

BCID QUARTERLY REPORT

Beaver Creek Improvement District
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Letter from the Board

The BCID has been responding to changes imposed by both the Federal and Provincial governments over the past few months. These changes affect both sustainability of water delivery and transparency in reporting to the people.

The Federal government recently made changes to the Weights and Measures Act that apply to Beaver Creek Improvement District water meters. Now, all meters that have been in use 15 years or more must be replaced and updated.

This is a pretty tall order when you think about how many landowners will be affected. We've grappled with the issue and feel we've come up with a reasonable solution for how to pay for it all and a good time frame for meeting this new obligation.

You'll find more details inside this report under "Infrastructure Renewal Fee."

The other change all water providers are being asked to make has to do with asset management. This means water providers all over the province must adopt new accounting standards regarding tangible capital assets.

It's hoped this new management system will assist water providers in establishing annual water rates and to help ratepayers better understand how they are determined.

This involves documenting everything we have in the

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ground, when it went in and how much it cost. In short, they want a compilation of past infrastructure experience.

It's meant an awful lot of work for the BCID office staff. Board members appreciate how hard they've worked to keep up with day-to-day matters while dealing with these additional burdens.

Before the Annual General Meeting, there's one more monthly meeting on April 19. By then, we're hoping to have the City's information on how they see bulk water transfers would function and what percent of VIHA 4-3-2-1 costs, per Koers, they think the BCID would incur.

The AGM will be on Monday, April 26 in the Best Western Barclay ballroom, 6:30 pm, sharp.

Wayne Hasler, Board Chairman

Regular monthly meetings of the Beaver Creek Improvement District water board are held the third Monday each month, starting at 7 pm at the Improvement District Office, B-6038 Beaver Creek Road. Public attendance and input is welcomed. Upcoming meetings are: April 19, May 17, and June 21, 2010.



Annual General Meeting: 6:30 pm, Monday, April 26, 2010, Best Western Barclay

Sustaining Beaver Creek's water infrastructure

Infrastructure Renewal Fee set at \$2 per month

To meet the challenges of an aging infrastructure and new federal regulations regarding water meters, the BCID water board has had to come up with a plan for replacing aged residential water meters to ensure accurate and reliable measurement of water usage.

Residential water meters 15 years and older must be replaced to meet new federal Weights and Measures regulations. If your water meter qualifies, you will be contacted by the BCID to schedule an appointment for replacement.

New meters will be equipped with a 'remote' reading device that can be read curbside. This will allow us to reduce the number of man-hours and labor costs associated with meter reading.

Currently, where there is difficult terrain or traffic safety issues of concern in Beaver Creek, two workers are required to take one meter reading. Remote readers will dramatically reduce these costs and afford other benefits, too.

They are able to detect leaks in near real-time saving water loss and billing costs for landowners. And, they afford swift detection of leaks in water mains which in the past have been labor intensive to find and costly in terms of water loss for the entire improvement district.

But, they come at a price. In developing an affordable plan, the board has opted to cycle replacement over a four- to five-year span beginning with the most critical replacements and working through the remaining units with timely and efficient scheduling.

In order to meet this new obligation affordably, an Infrastructure Renewal Fee of \$2 per month will be added to your quarterly billings in the near future.

In the meantime, it's important that you monitor your existing water meter to detect irregular high water usage that may be caused by leaks in your plumbing system.

It's also important for homeowners keep these meters accessible for reading and servicing purposes until the remote reader models are installed.

To periodically check for irregularities, shut off all sources of water use in the house and watch the odometer numbers on the top of your water meter. If there is any movement at all in the column to the far right, then a leak may be present and should be repaired.

Water sustainability fact . . .

It's not always large leaks that lose the highest volume of water.

Large leaks are usually found quickly, isolated and repaired.

It's the small, undetected leaks that may lose the most in the long run, since they might be leaking for long periods of time.

Swift detection and immediate repair are best bets for sustainable water delivery.

Governance Information Update

Under our mandate to fully inform Beaver Creek residents on issues of governance, the BCID is following up on recent questions from residents.

What costs are associated with the option of becoming a Service Area under the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District?

At the March meeting, the Board was informed that Patty Edwards, Regional Director for Beaver Creek, had not yet given the ACRD formal instruction to provide the cost estimates. We trust this has been taken care of now and we will pass the new information on as soon as we get it.

As a Service Area under the ACRD, will Beaver Creek receive infrastructure grants to offset the cost of meeting VIHA's 4-3-2-1 standards?

The board met recently with the ACRD to draw up an agreement between the volunteer fire department and the BCID for the use of the building. At that time, board members sought clarification on grant possibilities.

We were informed by the current ACRD acting chief officer, Wendy Thomson, that there is no grant money. She noted that applications for Bell Road and Bamfield haven't been approved.

We take this to mean that a Service Area is eligible to apply but that not all applications do, or will, receive approval.

Election announcement

2010 Trustee Election: Tracey Neuwirth elected by acclamation

The three-year term of office served by Ed Walcot became vacant this spring.

As required by the Beaver Creek Improvement District letters patent, election notices were duly published by the election officer with the nomination period to close at 3:30 p.m., April 1, 2010.

Mr. Walcot declined standing for re-election. At the close of the nomination period only one had been received. Accordingly the lone nominee Tracey Neuwirth has been elected by acclamation.

Focus on Infrastructure

Bruce Forsyth, Operations Supervisor



Even though many people think there's nothing anybody can do until the Koers valley-wide water study comes out, it's important to understand that day-to-day operations and planning for continued safe drinking water provision still must go on. Maintaining the infrastructure we have and planning for the infrastructure we need continues to be priority one.

Two areas are the immediate focus of attention: the North reservoir and the Kitsuksis.

North Reservoir

In the interest of improved fire flows and pressures in the north end of the Improvement District, the North reservoir pump station upgrade is proceeding well. The engineer's drawing and layouts for some 800 meters of water main upgrade have now been completed. This includes upgrading from the 10 hp pump with the addition of two 25 hp pumps.

This multiple staged project has been broken into three parts, beginning with the north reservoir pump station.

We've already completed the building renovations and

next will come the electrical upgrade for power and motor controls. Full computer controls will give us better control of the system and monitoring water quality.

Works for this project will be tendered by Chris Holmes, a Koers and Associates Ltd. engineer.

Kitsuksis reservoir

The Kitsuksis reservoir is a 250,000 imperial gallon concrete tank. Built in 1973, the tank was engineered to hold a million gallons of water in four cells. Unfortunately, the board of the day faced money constraints and elected to build only the one cell.

What people don't realize is that if the originally planned tank was in place today, we could be looking at zero boil water advisories in Beaver Creek. That's because with enough water in storage, the operator could stop pumping into the tank and wait out any turbidity event.

As it is now, we can only store enough for 8 hours usage. No matter who is at the helm of water provision for Beaver Creek, so long as the Somas is the source, we will need at least four times the existing storage to ensure safe, abundant water.

Meters

In response to a question fielded this week, water meters fall under the Utilities Act and it's against the law to remove or alter them, subject to full penalty of law. Also, without consent from the water utility (in this case, BCID) no one is permitted to operate the shut off in front of the water meter.

You'll find more information about water meters under "Infrastructure Renewal Fee" on page 2 of this Quarterly Report.

"What people don't realize is that if the originally planned tank was in place today, we could be looking at zero boil water advisories in Beaver Creek." Bruce Forsyth, Supervisor.