

Minutes of the meeting of the Comox Valley Water Management Advisory Committee held on April 29, 2021 in the CVRD Civic Room at 770 Harmston Avenue, Courtenay, and via Zoom conference commencing at 9:31 am

PRESENT:

Via Zoom	G. Garbutt, Chief Administrative Officer	City of Courtenay
Via Zoom	K. Shaw, Director of Public Works	City of Courtenay
Via Zoom	J. Wall, Chief Administrative Officer	Town of Comox
Via Zoom	S. Ashfield, Director of Operations	Town of Comox
Via Zoom	C. Perry, Public Works Superintendent	Town of Comox
Via Zoom	R. Dyson, Chief Administrative Officer	CVRD
Via Zoom	M. Rutten, General Manager of Engineering Services	CVRD
Via Zoom	K. La Rose, Senior Manager of Water/Wastewater Services	CVRD
Via Zoom	C. Gore, Manager of Capital Projects	CVRD
Via Zoom	M. Herschmiller, Manager of Water Services	CVRD
Via Zoom	J. Warren, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer	CVRD
Via Zoom	C. Wile, Manager of External Relations	CVRD
In Person	M. Briggs, Engineering Services Assistant/Recording Secretary	CVRD

ITEMS:

Management Report

The committee reviewed the March 2021 Comox Valley Water Management Advisory Committee management report.

Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes of the April 1, 2021 Water Management Advisory Committee and no errors or omissions were noted.

Discussion Item: Leak Repair Closeout and PCCP Repair Budget Amendment

K. La Rose informed the advisory committee that a staff report is planned either for the May 11 Water Committee meeting or the next advisory committee meeting.

M. Herschmiller provided a brief update. The project was mostly completed prior to the previous update provided at the April 13 Water Committee meeting so few details have changed. The advisory committee members were asked if they would prefer the staff report on this topic to go to next Water Committee or wait until the next advisory committee, with a few invoices still missing so the costs are expected to change slightly as they are finalized. City of Courtenay staff expressed a preference for waiting until the next advisory committee to allow for all details to be included and to reduce staff workload.

Advisory comments:

CVRD staff asked how the PCCP leak was detected during preparations for the Puntledge crossing leak repair but then not found after excavation, and what measures will be taken in the future to

detect and repair any further leaks. Staff explained that the contractor is confident that a leak is present but may have over-estimated the magnitude. Staff will make use of the new monitoring well and other monitoring techniques to keep an eye on the affected area.

Town of Comox staff asked how the contractor detected the leak. CVRD staff explained that it was detected during the Smartball inspection of the Puntledge crossing leak. Video recording showed an acoustic signature in that section of pipe; however, a leak was not found. Staff recommend against replacing the pipe when uncertain exactly where the leak may be or if repairs are needed. Town of Comox staff asked if the Smartball was potentially defective, but the contractor looked into it and was unable to determine the cause.

CVRD staff stated that a physical inspection was performed on the PCCP when it was exposed and no issues were found. The grout lining was removed at the joints and replaced. Staff will continue to monitor the area going forward.

City of Courtenay staff added that the City experienced a similar issue with pipes along 17th St, and advised that stepping back and monitoring the situation is a good approach. Water had been leaking out through the grout lining. Would be too expensive replacing pipe without clear evidence of a leak.

Comox Valley Water Supply System Consumption Report

The committee reviewed the February 2021 water supply consumption report. M. Herschmiller noted that the report only goes to February due to the leaks, redirection of water, and issues with the Dingwall meter leading to difficulty calculating consumption numbers and having to estimate the amount for the City of Courtenay. The March report is currently under review.

Municipal Service/Project Updates

The Town of Comox is currently flushing and will continue for the next month. City of Courtenay staff expect to do their flushing in the fall. CVRD staff are looking to do shutdowns next week as tie-ins for the water treatment plant project continue to progress.

City of Courtenay staff provided an update on the 5th Street Bridge renovation. The bridge is to be covered next week and asked if an emergency plan is in place in case the watermain under the bridge is damaged or impacted. CVRD staff explained that the watermain under the bridge can be shut down easily and that flows in the water system should not be overly impacted by its shutdown, but due to its importance as a secondary route CVRD and City staff should develop an emergency plan.

CVRD staff mentioned that water operators are intending to put up Stage 1 signs Friday afternoon, a day early to avoid calling in staff on Saturday for the automatic transition to Stage 1 on May 1. No objections from the advisory committee.

GENERAL:

The next Water Management Advisory Committee meeting will be held on May 27, 2021 commencing at 9:00 am in the CVRD Civic Room at 770 Harmston Avenue, Courtenay and via Zoom conference.

TERMINATION:

The meeting terminated at 9:54 am.

Recorded by:

M. Briggs

M. Briggs
Engineering Services Assistant/Recording
Secretary

Certified correct:

M. Rutten

M. Rutten, P.Eng.
General Manager of Engineering Services