

16) An agreement for water from Catalyst would privatize the water system!

- The Regional District would secure their own water license and attempt to secure transfer of the water to a regional treatment facility, which would minimize the role of catalyst.

17) What insurances are there that we won't run out of water, as the population increases in the area and on Vancouver Island?

- We are looking at conservation by increasing water tolls, therefore the higher users will pay more.

18) Are you looking at the tolls and consumption?

- Taxes may remain but the cost for consumption will increase. The consumption base line will be less. Bamfield water tolls and consumption was used as an example to explain.

19) Do vacant lots pay parcel tax?

- Yes.

20) What is the consumption permitted for a resident in Beaver Creek a month, 12,000 gallons?

- Yes it's 12,000 gallons a month, or 36,000 gallons every quarter. After that every extra 1,000 gallons is an additional \$5.00.

21) Comment: Consider for the next meeting getting a sound system, having a hard time hearing everyone.

22) Kitsuksis reservoir, there was a big upset about the leak and it's still happening, I would hope it would be taken offline?

- It is required until the connection to the City at Strick Rd. is complete.
- Having a water supply that's turbid free will allow us to just use the new reservoir.

23) Will the summary from this meeting be available on the website?

- Notes are being taken that will be summarized in about a week and posted on the ACRD website.

24) If or when it comes to the point of making the ultimate decision to turn on City water, will there be a vote?

- No it will be up to the Regional Board to decide. Meetings are held to receive input and help the Board to make the right decision.

25) Comment: There has been foul water in our homes because water lines are not getting flushed every six months.

26) Compton Rd. is split half in the City and half in the country by changing the boundary, can the City freely incorporate the rural area?

- The Province sets the rules around boundary extensions by municipalities they can't change boundaries without the property owners consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

John McNabb,
Chairperson

Russell Dyson,
Chief Administrative Officer

Beaver Creek Water System Public Meeting November 4, 2013

A strategy to meet the Drinking Water Treatment Objectives for the Beaver Creek Service Area.

- Often referred to as “4-3-2-1”
- A condition of the operating permit
- Required by Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA)
- Must be completed this fall!!

Tonight’s Presentation

- Review of water supply alternatives
- The proposed “4-3-2-1” strategy
- Implications and known costs of the strategy
- Water System update and other financial issues
- Questions / comments

ACRD Values

- Quality services at an affordable price;
- Communication and advice – water advisory committee / notices;
- Maintain autonomy and control as much as possible;
- Commence with system upgrades;
- Seek grants and other funding sources;
- Cooperate with other jurisdictions;
- Safety and water quality!

So what are the VIHA Objectives.....?

*“Treatment is to protect against: enteric viruses, pathogenic bacteria, Giardia cysts and Cryptosporidium oocysts.
The general objectives are:*

- 4-log reduction or inactivation of viruses
CHLORINATION.
- 3-log reduction or inactivation of Giardia and Cryptosporidium.
ULTRA VIOLET PROTECTION
- 2- treatment processes for surface water (*CHLORINATION & UV PROTECTION*)
- Less than or equal to (\leq) one nephelometric turbidity unit (NTU) of turbidity.
FILTRATION OR A DEFERRAL
- No detectable E. Coli, fecal coliform and total coliform.

Choosing an appropriate water source, protecting that source and reducing distribution system risks can be essential complementary steps to providing treatment when dealing with microbiological risks.”

McElhanney Consulting Services reviews water supply options

1. **Independent supply** and treatment maintained on the stamp river – 2 different types of treatment evaluated
2. **Bulk water** purchase from the City of Port Alberni
3. **Regional supply** established between City and Beaver Creek, share governance and costs for supply
 - Assessed capital, operation and maintenance costs, ranked options based on environmental, social and economic values.

McElhanney Ranking of the Options

Rank	environmental	social	economic
First	Regional	Regional	Regional \$0.49/m ³
Second	Bulk	Independent	Bulk \$0.70/m ³
Third	Independent	Bulk	Independent \$0.95/m ³

Water Supply Strategy for Beaver Creek.....

1. Connect to City with Strick Road pump station.
2. City Implements Ultra Violet treatment in 2014.
3. Investigate Sproat Lake for a filtration deferral, including negotiating the required licenses and agreements for treatment and pumping infrastructure.

- The City is interested in a regional approach to Sproat Lake not existing supply.
- All works for the BCWS support a regional option or bulk supply – the two best alternatives as determined by McElhanney.
- The ACRD will continue to keep options open including the Stamp and possibly integration with Cherry Creek.

What will the City Connection Cost?

- The cost for City water for a full year in 2014 would be \$160,000 based on 500,000 m³;
- \$90,000 in reduced expenditures targeted from 2013 budget
- Reduction in overall consumption to reduce expenditures by additional \$20,000:
 - Reduced leaks, lower consumption for system maintenance, reduced consumer demand
- Therefore we estimate \$50/year for each connection for....
 - Reduced turbidity;
 - UV protection in 2014;
 - Reallocation of staff resources;
 - 4-3-2-1 strategy in progress!

Cost Comparison

	2013 Actual	2014 Proposed
Operating costs	\$657,000	\$707,000
Capital costs	From reserves & Gas Tax Funds	\$240,000
Total costs	\$657,000	\$947,000
Estimated total cost per household for water tolls and parcel tax	\$658	\$858 Includes water supply and capital contribution

Comparison of Bulk Water Rates:

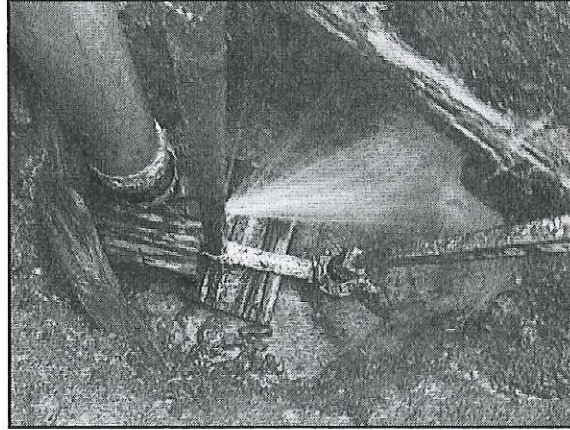
Bulk Water Rates (2013)	\$ per cubic meter (m ³)	500,000 m ³
Capital RD	\$0.56	\$280,000
City of Nanaimo	\$0.44	\$220,000
City of Parksville	\$0.42	\$210,000
Cornox Valley RD	\$0.64	\$320,000
Arrowsmith Water Service	Percent of use	N/A
Metro Vancouver	\$0.688	\$344,000
Abbotsford Mission Water Commission	\$0.38	\$190,000
Fraser Valley RD	\$0.30	\$150,000
City of Port Alberni	\$0.32	\$160,000
Average	\$0.47	\$235,000

Financial Decisions to be made.....

- Water system costs need to be allocated to taxes and tolls on principle that tolls pay for maintenance and tax for pays for capital costs!
- Water rates to be revised to encourage conservation and reflect allocation of costs – to be adopted in advance of the second quarter of 2014.
- Budget to be determined by March – confirms annual expenditures and allocation to taxes.

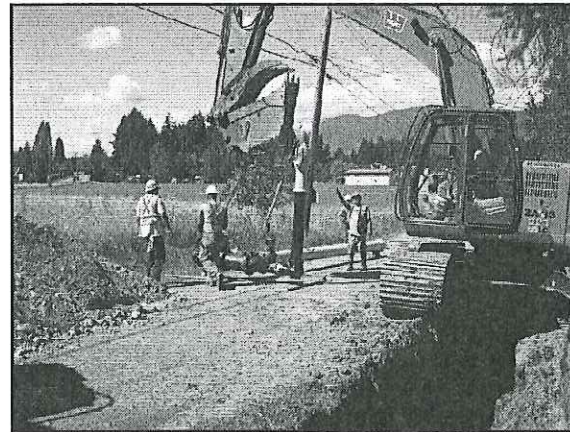
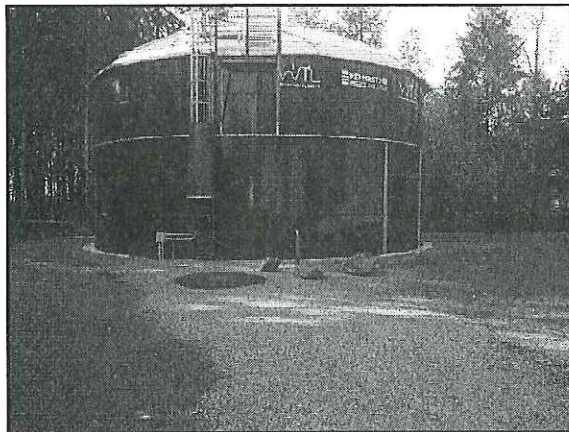
The need for an annual capital contribution.....

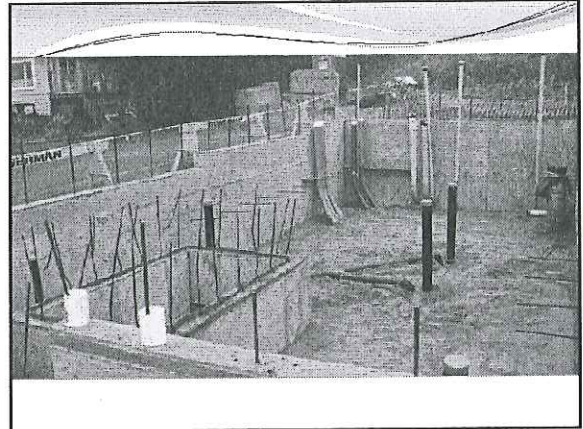
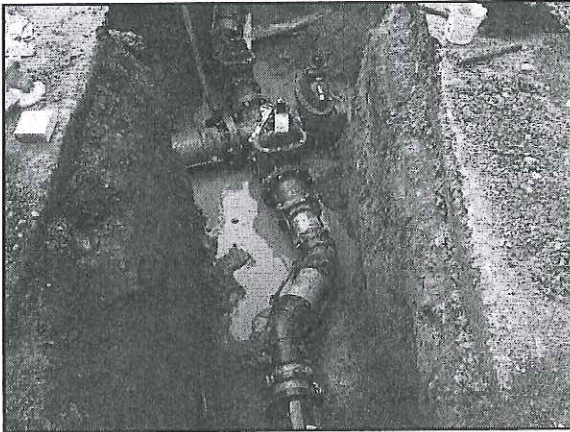
- Majority of the system was developed in 1960's
- Includes Asbestos Cement (AC) watermains >65%
- Regular breaks and failures / water leaks
- Need to loop dead ends
- Koers report from 2011 identifies strategy
- \$240,000 proposed



2014 accomplishments.....

- ✓ \$ 1,550,000 in gas tax invested in BCWS (\$1,500 per household);
- ✓ Kitsuksis reservoir completed and on line;
- ✓ 1st phase of Beaver Creek north watermain replaced;
- ✓ Strick Road watermain replaced;
- ✓ Strick Road pump station under construction;
- ✓ Mapping upgrades;
- ✓ No boil water advisories;
- ✓ Continuation of water meter replacement





Projects and issues for 2014

- Confirm with VIHA the strategy!
- Complete Strick Road pump station and manage integration within the works;
- City to provide UV protection for water supply – 3 of the four water supply barriers met!
- Revise taxes and tolls;
- Continue with necessary water system upgrades as identified in the 2011 Koers report;
- Explore Sproat Lake supply as possible component of a regional water service.

.....thank you

