



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE BAMFIELD WATER COMMITTEE MEETING MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 12, 2016

Regional District Board Room, 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Keith Wyton, Director, Electoral Area "A" (Bamfield)
Eric Clelland, Bamfield Volunteer Fire Chief
Lisa Herbig, Member at Large
John Mass, Advisory Planning Committee Chair
Barry Otterson, Bamfield Chamber of Commerce
- REGRETS:** JP Hastey, Bamfield Marine Science Centre,
- STAFF PRESENT:** Russell Dyson, Chief Administrative Officer
Andrew McGifford, Acting Manager of Finance/Manager of Environmental Services
Daniel Fredlund, Maintenance Technician Leadhand
Les Butler (Contractor)
Chris Downey – Koers and Associates (Contractor)
- GUESTS:** Dr Paul Hasselback, Island Health
Lynne McGee
Murray Sexton
Charlene MacKinnon

There were two members of the public attending by speaker phone and 11 members of the public in attendance.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

The Chair recognized the meeting is being held in the Huu-ay-aht First Nation Territories.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: J. Mass

SECONDED: L. Herbig

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- a. Bamfield Water Committee Meeting held January 18, 2016.

MOVED: J. Mass
SECONDED: L. Herbig

THAT the minutes of the Bamfield Water Committee Meeting held on January 18, 2016 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. REPORTS

Director Wyton provided an overview of the BWS, the size of the system, financial challenges and compared this to the costs and demands of other water systems.

Russell Dyson provided an introduction to the discussion it was at the request of the water committee that a review of the water treatment requirements and proposed treatment facility be provided.

Chris Downey explained the process to develop the detailed design for the water treatment facility; he explained the pilot treatment project and the results, which are available on line from the Regional District website. The projected capital and operating costs were reviewed. The system is designed based on projected community growth as prescribed in the Official Community Plan. The system would be modular so it can be expanded in size as demand requires.

Russell Dyson explained that operating costs are conservative best estimates; actual operating costs are recovered by tolls and are subject to review each year by the BWC.

Andrew McGifford described various scenarios for borrowing and the cost implications.

Dr. Paul Hasselback, Island Health Chief Medical Health Officer provided an overview of water treatment requirements in the province leading up to and after the establishment of the Drinking Water Protection Act. He stated that Bamfield has provided a lot of progress in the management of its water system recently, when this is the case there is less attention paid by regulators. He suggested that the Bamfield water system is #5 on the list of systems with water advisories, based on population and duration of the advisory. He respects that the community is small and has a modest tax base. While consumption averages are low there is a large peak demand with a higher seasonal population. It is up to the operator to design and implement appropriate solutions to meet the drinking water standards. Filtration is required for the Sugsaw Lake water supply; there is no evidence to suggest otherwise. Trying to avoid filtration is a risk.

Charlene MacKinnon stated that the actions of the ACRD to design and plan for water treatment has placed it ahead of the game.

Murray Sexton advised that the Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) water treatment system is

common for similar water supplies and it has been very successful to treat similar water quality issues. He commented on the use of aluminum as a flocculant in the filtration process and indicated that aluminum levels leaving the plant are typically lower than the levels of untreated water.

Russell Dyson, CAO discussed two funding options to assist with the capital costs of the proposed water treatment plant. The Build Canada program will accept applications in April – the decision date for applications is unknown and once again the project will be competing against other proposals. Advice received to improve the application for the Build Canada criteria includes additional expenses and work including developing a water conservation strategy. Another alternative would be to seek allocation of gas tax monies from the Regional Board – approximately \$450,000 has been allocated to date – an additional \$600,000 would provide the 2/3 portion. Staff are of the opinion that the proposed water treatment facility should be implemented at the earliest opportunity. This is in response to a long standing water quality advisory.

There was discussion in response to questions from the committee members and the public, topics included logging practices and the potential impact to the water supply, alternatives to treat THM's – IH noted that point of use treatment is not viable for systems the size of Bamfield. IH stated in other provinces the conditions of the water in Bamfield would require a boil water advisory. IH advised there are many different engineered options, IH do not tell you what option to choose they will advise if the option you choose is acceptable based on the facts that you present – i.e. a pilot project. Effective UV treatment depends upon low turbidity levels as well as clear water quality. There was discussion about past water testing results and staff were asked to report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

5. ADJOURN

MOVED: L. Herbig

SECONDED: J. Mass

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 1:05 pm.

CARRIED

Certified Correct:

Keith Wyton,
Chairperson

Russell Dyson,
CAO