



**DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019 @ 7:00 PM
SCHOOL HOUSE, 1589 MILLSTREAM ROAD**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ken Williams	Councillor Marcie McLean
Councillor Leslie Anderson	Councillor Karel Roessingh
Councillor Ann Baird	Councillor Rose Stanton
Councillor Gord Baird	

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Administrative Officer Lorraine Hilton
Corporate Officer Tina Neurauter
Planner Laura Beckett
Approving Officer Michael Dillistone

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved Councillor McLean, Seconded Councillor Roessingh
That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1

RE: MAY 13, 2019 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

Moved Councillor Roessingh, Seconded Councillor McLean
That the Committee of the Whole minutes of May 13, 2019 be adopted.

CARRIED

3. NEW BUSINESS

3.1

Report – M. Dillistone, Approving Officer

**RE: DRAFT GROUNDWATER PROTECTION IMPLEMENTATION AND
WORK PLAN – CONSULTANT REPORT**

Mr. Dillistone introduced the item noting the following:

- Elucidate consulting was awarded the contract in April 2019
- Funding for the project was approved under the Federal Tax funding administered by UBCM
- Under the terms of the agreement, the work must be completed by the end of 2019
- The draft work plan is based on recommendations from the Phase 3 Golder and Associates report, Sustainable Land Use Select Committee recommendations and the UVic Gap analysis
- Input on the draft plan is being sought with a deadline of October 1, 2019 – this information is posted on Highlands website

Mr. Dillistone then introduced the consultant team, Christina Metherall, Elucidate Consulting; Gill Wendling, GW Solutions and Mike Donnelly, Groundwater Consultant.

Ms. Metherall led the presentation and introduced the Groundwater Protection Draft Work Plan.

- The plan supports the District of Highlands in the long-term maintenance of a sustainable groundwater resource.

- The plan is based on recommendations from prior work, research into current best practices, and an assessment of current status of groundwater in the District
- The plan provides a roadmap to the sustainable management of Highlands groundwater resources, identifies recommended actions, associated sequencing, potential partnerships, and resource implications
- The plan proposes the most low-cost and effective approach to the long-term protection of the community water supply source

Ms. Metherall then described how the consultant team developed the plan and a detailed description of each work item.

Council and public input included the following:

- Fire retardant and septic system impact on groundwater recharge
- Sensitive zones should also include steep slopes and their impact on vegetation and wetlands
- Opportunities that may be available for collaboration in protecting water systems
- Local government's opportunity to review and comment on changes to/or new water licenses issued through the province
- Stress on currently monitored wells (one well currently showing stress) – what action will be taken in the draft plan? – draft plans suggest updating liniment mapping – divide into sub areas – once done each area will be managed differently suiting its individual need
- Mapping – what data will be used?
- Industrial use of water (Ecoasis) and its impact on the aquifer – what percentage of the total municipalities overall groundwater use is consumed by industrial use
- Overall understanding of recharge
- Concern of current calculation of infiltration efficiency – has there been an over estimation of how much water the actual aquifer is actually providing (based on information from Ecoasis)
- Costs associated with delineation of community aquifers
- Has there been an investigation into Highlands watercourses being used as a municipal drainage system as permitted in the *Community Charter* and if this is possible could it be funded via an Infrastructure Planning Grant
- Focus on mapping aquifer more thoroughly and approach in reviewing discharge and recharge of aquifer
- Fear of little infiltration due to the geography of the landscape (steep slopes). We may be overestimating the amount of water infiltration due to this
- Time to move forward and to ensure resources are available

Staff informed that the report will be left on the website and that comments on the draft plan will be accepted until October 1, 2019.

Moved Councillor McLean, Seconded Councillor Roessingh
That the report and presentation on the District of Highlands Groundwater Protection Draft Work Plan be received. CARRIED

3.2

Report – Chief Administrative Officer

RE: ACTIVITY REPORTING MAY 1 TO AUGUST 31, 2019

Moved Councillor Roessingh, Seconded Councillor Gord Baird
That the May 1 to August 31, 2019 Activity Reports attached to the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received. CARRIED

4. ADJOURNMENT

Moved Councillor McLean, Seconded Councillor Ann Baird
That the September 9, 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting adjourn at 8:34 PM.

CARRIED

MAYOR

CORPORATE OFFICER