

## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

### MINUTES FROM THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE DRINKING WATER AND WATERSHED PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2010 AT 12:30 PM  
IN THE RDN COMMITTEE ROOM

<b>Present:</b>	John Finnie	GM, Regional and Community Utilities, RDN
	Mike Donnelly	Manager of Water Services, RDN
	Christina Metherall	Drinking Water/Watershed Protection Coordinator, RDN
	Tom Sohler	GIS Coordinator, RDN
	Paul Thompson	Manager of Long Range Planning, RDN
	Pat Lapcevic	Ministry of Environment
	Shelley Bayne	Hydrogeology Representative
	Gilles Wendling	General Public Representative (South)
	Alan Gilchrist	Academic Community Representative (VIU)
	John Deniseger	Registered Professional Biologist Representative.
<b>Regrets:</b>	Oliver Brandes	Academic Community Representative

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order and introductions were made.

#### WATERSHED CHARACTERIZATION etc.

C. Metherall gave an overview and the following points were noted:

- ? There is a political aspect and a need to be seen as “getting things done” opposed to “studying”.
- ? Information exists in a number of areas and should be dealt with in two stages: info gathering (beginning with the least difficult information that can be gathered quickly in order to set up a structure for gathering information) and gap analysis
- ? Presentations on progress reports are important.
- ? Information gathering can be time consuming; need to prioritize but put all areas on level playing field.
- ? Recognize Needs vs. Nices, or Technical vs. Political in terms of information
- ? A need for a consultant prepared Background Report presenting a broad overview of what we need.
- ? Information gathering will be multi-step; initial year and a half will be knowledge-based after that more technical; prioritize information gathering.
- ? A two phase approach is needed; use technical committee experience then a more technical follow-up with a consultant.

## **WELL LOCATION / MAPPING**

Well locations and mapping were discussed, as was the upland approach and the need for salt water intrusion tracking. P. Lapcevic gave an update on the Ministry's GSC project which is underway with well records being entered and up to date (\$20,000).

A. Gilchrist updated the committee on VIU's mapping with regards to aquifer mapping (updated MOE mapping).

Part of location prioritization for monitoring wells will include feasibility of drilling.

Development of Forestry Lands is not expected to impact well location.

Gather information on existing systems from MOE and VIHA in order to gather their monitoring data.

Water quality testing is done on observation wells initially and at 3 and 5 years.

General comments – good locations, maybe think about the upland/developed area and how many wells we need. Salt water intrusion can be measured/looked at in production and domestic wells.

## **PRIVATE WELL MONITORING**

A. Gilchrist gave an overview and the committee gave a good response to the proposal. It was noted that this could potentially include an option for water quality monitoring, RDN could provide support in terms of equipment.

It was suggested to provide community groups with water level and basic water quality monitoring tools and training and go back occasionally to assess data quality (fund through DWWP?).

## **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

There was general discussion regarding information management, including types of information, monitoring/updates and reports. The general opinion was that the RDN does not want to "house" information.

Deciding information component is very important.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.