

GILLIES BAY
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

AGENDA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
September 19, 2020 – 1:30 at the Gillies Bay Fire Hall

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Adoption of the Minutes of April 12, 2019 Annual General Meeting
4. Audited Financial Report – Dwayne Dunn, from DMD Chartered Accounting firm.
 - a. Motion to approve the audited financials
 - b. Motion to appoint the auditor for 2021
5. Report from the Board President – Chuck Childress
 - a. Trustee Honorarium – *Corporate Officer*
6. Fire Chief
 - a. Fire Chief Honorarium – *Corporate Officer*
7. Report from the Water Officer – to be read by Trustee
8. Trustee Elections – returning officer Rob McWilliam
9. Questions from the floor
10. Adjournment

Report from the Chair

Gillies Bay Improvement District AGM, Sept 19 2020

The Main focus of the Board over the past year has been on water quality improvement. The relevant Board motion in part reads... "The Water Quality Objective is to meet or exceed the 4-3-2-1-0 Drinking Water Objective by April 2023 or earlier" ... simply put, GBID does not currently meet the Canadian Drinking Water Standards and our goal is to do so in a logically stepped ,timely manner.

Earlier this year the District contracted with RESEAU CMI for a water treatment pilot project to examine the onsite performance of several water treatment technologies for treating the water that GBID sources from Cranby Lake. The Pilot treatment plant arrived in late April, and has been operating continuously since then. The Pilot Plant and RESEAU were instrumental in Van Anda's water treatment upgrade. We had hoped to have RESEAU give the community a public presentation, but with the Covid 19 situation, it appears unlikely to happen. However RESEAU's interim report and updates are posted on the GBID website.

The District is also moving on upgrading and consolidating GBID water license(s). It has been somewhat frustrating in that the application was submitted in 2016, but is just now being dealt with by the provincial officials. Also frustrating is that the approving officer is now asking the GBID to pay to have an Environmental Flow Needs Assessment done on Cranby Lake/Creek. The Board is actively seeking a consultant that is capable of completing the EFN and meeting the approving officer's conditions. If we proceed with the EFN at this time the estimated cost to the District will be roughly fifty thousand dollars.

We have had a request from a group of Ratepayers near Shelter Point to have the District extend water service to that area. The properties involved are all within the GBID current boundaries and currently get their water from shallow wells and springs and are on permanent boil water advisories. The Board has established a committee that is looking at the costs and implications of an expansion. It should be noted that any and all costs associated with extending water service has to be borne entirely by the properties that are added to the system.

Covid appears to be going to be with us for a while. A few months ago it looked like BC was going to be in good shape. However it now looks like we are going to have to continue to operate differently. That means we are going to have to find a way to hold Board meetings and public meetings differently. We are somewhat constrained by lack of good wireless infrastructure both within our operations and in the community. We also have to take our direction from the Ministry, and are working on implementing better ways to operate, meet and communicate with minimal in person contact.

Chuck Childress, Chair GBID



Gillies Bay Volunteer Fire Department

Fire Chiefs report to the Gillies Bay Improvement District
Annual General Meeting – September 19, 2020

While Covid 19 delayed the GBID AGM this report primarily addresses activities within the reporting period from April 12, 2019 to April 26, 2020. Since life didn't stop for Covid I have include some information on events that occurred after April 26th which I believe are relevant.

Total calls since last AGM to April 26th:

- 1 - MVA
- 4 – Medical evacuation1 at Gillies Bay Airport (one that occurred while we were dealing with a structure fire.
- 3 – Structural fires (one was mutual aid for VAFD)
- 8 - Duty Officer calls (primarily burning complaints)
- 1 – Boil water advisory
- 1 – Wellness check
- 2 - First responder calls (on scene before ambulance and initiated first aid)
- 1 - Chimney fire
- 1 - Investigate possible electrical fire in residence

In 2019 we had 23 calls, and during the reporting period there were also 23 calls. However, the severity of the calls was up. For example, in 2019 we responded to two structural fire calls, which were both false alarms. This year we dealt with 3 structure fires. We also had to deal with 2 medical incidents that demonstrated the need for increased first aid training.

Since April 26th we have had:

- 2 - Duty officer calls
- 3 – Medical evacuations
- 1 - MVA

Our current membership is 19 plus a Chief. However, we will be dealing with some retirements this fall so will have to do some active recruiting, and we are always looking for younger members.

A system of having fire practices on most Monday evenings at 1830 hrs, with one full day practice on a Sunday per month was working well until Covid-19 concerns shut us down on March 16th. After that we only responded to calls with appropriate safety precautions. Once we had developed a Covid Safety Plan in compliance with Public Health and Work Safe requirements, and we able to get the necessary safety equipment, we were able to resume some training on June 21st. We resumed Monday practices on July 20th, and have yet to restart Sunday practices.

To meet the OFC standards set out in the OFC "Playbook" members have received training in:

- 2 Firefighters received air brakes training.
- 2 Firefighters took Haz Mat training
- Captain Valentine Completed Emergency Scene Management 100 and 200.
- Wildfire training (SPP-WFF1) was provided to members, with a smaller session in June 2020 for new recruits.
- Emergency Scene traffic control course was delivered.
- Powell River Fire Department came over and put on a Forced Entry course.
- Captains Rairie and Valentine took a SCBA maintenance course so we can do more repair work in house.
- A OFA1 first aid course was provide for all members who had expiring first aid certificates, and new members.
- Provided members with a Critical Incident Stress Management course.
- Conducted a simulated hanger fire at Airport.
- Conducted a controlled burn of an old cabin

Due to the Covid-19 shut down our training was curtailed. An Emergency Scene Safety Officer course, and live fire training for 4 members had to postponed. We had been successful in obtaining a Community Emergency Preparedness grant of \$22, 439 for training. Most of that training had to be postponed as well, but should be completed by the February 2021 deadline.

All Sunday training sessions were being offered to Van Anda Firefighters as well on a reciprocal basis.

Public relations:

- It was GBVFD turn to host the annual Easter Egg Hunt in 2019. The event was not held in 2020.
- GBVFD participated in a First Responder Fair that was help at our Hall.
- Working with VAFD we put on Canada Day Games at Shelter Point in 2019 since no other Canada Day celebrations had been planned.
- Members supported the 2019 Texada Island Fly-in.
- Participated in the 2019 Sandcastle parade.
- GBVFD members attended the Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Legion. The GBVFF Assoc. provided a wreath.
- GBVFD members were in attendance for the annual Christmas Volunteer Gala Potluck, and used the occasion to promote recruitment.
- In April we organized an appreciation parade for Covid front line workers. Both Fire Departments, RCMP and Ambulance added to the 7pm noise in Gillies Bay one evening and Van Anda another evening

General:

1. SPU – Our Structural Protection Trailer is now fully operational. GBVFD has been able to train members on how to deploy the equipment
2. Blair Road Water Tank – the water tank was installing to permit rapid refilling of the Tender in the event we are dealing with an incident on the north side of the Fire District. Access to the tank has become hazardous, and the approach ramp, stairs and ladder on the tank need to be replaced for it to be safely used. We have replaced the shed covering the valve, and Lafarge has agreed to provide metal stairs. Hopefully the work will be completed this fall.
3. Exterior Lighting – the GBVFD Safety Committee identified a concern with exterior lighting at the Fire Hall. Since much of our training and many incidents occur at night it is important to improve the exterior lighting at the Fire Hall. This work was donated by Captain Rairie, who also installed ceiling fans to improve circulation.

4. Upgrading first aid – GBVFD responded to two medical assist calls where the Ambulance was either late or not able to respond. While we have been able to work out arrangements for Texada Rescue to respond to medical emergencies in our District they are still some distance (and time) away GBVFD believes we need to have some of our members trained to a higher standard than we currently have. We will be asking members who are interested to take some additional training.

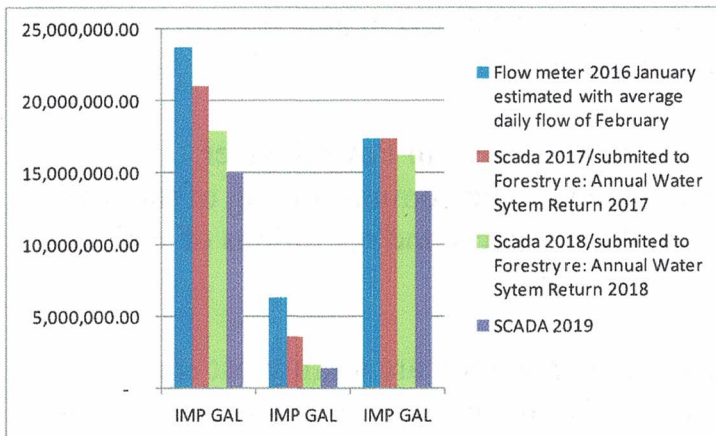
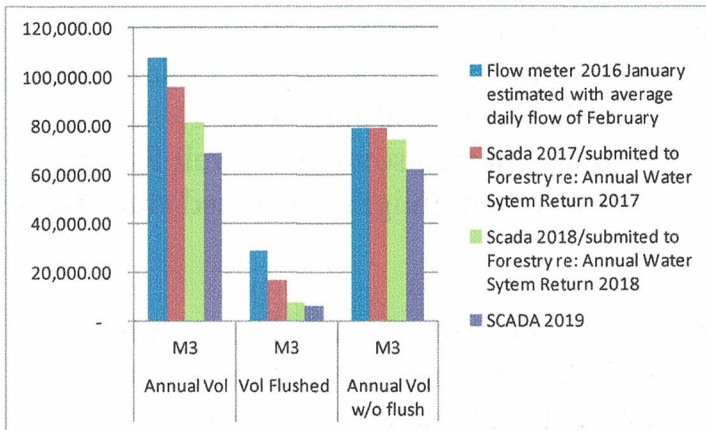
5. Covid-19 – the pandemic caused suspension of training and required a lot of paperwork before we could safely respond to calls and resume training. A new Covid operational guideline was developed with assistance from BC Fire Chiefs Association. We have established a Covid Safety Plan and cleaning protocol in compliance with Public Health and Work Safe BC. Personal Protective Equipment was obtained, and our whole operation had to be modified. We have now resumed training in small groups and with all the covid measures in place, but will have to proceed cautiously and are aware additional changes might still be required in the future.

As usual I will conclude the Fire Chief's Report by reminding you that if you hear the siren please shut off any open taps.

Submitted
September 10, 2020
Rob McWilliam
Fire Chief
Gillies Bay Volunteer Fire Department

GILLIES BAY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT 2020 AGM WATER OPERATORS REPORT

In 2019 the water works treated and delivered 68,605 cubic meters of water to 242 connections. This shows a 3-year trend of reduced consumption overall, which is a significant reduction from 81,370 cubic meters of water to 240 connections in 2018.



The annual baseline sample of water quality for this year returned showing it was well within accepted limits for use as potable water and these results can be viewed on the G.B.I.D. web site. The annual water system report for Vancouver Coastal Health has been submitted and accepted for the 2019 year and the water works emergency plan has been updated to keep contacts current.

In the 2019 year there were:

1 boil water advisory lasting 7 days from June 15 to June 22

9 emergency leaks reported and resolved.

2 system wide flushes in the fall (Oct 03) and spring (Apr 01) as regular maintenance to maintain water quality.

3 electrical power outages monitored for their duration to ensure proper water treatment was maintained. Also, this year there was a fire dispatch alert system implemented with the assistance of the Gillies Bay Fire Chief. This system sends a cellular text when a page goes out for a structural fire so that the water operator can attend the chlorinator and make adjustments during fire flow in the water system to prevent boil water advisories. This has proven successful in managing water quality during these events.

Training in 2019 was full of opportunities.

I was able to attend a day tour of the Nanaimo water works newly installed water treatment plant, energy recovery facility, as well as their main line intake, 2 dams, and the watershed. Later that year in December the GBID board and staff were invited to tour 2 water systems serving Lang Bay and Stillwater located south of Powell River. These types of site visits are of high education value and highlight the shared challenges and innovations used to overcome them.

In May I attended the BCWWA Annual conference and trade show in Victoria. I sat in on 14 lectures on various topics such as Pipe leak damage prevention, Pilot testing, water source protection, Boil water success stories of Vancouver Island, acoustic leak correlation, how a community attained potable water in a calendar year and more. The Trade show was equally informative. My attendance at this event also provides me with educational credits needed to maintain my certification.

In November I attended a day course on water borne illness in Powell River. My training this year also included my participation in the commissioning of the Van Anda water treatment plant to better understand the aspects and operations of such a facility.

Annual hydrant maintenance occurred in early July and they are all in great shape. At the works yard a larger culvert was installed to solve recurrent drainage issues at that location. 2 main line valves needed maintenance due to age. The backup generator at the chlorinator was due for and received a service call to maintain its reliability.

This concludes my water report

Ken Taylor, water operator.

Questions:

1. The sharing of information and data for upgrading the system is helpful. Eventually some recommendation will likely come forth at some point as to what systems we should install, upgrade and maintain for the purposes of meeting fire suppression needs and remediating the GBID continuing inability to meet Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality. The last provincial health authority report I saw indicated we were deficient. Obviously, recommendations need to come with costs attached. It is useful to study matters but at some point we need to take action beyond planning to plan. *What is the timeline for this recommendation to the GBID ratepayers?*

The focus of the Board of Trustees is on water quality improvements. The relevant Board motion in part reads...“The Water Quality Objective is to meet or exceed the 4-3-2-1-0 Drinking Water Objective; as put out by the Province, by April 2023 or earlier”...simply put, the GBID does not currently meet the Canadian Drinking Water Standards and our goal is to do so in a logically stepped, timely manner.

2. Another concern is the ongoing potentially harmful effects of disinfection by products that form when high levels of chlorine react with organic matter turbidity. This is a documented health concern especially in the long term which our situation seems to warrant. Our filtration system at this point is pretty minimal as I understand it, so we rely on chlorine and flushing. *What interventions in the GBID improvement plan address this specific issue?*

The GBID Board of Trustees has entered a partnership with Res Eau CMI to do a pilot water treatment study. Recommendations from the results of this study will determine the best method of treatment for our water and how to cost effectively implement that plan. More information on the study can be found on the GBID website.

3. *I am also wondering what is happening to our application for an extension to our water use license? We apparently still are in violation of overusing water in Cranby Lake. As apparently this application has been not approved for several years, what inferences can we draw from this reluctance to approve our license application?*

The GBID applied for the extension to our water license in 2016. The Ministry has only recently contacted us to let us know that they are finally addressing the application. The approving officer has replied to us with a request for an *Environmental Needs Flow Assessment*, which must be done by a Qualified consulting firm. The Board is actively seeking a consultant to do the study, which will cost approximately \$50,000.00 and will take about a year to complete.

4. My last request is a brief report on the current maintenance status of our Cranby Lake dam or lake discharge point. I have never seen it and wonder what state it is in. I understand that a minimal filter is there to sift out larger debris like frogs or pieces of wood and so on.

The current filtration at the dam is a Johnson screen and chlorination. The spillway needs to be upgraded and a logboom is needed. The Board has done a costing of the materials for the logboom and hope to have it installed soon. The spillway upgrade is being addressed as well.