

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

**January 8, 2024**

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

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<b>PRESENT:</b>	Chair	V. Macfarlane
	Vice-Chair	J. Bell
	Members	B. Fielding S. Fitchell M. Hennessy B. Thicke S. Leech

Regrets:	K. Freemantle G. Moore L. Chivers
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**ALSO PRESENT:**

(Non-voting)	Manager, Strategic Initiatives	M. Edbrooke
	Water Sustainability Coordinator	G. Starsage
	Strategic Planning Coordinator	S. Rempel (recorder)
	Manager, Communications and Engagement	A. Buckley
	Director, Area A	L. Lee
	Director, District of Sechelt	A. Toth
	Director, Area E	D. McMahon

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<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	3:30 p.m.
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<b>AGENDA</b>	The agenda was adopted as amended.
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**MINUTES**

<b><u>Recommendation No. 1</u></b>	<i>Water Supply Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of November 6, 2023</i>
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The Water Supply Advisory Committee recommended that the Water Supply Advisory Committee meeting minutes of November 6, 2023, be received.

**REPORTS**

*Water Sustainability Coordinator opened the floor to discussion around Water Communications.*

Discussion included the following:

- The Water Sustainability Coordinator provided an overview of the Sunshine Coast Regional District's (SCRD's) approach to 2024 water conservation communications. The floor was opened for discussion and input.
- The Committee agreed on the current approach of the following phases of communication: year-round, pre-summer, summer, and drought water communications.
- Staff noted that not all water systems have the same supply considerations, requiring system specific messaging, e.g., South Pender Harbour versus Chapman Water System.
- The Committee provided the following feedback:
  - Target permanent and seasonal residents, high use properties.
  - Keep a positive tone about how people can use water responsibly, as opposed to leading with enforcement or scarcity. Thank residents who follow regulations.
  - When possible, personalize messaging to reduce the “us versus them” mentality creating an inclusive community where SCR D Board, staff, and residents work together for water stewardship. Celebrate the wins.
  - Provide greater clarity on how user fees and parcel taxes fund projects and operations. Communication showing the forward motion that the SCR D is taking.
  - Provide visualized data on community water use during the summer in addition to the Chapman Lake level.
  - Connect directly with newly metered properties in Sechelt and encourage subscription to receive their water data.
  - Increase resident water literacy by:
    - connecting people to their water systems and water sources
    - educating when water can be used without impacting storage
    - providing details on water budgeting (water use per activity both indoor and outdoor) and goals for water use targets
    - raising awareness of rainwater harvesting rebates
- The Water Sustainability Coordinator asked about preferred communication methods. The Committee provided the following feedback:
  - Use Coast Reporter and Harbour Spiel as key channels.
  - Update website with more information on water sources and community consumption.
  - Connect and share resources with community groups such as, Sunshine Coast Elder College, Natural History Society, garden centres, and garden clubs.
  - Present at community association meetings, attending public events.
  - Consider education opportunities like facility tours, information materials for schools.

*The Water Sustainability Coordinator provided the presentation “Water Efficiency Targets”.*

Discussion included the following:

- Staff shared that it is common for regional governments to set targets to support performance measurement, forecasting, system design, and demand management. For example, the SCR D has targets for solid waste and greenhouse gas emissions. There are

water demand targets in the 2013 Comprehensive Regional Water Plan. However, these existing water targets are only for the Regional Water Service Area and now a decade old.

- The Committee provided feedback that targets would be helpful for residents who want to monitor and improve their water efficiency by comparing their use to domestic averages.
- Consensus that the most useful targets would be for domestic consumption, the water used as measured by the meter at an individual property, as it aligns with a personal context.
- If domestic targets are developed, consider the BC average. When communicated, demonstrate the reasoning for decision-making, such as jurisdictional comparisons.
- Any targets or goals should be easy to visualize and rationalize.
- Summer vs winter targets are not helpful, but having winter data as a comparison is helpful.
- Some members expressed the SCRD should first have targets for itself before asking residents to meet a target.
- Target setting is looking towards the future.
- Short discussion on volumetric billing and targets, noting the SCRD Board has not made decisions about a new water rate structure beyond including an action to implement volumetric billing in the Board Strategic Plan.

**NEXT MEETING**

March 4, 2024, 3:30 p.m. 1975 Field Rd / Online via Teams

**ADJOURNMENT**

5:31 p.m.