



MINUTES

Trustee Meeting 10:00 am August 31, 2018

Gregory residence.

Present: Trustee Chair Dale Gregory, Trustee Bryan Miles, Operator Courtney Robertson, Administrator Janine Reimer, and Trustee John Revitt on conference.

1. Agenda..... Moved D.Gregory, 2nd B.Miles. Carried.

2. Operating Permit

The Administrator reported on issues discussed with Drinking Water Officer Michael Nguyen and Program Support Clerk Tammy Clarke at Vancouver Coastal Health on August 29. Neither Tammy nor Michael had been able to find a record of the 2018 operating permit issued to SSID by Dan Glover, and as such, Michael had told the administrator that the conditions of the 2015 permit, being the most recent SSID permit on file at VCH, would be considered the current conditions applicable to SSID, and that he as the new DWO could make that decision.

3. Bylaw on Hold

The administrator said she had told the DWO that the bylaw was on temporary hold, pending further research.

4. Missing Filings

The administrator said she had told the DWO that the trustees would be writing a letter with some concerns, including the problem of the missing filings. Michael said that he as DWO has no authority to require permits or filings even if a sewerage system is thought to be illegal. Tammy said that the ROWP supplies the filing, and VCH makes sure the boxes are all ticked off, then the document is filed. There is no approval process from VCH. Michael had said that the DWO is no longer a proactive position.

5. Nitrates Spike

Trustee Miles said that determining which properties might be responsible for the recent nitrates spike was difficult in that no lots in the district, with the exception of lot-48, have a well from which to test the water, and that soil sampling would be complex and inconclusive. He discussed sections of the Water Use Bylaw 102 that restrict specific commercial water use, and noted that current commercial uses in the District do not violate that bylaw. The Operator and Trustees discussed a possible review of sewerage filings of neighbouring properties for insight to the working state of those systems.

.....Administrator to request neighbouring filings from VCH

6. Grant Access

Trustees discussed the Province / Regional District impasse, due to the Province’s refusal to allow the Lund Water Works to apply for grant funds, and the Regional District’s refusal to convert the Lund Water Works District into a Regional District asset. Trustees disagreed with the Regional

District Director’s comment that Improvement/Water Districts in need of funds are poorly managed.

7. Tree Removal

Trustees discussed an email from a resident who had concerns about possible danger of old leaning alders on Brian’s Way. The resident had asked whether SSID had concerns over pipe damage that might be caused by the trees. Trustee Miles said that SSID had considered having problem trees removed years ago, but that the Ministry of Transportation had expected a stumpage fee, so SSID did not pursue it further. At today’s meeting, it was decided that SSID would not be resuming those tree removal efforts at this time.

.....Chair Gregory to contact the resident to discuss

[At this point, Trustee Revitt left the meeting.]

8. Grant Access continued

The Operator described the serious infrastructure issues facing Lund Water Works due to there being no funds to fix them. She suggested that SSID advise the EOCP of this issue, as it shows an Operator prevented from carrying out her job on an aging infrastructure.

Trustees agreed that the Province and Regional District were deflecting responsibility and liability to each other, and Lund Water Works would be the collateral damage in the political standoff. Chair Gregory made the point that the Walkerton deaths had prompted the creation of policies that were not adequately thought through. Trustee Miles said that these policies intended to prevent liability are in fact leading directly to another Walkerton case, because they’ve tied everyone’s hands, and suggested that a letter saying so to various recipients could be useful.

The letter recipients would be the Federal Government Gas Tax minister, MLA Nicholas Simons, the Provincial Govt (both the Ministry of Housing and Community Development and the Ministry of Health), Vancouver Coastal Health, the Union of BC Municipalities, the qathet Regional District, the Coastal Water Suppliers Association, the BC Water and Waste Association, the North Salt Spring Water Works District, the Lund Water Works District, and the Powell River Peak.

.....Administrator to draft a point-form outline, for discussion by trustees

9. Infrastructure Solutions

Trustees resumed discussions on the logistics and costs of alternative infrastructure solutions to the nitrates issue.

Chair Gregory suggested that part of the taxes collected from Savary could be put toward protection of the aquifer, and asked how much the taxes amount to.

..... Administrator to get the tax figures to the Chair

Trustee Miles said that it’s important that SSID be able to show all the efforts made toward a solution..... Administrator to assemble a paper trail showing SSID efforts on the nitrates problem.

10. Tree Removal continued

Trustee Miles discussed previous efforts to remove dangerous alders from Brian’s Way. Chair Gregory said that the arborist from Ferns to Firs had advised that the removal of some trees might result in a wind tunnel that could cause more trees to fall.

.....Chair Gregory to contact the resident to discuss

Adjournment 11:45 am..... Moved D.Gregory