

**SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT
WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

November 6, 2023

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE CEDAR ROOM OF THE SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT AT 1975 FIELD ROAD, SECHELT, BC.

PRESENT:	Chair	V. Macfarlane
	Vice-Chair	J. Bell
	Members	B. Fielding
		S. Fitchell
		K. Freemantle
		M. Hennessy
		B. Thicke

Regrets:	S. Leech
	G. Moore
	L. Chivers

ALSO PRESENT:

(Non-voting)	Manager, Strategic Initiatives	M. Edbrooke
	Water Sustainability Coordinator	G. Starsage
	Director, Area A	L. Lee
	Director, Area D	K. Backs
	Director, Area E	D. McMahon
	Alternate Director, District of Sechelt	J. Henderson
	Public	2

CALL TO ORDER 3:31 p.m.

AGENDA Agenda items three and four were changed in order, and the agenda was adopted as amended.

MINUTES

Recommendation No. 1 *Water Supply Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2023.*

The Water Supply Advisory Committee recommended that the Water Supply Advisory Committee meeting minutes of September 11, 2023, be received.

REPORTS

Manager, Strategic Initiatives provided information regarding process for bringing forward Committee Recommendations.

Discussion included the following:

- Clarification was provided that for a WASAC recommendation to be received by the Board, a member of WASAC would need to bring forward a motion and be passed by WASAC. The recommendation would be recorded in the minutes.
- When the SCRD Board accepts WASAC minutes that contain a recommendation, the recommendation does not automatically become a Board resolution.
- The Board would need to bring forward a motion for recommendations from the WASAC minutes, and if passed, the recommendation would become a Board directive.

Water Rate Structure Study Committee of the Whole Staff Report, September 28, 2023

Discussion included the following:

- Board approached budget for the Water Rate Structure Study in 2022.
- An overview of general rate setting principles was reviewed.
- Clarification that the InterGroup report focused on ‘user fees’ which funds operations costs associated with collection, storage, treatment, and supply of water, and not parcel taxes which cover capital projects.
- Discussion about the ratio of the fixed cost to the volume-based factors presented for uniform billing, specifically the proposed 80/20 split.
- Concerns from WASAC members about lower potential demand reduction based on a ratio with a lower volume-based percentage. Members expressed support for a more immediate and stronger conservation rate structure. Staff discussed rationale for the proposed recommendations, as per the report.
- Clarification that volume-based billing is not a method of revenue increase, but instead would be set to cover the cost to deliver water and must result in cost recovery, which could include operating reserve targets.
- Discussion around increasing fairness, congruency, predictability, and simplicity in volume-based billing rather than the current rate structure.
- Feedback that more communication on how taxes worked and on how future volume-based bills would impact different types of water users would be beneficial.
- WASAC members supported the concept of mock billing as a communication campaign.
- Questions and concerns of the difference in rates between the three water service areas, request for clarification about why North and South Pender Harbour Water Services currently have higher costs. Staff shared information about upcoming Board reports that outline rate setting in each Water Service Area and information sessions scheduled for the end of November.

General Comments

Discussion included the following:

- Asks for non-potable sources for refilling rainwater cisterns.

NEXT MEETING January 8, 2024, 3:30 p.m. 1975 Field Rd / Online via zoom

ADJOURNMENT 5:35 p.m.