

GILLIES BAY
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

A special meeting of the Gillies Bay Improvement District held January 19, 2015 at the Gillies Bay Fire Department.

Present: Jim Mason (Chairing), Mave Leclair, Warren Kiland, Linda Holmes
and Bridget Andrews (officer)

Meeting called to order at 4:04 PM.

1. Call to Order

2. Update on Slow Sand Filter Pilot Project

The slow sand filter pilot project is approaching completion. Douglas Anderson Civil Engineers will provide us with a Summary Report following their analysis of the pilot project performance and sample data.

Douglas Anderson has advised us that he will be retiring in the very near future and would like to work with us to find a new engineering firm to inherit the pilot project and to move forward with our long term water quality plan.

3. Engineering

Kerr Wood Leidal (KWL) was recommended for their expertise with small and large water systems. They have done work on the Sunshine Coast, Powell River and Vancouver Island. They are currently working on a project on Texada Island. Douglas has provided us with a list of the 'next steps', in order to provide history and context to KWL, should we decide to contact them.

MOTION to contact Kerr Wood Leidal (KWL) Consulting Engineers MOVED and SECONDED by the Board of Trustees. All in favour.

Carried

4. Shelter Point Water Users (SPWU)

Mike Wall, of the Powell River Regional District, contacted B. Andrews and K. Taylor regarding the Shelter Point Water Users distribution system. The PRRD has been tasked with finding a

solution to the issues surrounding Hogan Springs (the source for the SPWU distribution network).

M. Wall asked if the Gillies Bay Improvement District would attend the meeting, and consider offering the option of bringing the SPWU onto our distribution system. He advised that this may be done at a lower cost than maintaining an independent water system. The trustees agreed that at least two trustees and the administrator should attend the meeting on January 20th, and hear whether the SP Water Users are interested in this option, as previous outreach has been unsuccessful.

5. Water Tolls for Vacant Homes

We have recently received some inquiries from rate-payers who have water connections on vacant homes. They have inquired as to why they must continue to pay water tolls for connections that are not in use.

The trustees discussed the issue and brought forth the following points:

- Because the GBID does not meter all water usage (due to the high cost of installing system-wide metering in a community our size), the best option we have for fair pricing for water tolls is a flat rate model: the costs of delivering water, divided by the number of connections. Without metering, there can be no reduction in the flat rate without compromising our ability to recover expenses.
- Because many of our residents are seasonal, and pay the full annual water toll for each of their connections, it would not be equitable to exclude other parcels, and still expect seasonal residents to continue paying in full. If we reduce the tolls on every seasonal and vacant lot, the entire system could be at risk of financial distress.
- Monitoring water usage on vacant lots with water connections would require the installation of a meter, and ongoing monitoring. This would increase the cost and administrative burden on these connections and eliminate any savings. Failure to monitor could open the door for uncompensated water use.
- Water connections add value to the parcels they service, and removing connections from our mainline is not a reasonable option.

Water tolls will continue to be charged on parcels with connections, whether they are utilized or not. There are no changes necessary to the current Tolls and Other Charges Bylaw number 209.

6. Hypochlorite Drum Deposit

The switch from 5 gallon ^{pails} ~~pales~~ to 210 litre drums has shown savings up to 30% on the cost of hypochlorite and freight; even though we pay a \$60 deposit on each plastic drum. Over time, we accumulate these drums and face additional cost in returning them to the recycling depot in Richmond. Instead of sending them using freight, it has been suggested that we work out an arrangement with staff and/or residents for the opportunity to return a load of barrels and recover some of their travel expenses for doing so.

MOTION to allow Hypochlorite drums to either be sold as rain barrels for \$60; or, if there is a minimum of eight drums, they may be taken to Richmond for return and the cost of the

ferries (round trip) will be reimbursed to the traveller, by the GBID; or, commercial cartage may be used *if* the cost of doing so is less than, or equal to the cost of a round trip with BC Ferries. **MOVED and SECONDED** by the Board of Trustees. Discussion. All in favour.

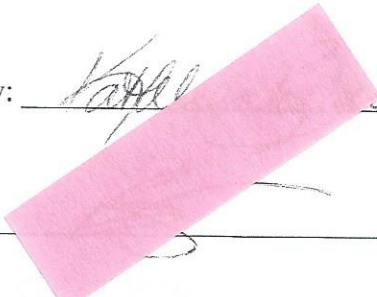
Carried

Warren Kiland joined the meeting at 4:38 PM.

The trustees reviewed the agenda items and motions made prior to trustee Kiland's arrival.

Meeting adjourned at 4:46 PM.

Approved By:  (Chair)

 (Officer)