

Beaver Creek Improvement District

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Update on BCID compliance with VIHA's Drinking Water Protection Act

Wayne Hasler, chair for BCID, has issued a statement to explain further what plans the board has that will bring the district into compliance with VIHA's 4-3-2-1 policy for water treatment .

"First of all, these changes are required of all surface water purveyors in the province. Vancouver Island communities, under VIHA's jurisdiction, are now working on plans to meet the requirements. Locally, Beaver Creek is not alone in having to upgrade to meet the standards set by the government. And those standards are costly to the taxpayers.

Where the improvement districts struggle more, of course, is that funding is not as available. And, as in the case of communities where water quality is problematic, these changes take on some urgency in designing the overall project and moving forward.'

Hasler also states, "As well for BCID there is further urgency in that we have the opportunity to purchase the land on Sportsman Road where our pump house is located and with the parcel of land being 3.7 acres that would allow for BCID to build a new water intake, as there are two water licenses that go with the land. BCID had an appraisal of the property and has negotiated a fair market price of \$750,000. We are working under a time constraint with this real estate deal.

To meet the requirements stipulated by the Drinking Water Protection Act BCID also needs to build a new 1,000,000 gallon reservoir, a filtration plant and ultra violet and improved chlorination equipment.

This is why the Alternate Approval Process form was mailed out, and given the deadline of July 25. The Minister of Community Affairs directed the board to send out this form as this is the most cost effective and efficient way to get an acceptance or rejection of the proposed project.

BCID now has their web site up and running. You can find it at www.beavercreekwater.ca and there you will see that BCID, Cherry Creek and the City of Port Alberni are all participating in the Alberni Valley Regional Study, costing each participant \$5000. As well there are no grants available to BCID at this time. The Ministry of Community Services does not provide grand funding to study the implications for converting an improvement district to a regional district service."

Further, Hasler states, “We are continuing a dialogue with the ACRD to see if we can operate under their ‘umbrella’, and perhaps be eligible for grants in the future. The ACRD are not interested in being water purveyor and so the board of trustees would continue to operate in their present role, but would be called commissioners, with a few changes to procedures.

We continue to look into financing at the lowest rate of interest possible and will be approaching the ACRD for money through the Municipal finance authority when money becomes available from them.

We had agreed to a meeting three months after the AGM but realized that we did not have enough information to bring to those that would attend. We had booked the room and realized it was not cost effective to carry through, especially when the answers we were asked to bring at the AGM have been answered at our web site. We have postponed that meeting until Fall, when we would have more concrete answers to the new questions, and we will have more information available about the details of the project to meet the government requirements for our water treatment..”

“At the present time, “ Hasler states, “ we will continue with five trustees (no directors) on the board for the Beaver Creek Improvement District.

We will be meeting on July 20 for our regular monthly meeting at the BCID office where all Beaver Creek residents are invited to come, meet us, learn what has been done in the last month and ask whatever questions you have.

This is a huge deal for all of us, and the board of trustees continues to work toward these goals, keeping the best interests of the residents in the fore.

In these difficult financial times we are trying to purchase the property, build the units necessary, bring in the equipment to treat the water with the best value for the money, with the best rate of interest, with the least strain financially for the resident, but with the best quality of water.”