

Van Anda Improvement District March 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

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

Employees: Ken Soles, Water Operator
Heidi Gable, Administrator

Guests: David Chan, RES'EAU
Darren Brown, Lafarge
Denny Lyman, Lafarge
Dillon Consulting Team

Declaration of Conflict of Interest: No trustees had any conflicts of interest to declare.

Additions / Approval of Agenda: It was moved to accept the agenda as presented, seconded, all were in favour; carried.

Darren Brown's Report

The Ministry of Environment requires an Environmental Act Waste Discharge Permit for any discharge off the site. Lafarge is proposing a diversion to deal with the water run-off where heavy-metals were detected. Progress of Phase 1 – Dillon Consulting is working on developing a new detention system upstream from the existing pond which will hopefully have more capacity. There may be a component put in before the existing settling pond, part of an ultimate treatment system for Van Anda Creek and Priest Lake. The diversion will direct the surface water run-off south-east which may divert the flow to Rum Bottle watershed. It may be more viable to create a potential detention system. Lafarge has committed to a design decision by mid spring and expect to be shovel in ground by summer. If a diversion is a viable option it won't need an ultimate treatment system. If the diversion is not a viable option then the ultimate treatment system would be utilized.

The Quarry Creek provides approximately 20% of the water flow into Priest Lake. There will be an opportunity for a public consultation process. Lafarge will meet with the Ministry of Environment for the appropriate studies and permit requirements. Once the application is complete there will be more public consultation at a later date.

There is a concern there may be a potential that metal levels will max out to critical levels in the wetlands. Soil Samples may be a part of the permit process.

RES'EAU WaterNET Report:

David reported back on the activities for the month of February. The first week was dedicated to conducting tests using the granular activated carbon and the ion exchange. The second week was spent preparing experiments with the ion exchange to quantify the reduction of disinfection by-products. The third week was spent conducting experiments with the ion exchange to quantify the reduction of disinfection by-products as well as interviews with the Water Board Trustees and UBC Curriculum Developer, David Sommer for a hands-on component of a new first year engineering course. The last week was spent at UBC where analysis of the month's experiments was conducted.

Fire Department Report

The department responded to 3 First Responder calls; all were lift assists.

All members of the department received their SCBA training or refresher training, all completed their final fit tests and member vitals will be completed in two weeks.

Van Anda Volunteer Fire Department Association will hold their AGM next week Monday, March 14.

The meeting room at the fire hall has been rented on three occasions bringing in approximately \$100 in rental donations. We are still waiting on one group to pay.

Level One First Aid and CPR training is being arranged for the Gillies Bay Fire Dept. Members. Waiting on final numbers.

We have had a new member start their training this past month.

There are new rules being drawn up for the Fire Services Act; it has been totally revamped. An amended Playbook has been issued with indicates a major shift downwards of responsibilities and training documentation. Rules are becoming tougher. Must be person based rather than hall based.

Nalaxone kits are being made available to fire departments. Training will be required. There may be a possibility of Ephinephrin availability in the future.

Waterworks Report

Pump hours at the lake over the past month have been averaging 7.19 hours/day. This translates to an average of 77,750 gallons/day. The Wall St. Pump house hours have been averaging 1.41 hours/day.

Work completed over the past month:

- took samples from sites #1 to 4 on February 2. All results came back good.
- ordered Free and Total chlorine reagents from Clear Tech on February 3. Heidi to give Ken a copy of the invoice when it arrives for a cost comparison with Corix.
- on February 4 the water was turned back on at the Sawmill site after sawmill operator completed repairs.
- replaced the tube on the Flex Pro B and switched over on February 6.
- took the fire chief on February 10 to the tank to show him where the shut off to the standpipe is located.
- went to Powell River on February 11 to take over the garbage and pick up a pallet of chlorine.
- on February 15 while I was in Comox I received a call from the back up operator regarding a leak on Coleborn St. He put up cones around the leak to isolate the site as a safety precaution.
- on February 16, went to the leak site on Coleborn. Shut off the valves at Para, Sturt Bay Road and Nicholas Ave. Hired the Highways backhoe with operator and dug down to 4" AC main. The 2 service connections to the big and small houses at 5334 Coleborn were leaking. Both had old gate valves with rotten iron fittings. Replaced both saddles and installed new ¾" corp stops. Turned the water back on to the other ratepayers by 2:30 or 3:00 and then finished the connections to the 2 houses. Backfilled with sand and gravel.
- on February 17 operator was interviewed by David Sommers from UBC for the new Engineering course they are putting together for first year Engineering students.
- on February 18 operator changed the eyewash fluid at the chlorinator building. It needed a new bottle for the stations as the old one was cracked.
- on February 20 a meeting was held with Madjid and Keyvan along with the board of trustees updating the plans for the RES'EAU water pilot. Participated in the tour of the trailer for the ratepayers.
- on February 22, had the back-up operator help with the clearing of the trees at the water tank. Hired Al Mitchell to come in with the backhoe to dig test holes for the engineers at the future water tank site.
- checked the dam on February 22 and cleared out more of the trail with the back-up operator. Changed the sample station valve at Marble Bay/Van Anda Avenue. Rearranged the desk at the office as requested and put together the map rack.

- on February 23 sampled sites #5 to 8. All the results came back good.
- received a call from a ratepayer on February 26 to shut the water off at 2082 Nicholas so they could do some repairs. Had to dig out the shut off with the help of the back-up operator in order to find it. Cleaned out the hole and put a new tube over it and back filled it with sand and gravel. Turned the water back on.
- read the meters on February 29.
- received a call on March 1 from another ratepayer that they had dug up their waterline with an excavator while doing work on their property. Called out the back-up operator to assist in digging out the service and turning off the water. Repaired with 2 – ¾” comp unions and 4 SS inserts. Turned the water back on.
- changed the tube on the Flex Pro A and switched over on March 5. Replaced the 3/8” tube and O-ring on the pump outlet and the O-ring on the injector tube as they were both leaking.

Safety Report: The leaking bottle from the eyewash station at the chlorinator building was replaced.

Secretary’s Report: The chair asked for any errors or omissions from the February 2, 2016 minutes as distributed. There being none, it was moved to accept the minutes as distributed, seconded, all were in favour; carried.

Correspondence:

Update from the Smart Team – part of the update included advertising for a website building offer. The Smart Team has given their work a name “The Improvement District Coalition”. The meeting with Minister Fassbender has been rescheduled to May 27th. Ministers Stone and Lake will also be attending as well as the Policy Chair for the Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce. Rosemary Smart met with her own riding’s MP to discuss access to capital funding for Improvement District. Much of what was said had already been discussed at a previous impromptu meeting months earlier. However, the MP did mention two things worth noting. She’d wished she knew about the lack of access to funding 18 months earlier when the federal government was negotiating the UBCM’s funding administration contract. The UBCM administers the Gas Tax funding to “Local Governments”. UBCM recognizes local government at Regional Districts or Municipalities but not Improvement Districts. The MP wondered why these inequities were not brought forward. Rosemary Smart informed the MP that the UBCM doesn’t talk to Improvement Districts. Improvement Districts wouldn’t have known there was an evaluation of the UBCM’s funding contract and the MP wouldn’t have known to ask Improvement Districts about the inequities. The second item worth noting is that the MP stated that Improvement Districts are not local governments. Rosemary asked why the MP had that impression and the MP matter-of-factly just stated that they just weren’t. The MP suggested to open discussions with the UBCM possibly through their Dispute Resolution process to have them look at the fairness of the funding dispersal process. Contact with the UBCM has been initiated. Rosemary wants all improvement districts to keep 3 critical facts in their arsenals: Improvement Districts are, indeed, local governments as noted in the Ministry’s own Improvement District Manual; The Ministry of Health has a financial mandate – they have the overall responsibility for ensuring that appropriate, cost effective services are available for all British Columbians; and the Health Authorities have a more direct financial mandate that they are responsible for, among other things “ensuring services are properly funded and meeting performance objectives”.

Coastal Water Suppliers Association Membership Renewal – It was moved to renew our membership for 2016, seconded, all were in favour; carried.

Old Business/Follow-Up from previous meeting:

Memorandum of Understanding – received our copy from the Powell River Regional District for the cemetery.

Coastal Water Supplier’s Association Conference – 2 trustees and administrator confirmed. Operator will take the leak detection course on the Thursday before.

New Business:

Received two quotes on water tank pricing.

Financial Reports:

Financial spreadsheets distributed for perusal.

Invoices already signed and needing signing perused, cheques signed.

Meeting adjourned: 10:00 pm

Next Regular Meeting Date: April 12, 2016

Minutes Approved:

Bob Timms, Chair

Heidi Gable, Administrator