

# Van Anda Improvement District

## June 10, 2014 Meeting Minutes

### In Attendance:

Trustees: Bob Timms  
Karen May  
Mike Craggs  
Walter Gussman  
Terry Hollo

Employees: Ken Soles, Water Maintenance  
Heidi Gable, Administrator  
Mike Craggs, Fire Chief

### Fire Report

**1986 Fire Truck Insurance Renewal** – Papers handed over to Chief to renew the insurance and update the principal operator.

**Volunteer Fire Fighter's Association Annual Report** given to Chief for renewal.

One new **member to the department**. There are now 14 active members, 4 casual members and a few more possibilities that are being explored.

The department received **one first responder call** over the past month. Two first responders have recertified since the last meeting and two are still on extension.

**Upcoming events** for the department include the pancake breakfast for Sandcastle.

Chief is participating in an **SCBA maintenance course** during the month of July.

The department is **reorganizing the hall**. The washing machine is coming back downstairs. They are working on laying the flooring in the exercise room. The department is also looking at installing a shower stall in the upstairs bathroom.

We are waiting to hear back from the National Firefighters Professionals Association to let the department know the **proper colours to paint the hydrants based on flows**. Powell River hydrants have reflective stripes to help prevent vehicles from hitting the hydrants. Chief will look at getting the fluorescent stripes for the Van Anda hydrants.

**Amalgamation** – Powell River Regional District is looking at this as a political issue not one for safety. The Regional District is going to sit on the issue for now to see where it goes. Chief would like to see the two departments on the island enhance the mutual aid agreements.

### Water Report:

**Pump hours** – distributed for perusal. Pump hours at the lake are averaging 6.35 hours daily or 6862.8 gallons daily. Wall Street pump house is averaging 12.21 hours per day. The hours really increased over the last week. Operator will shut the pump off for some time and do some work on the valve.

Operator called Smith Cameron for **price of pumps and delivery** as well as Vanderkamp Sales and Service. Smith Cameron was \$690 cheaper. Operator asked Vanderkamp to do better on their quote. They came back with a quote of \$7,020 vs. \$6,687 from Smith Cameron. Vanderkamp still wanted \$333 more. The trustees felt we would probably save most of that in shipping costs. A motion was made to purchase the 2 pumps from Vanderkamps to keep the purchase local, then seconded, all were in favour; carried.

Roger Gillen, diver, was over on May 19. Roger did an **inspection of the intake and pipe, measured the depth of the intake and changed the screen on the intake**. The intake is located 7' from the surface. The surface to the bottom pipe is 14'. Overall the condition of the intake system looks good.

Operator took some **measurements of Para St for a new 4" line** and made a list of the parts that will be required. Previous operator provided current operator with pictures of the new Para St. line that was installed a few years ago.

A **Boil Water Advisory** was posted on May 23, 2014. Site # 5, Sellentin, showed a EST 70 in coliform and Site # 7, Copper Queen, showed EST 96 in coliform. Operator flushed the whole system through Van Anda and did CL2 sampling. On May 27 Operator collected samples from all 8 sample stations. All 8 sites failed with good residual chlorine readings and chlorine residuals at the tank of 2.0 ppm. Dan Glover advised Operator to shock the system with chlorine. Operator flushed the system with a 5 ppm residual of chlorine at the tank on May 30. All 8 sample stations were tested again on June 2 and all 8 sites failed again, this time with higher coliform counts than the last samples. Operator took the tank up again to 5 ppm on June 5 and flushed the entire system. Operator sampled all 8 sites again today, June 10 and sent the samples to Powell River. The tank has chlorine residuals of 3 ppm and all stations have high chlorine residual.

The **Gen. Set.** was run on May 27. Everything functioned well.

Operator made a trip to Powell River on June 3 to **pick up chlorine and a new pump** for the tank from Vanderkamps. The new pump was installed at the tank.

**The lake level has visibly been dropping.**

Operator from the Gillies Bay Improvement District has been purchasing **45 gallon drums of chlorine** at approx. \$0.49 per liter. Administrator will contact GBID Administrator to find out more information on this chlorine. The 45 gallon drums could be stored in our shed behind the fire hall and the chlorine be pumped out into 5 gallon buckets for mixing at the chlorination building. Operator will also look into investigating some more.

#### **Safety Report:**

**Fire extinguisher from the lake** has been returned – recharged.

#### **Secretary's Report:**

**May 14, 2014 Minutes** – Chair asked for errors or omissions to the May 14 minutes as distributed. There was one omission noted. A motion was made to accept the minutes as amended, then seconded, all were in favour; carried.

#### **Correspondence:**

**RBC Blue Water Grant Project** is closed for 2014 (was closed prior to receiving notification of the grant). The application deadline for 2015 grants will be announced later in 2014.

A **copy of a letter from Nicholas Simon's office** addressed to the Ministry regarding a Health Assessment for the proposal in increased coal storage at the Lafarge site was received. The letter and attachments will be left on the office table should anyone wish to peruse the letter.

An invitation was received from a trustee of the Gillies Bay Improvement District with regards to **the two improvement districts meeting to discuss amalgamation**. Gillies Bay would be available in June or in September. For now the trustees would choose to forego the meeting with Gillies Bay trustees but would rather have our administrator correspond directly with the GBID Administrator. She seems to have a good handle on the matters at hand. Administrator will contact her to inquire about the filtration system they are investigating as well as the chlorine purchases they are making – size of drums, where they are purchasing from, how much is the shipping, how do they pump it from the drum into the system for disbursing.

#### **Old Business & Follow-up From Previous Meetings:**

**Grant for Capital Assets Inventory** – Regional District representative called Administrator with regards to the grant. There is funding now available for the Capital Assets Inventory. R.D. asked if the original application for the grant still contained the correct information if it were used as a model to prepare a new grant. Administrator confirmed the contractor who would prepare the inventory is the same and the cost estimate is also still very close. R.D. will submit the new application based on this information. Administrator will follow up with R.D. in a few weeks to confirm the application was submitted.

**Discussion on the meeting with Lafarge representatives** – trustees met with Dan Glover and Darren Brown, the BC Environment and Public Affairs Manager for all of BC for Lafarge. He is new to the position and his background is that as a biologist with credentials in environmental science/studies. Darren presented an independent study of the Priest Lake Watershed "Water Quality Management Report, Texada Island, BC" – January 24, 2014. Lafarge is continuing with studies over the next 12 months with 6 sampling locations from the quarry to Priest Lake (down the creek) and 10

sampling stations on the Priest Lake side of the quarry. Darren has agreed to provide 4 more copies of the report to be situated in different venues on the island – these have been received. There has been some sulfuric acid detected in the rock and free metals going to the water. The water is buffered by the limestone resulting in neutral pH. Darren confirmed that the wetlands are clearing the water at this point, and none of the above is getting to the lake. Lafarge is doing extensive bench-scale testing to try to determine the best methods to purify the water. At this time it is not clear if the groundwater is contaminated or if it is surface water contamination. This testing and analysis will go on for another 10 months (to March/April of 2015) and by that time he hopes to have a management plan in place to deal with heavy metal contamination. Darren has agreed to meet with us quarterly to keep us informed of the progress. He said that Lafarge is committed to “ISO14001” which is the international standards of environmental performance. He mentioned a merger of Lafarge with HOLCIM, a larger company already committed to high standards of environmental performance. A trustee mentioned the improvement district’s educational workshops and the probability of holding another in the fall. Darren agreed to participate. Administrator will prepare a letter of thanks to Darren and in the letter reiterate his commitment to participating in the workshop, meeting with the improvement district quarterly and the possibility of a tour of the quarry.

**Website with Sandra Haszard** – Administrator presented the information supplied by Sandra Haszard to look after the setting up and hosting of the website. The trustees have approved a \$310 budget for start-up costs. Administrator will ask Sandra to check out the generic information provided by a trustee who attended the CWSA conference for items to include on the website. We would definitely like to include Alerts on the website as well as have the ability to email alerts to ratepayers once we have built an email contact list.

### New Business:

**Coastal Water Suppliers Association** – The trustee who attended reported back to the group on her participation in the Coastal Water Suppliers Association annual conference. The CWSA’s website has been upgraded and operator training courses were filled to capacity. Some of the speakers included Rob Hutchins, the Mayor of Ladysmith & CVRD Board Chair, Gilles Wendling – PhD, PEng, David Nadler – AASC from Maxxam Labs, Vernon Rogers – PEng of the Sustainable Infrastructure Society, Alex McPherson – Director and Electoral Area A RDN, Joan Perry, Ian Graemen – Watershed Sustainability, Ministry of Environment and David Fishwick – Ministry of Health. Rob Hutchins talked about the challenges of climate change and the reduced amount of water in lakes and aquifers. He feels we are facing multiple and serious challenges to our water sources and that we do not have adequate governance structures especially at the local level to protect our water on a sustainable basis. He feels local control is critical to the provision of good local management of local issues. Between 1956 and now there is only 1/3 the amount of water available. In that time there has been only decreased governmental support or interest in water protection and conservation. Rob would like to educate consumers, increase costs, and conserve/store more water. Gilles Wendling is also an advocate for watershed protection, and has his own business consulting with water system managers regarding their system problems from contamination, to design and maintenance, to understanding what’s happening with our water systems and sources, and how to keep costs down. He may be a useful resource, depending on his cost. David Nadler focused on the technique of water sample collection, and how samples are treated, handled, at a professional laboratory. Disappointingly David provided very little information on how to interpret water test results. Vernon Rogers of the Sustainable Infrastructure Society – a web-based resource for Community Water Suppliers – provided information on a new website subscription service, online buyers guide, Best Management Practices information, access to financing, planning for renewal and affordable insurance. A list of websites was offered. Alex McPherson spoke on the “Community Works Fund” funded by the Federal Gas Tax. \$2 Billion is allocated annually to local Canadian communities for infrastructure funding for local governments for environmentally sustainable projects, cleaner air and water. The Community Works Fund has been extended to 2018 and is supposed to be allocated on a per capita basis. Joan Perry spoke on Workplace Bullying and Harassment. It is a legal requirement to have a policy in place. Ian Graeme from the Ministry of Environment spoke on the proposed BC Water Sustainability Act, Bill 18, which will replace the Water Act. The key implications for users are fees and rentals, requirements for measuring and reporting, and more regulation to protect environmental flow needs. David Fishwick discussed the “Small Water Systems Guidebook”. It includes drinking water policies, standards and regulations.

**Water & Waste Management in an emergency** - The department has been looking into emergency situations and supplies in emergency situations. Where is there diesel stored in the event of an emergency? The quarries would have stores of diesel but how would the fire department obtain control of the fuel in an emergency situation?

Sprinkling Restrictions – are in effect. Post and advertise.

### Finance Report:

- **Financial spreadsheets** – distributed for perusal.

- **Invoices** already paid and cheques needing to be signed.

- A list of **outstanding accounts and those accounts on payment plans** was distributed for the trustees' information. Invoices with overdue charges have been issued to those ratepayers who have not made arrangements for payment plans. Administrator will correct the omission of notification of a 10% late payment charge after May 1st on the invoice template.

A motion was made and passed to deduct 20% from metered water income and transfer it to the capital reserve fund beginning in 2015.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 10:30 pm

**Next Regular Meeting Date:** July 9, 2014  
**Projects Meeting:** June 26, 2014 – 7:00 pm

**Minutes Approved:**

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Bob Timms, Chair

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Heidi Gable, Administrator