

WYNNDDEL IRRIGATION DISTRICT

91th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 91th annual general meeting of the Wynndel Irrigation District was held May 2, 2023 at the Wynndel Community Centre.

28 eligible voters were present.

Dean Bryans was appointed chairman.

1. Call to Order @ 7:01

2. Appointment of Secretary

Moved by **Hugh Grant** seconded by **Lorne Ostendorf** AND RESOLVED be appointed secretary for the meeting.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Add 8a. WID Watershed Committee report

Moved by **Tim Adams** seconded by **Jim Daniels** AND RESOLVED that the agenda be adopted as presented.

4. Introductions

5. Minutes of the 2022 AGM

Secretary read the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

Moved by **Lloyd Shopa** seconded by **Mark Vlachos** AND RESOLVED that the minutes of the 2022 AGM be adopted as presented.

6. Matters arising from the 2022 minutes:

Shunting of Creek to bypass reservoir is in place for fire protection.

7. APEX Accounting presented the 2022 financial report.

Moved by **Mark Vlachos** seconded by **Lloyd Shopa** AND RESOLVED that the financial report for 2022 be accepted as presented.

8. Chair Report

Dean Bryans read his Chair report for 2022.

(Chair's report attached)

Moved by **Jim Daniels** seconded by **Carol Sanders** AND RESOLVED that the Chair's report for 2022 be accepted as presented.

8 a. WID Watershed Sustainability Planning Committee report

Moved by **Gordon Ogilvie** seconded by **Hugh Grant** AND RESOLVED that the WID Watershed Committee report for 2022 be accepted as presented.

9. Trustee Election

Board Elections: Two positions ending in 2026 are up for election. Current Trustees Lorne Ostendorf and Hugh Grant will let their names stand. The Chairman called for nominations from the floor three times. There were **Zero** nominations from the floor.

Lorne Ostendorf and Hugh Grant were Acclaimed to continue to serve as Trustees to 2026.

10. Wynndel Irrigation Trustee Renumeration

Currently the trustee remuneration be equivalent to two (2) tolls and travel expenses consistent with CRA standards. The Chair currently receives no additional compensation.

Moved by **Mark Vlachos** seconded by **Forest Demon** AND RESOLVED the trustee remuneration be equivalent to two (2) tolls and travel expenses consistent with CRA standards.

Major works

Chair reviewed 5.1 of the 2023 Strategic Plan (found of WID website) which identifies the priorities for 2023.

Moved by **April Parson** seconded by **Jim McDaniels** AND RESOLVED major works report as presented.

Open to Floor for questions

- 40% leakage is not good and when will this be addressed. *PRVs are the first step in evaluation.*
- Are grants not available to Improvement Districts?
- B. Sullivan Bylaw 173 pointed out board trustees to take on roles of Administration and Operations. *Verified WID is in compliance with B173.*
- Tracey Roth Questions the cost of operations vs. contractor on the Financials And the length of the water line on Lower Wynndel Road does not extend to WID boundary.
- Jacqueline Peters ... lots of rules and compliance requirements. Should the remuneration package be reviewed for Trustees.
- Municipal systems vs. Improvement Districts are vastly different.
- RDCK is a resource in supporting Improvement Districts.

The Chair thanked the residents in attendance for taking the time to come to the meeting.

The 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Wynndel Irrigation District was adjourned at 9:00 pm by Chair **Dean Bryans**.

Chair Dean Bryans

Secretary

May 2, 2023 AGM Chair Report

Appreciations

- Trustees
- Kootenay Water & Wastewater, Brent Despot, Annette Steed
- WID Watershed Sustainability committee, Dean, Kelly Norren & Jim Schaeffer
- Community for attending this year

Administrative assistance departure March and June 2022, currently have Annette Steed in Administrative assistant role.

- Complete review of accounting system
- Overhaul of filing system to PID / address-based filing

Manager of Operations & Administration

Board proposed to the then current Chair Vandenberghe, to take on an interim role as MOA for a period not to exceed 12 months commencing September 2022 to address WID business systems, compliance, and communications.

- Summarization of all minutes last 15 years
- Summarization of AGM resolutions past 10 years
- Creation of reference binders for all Trustees for current, in effect Bylaws and relevant legislation governing Bylaws.
- Summary of Bylaws and spreadsheet analysis with Creston Dyking District. Contract negotiations currently underway.
- Website update and primary host of information
- North Canyon meetings for resource sharing opportunities
- Provincial government ministries liaison
- RDCK liason

Watershed & logging

- Terms of Reference approved November 2022 for Watershed Sustainability Planning Committee. **(SEE ATTACHED REPORT)**
- Board reviewed Blue Mountain request to access watershed through via Elsie Holmes and voted down with reason.

SCADA system went down in June 2022, replacement completed October 2022.... \$40k. Boil water notice allowed to lift by Interior Health.

Currently there is a boil water notice BWN due to spring freshet ... testing of late has showed BWN will soon be lifted by Interior Health.

Policy & Procedure manual concept approved by Board in October 2022

- Procedures include
- Communication plans including

- compliance reporting to Interior Health, Municipal Affairs, etc.
- Newsletters August, October, January 2023
- Website as main repository for agendas, minutes, newsletter, announcements
- Customer list email program updated and utilized for time sensitive information announcements and water system repairs / maintenance

December 2022 Board approved in principle for **Creston Valley Cycling Association** after a number of months of consultation and included in October 2022 newsletter to get feedback from the community.

Strategic plan approved January for 2023 Motion 09-2023

- Review past minutes to determine the extent of unfinished projects for current Board consideration,
- Pressure Reducing Valves (PRV) priority,
- Channel Road extension priority,
- Lower Wynndel Road update re-evaluation (currently engaged).

Approved operating budget in January for 2023

Final major repairs to JD 310 Loader Backhoe in 2022 & 2023 \$6000

Homelinks High school water plant tour approximately 30 high school students April 2023

Huggard Creek intake cleanup slated to summer 2023

AGM Speaker Notes

WID Watershed Sustainability Planning Committee Report

Noreen & Jim Schaefer send their regrets for not being able to personally attend the AGM to provide this report.

- The committee and WID Board have, to the best of their knowledge, investigated all available options with respect to minimizing the impacts of industrial logging in the Duck Creek watershed.
- It is important to note that existing forestry and water related legislation, in current practice, does not favour proactive protection of community watersheds. In fact, the small community of Glade, west of Nelson, took their case all the way to BCs supreme court with the final ruling being "no right to clean drinking water."
- We are therefore left with pursuing avenues where WID has rights or can exert influence.

Following is a progress summary since the committee's inception last fall. Not all investigations will be reviewed, rather just those that WID is actively pursuing.

Crown Land Acquisition

1. There are 2 Crown blocks totaling approximately 410 hectares adjacent to WID owned land. As an Improvement District, the committee investigated having these titles transferred from the Crown to WID, an approach not previously attempted in the province.
2. After a series of meetings with relevant provincial ministries and Forestry's Crown Land Authorization department, it appears success would be doubtful, particularly as the various options do not relinquish timber rights and WID or a government sponsor would be required to purchase the timber value.
3. However, we are still pursuing this land transfer option. A request has been submitted to University of Victoria's Environmental Law Centre to investigate WIDs eligibility to have these 2 Crown blocks transferred in addition to having the resource removed from provincial timber inventory.
4. WID has submitted a *Notation of Interest* on the 2 blocks. It offers no protection but records WIDs interests so they must be considered in any transactions related to these blocks.

Canfor

1. Either directly or in partnership with Wildsight, the committee has had numerous meetings and email exchanges with the local Canfor planner and their hydrologist.
 - Wildsight is a very active, grassroots non-profit advocacy organization with a mandate, among others, to protect biodiversity for future generations.

- WID is represented on Wildsight's local Duck Creek watershed sustainability committee, as is a climate change action group and Lower Kootenay Band.
2. Upon pressure, Canfor agreed to conduct a cumulative hydrological study, at their expense, to combine the hydrological effects of Canfor and Blue Mountain harvest. The committee has met with the hydrologist on several occasions and continues pursuing questions to understand potential impacts to water quality, quantity and timing.
 3. Generally, Canfor has been open to sharing hydrology findings as well as modifying originally planned harvest blocks in the watershed. This is an iterative process and we are currently pursuing changes to Canfor's proposed logging plans for blocks in the Huggard Creek and Glacier Creek areas.
 4. On several occasions WID has appealed to various ministries with respect to impacts of watershed logging, including negative findings from BC's Auditor General and even the Forestry Practices Board itself. Our local MLA office is also aware of all communications and provided early networking support. These ministries include:
 - Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
 - Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
 - Ministry of Forests
 5. The Selkirk Forestry District Manager, who ultimately approves Canfor's timber harvest plan, has been alerted to concerns specific to the historic effects of Duck Creek logging and weather events that have impacted WID's operations.
 - Proposed cutting blocks and access road construction within feeder creek areas, areas with substantial sub-surface water and high angle slopes unduly risk Duck Creek water quality, quantity and timing, not to mention potentially expensive infrastructure costs.

Blue Mountain Lands

6. Last year WID reported the rejection of Blue Mountain's request to access their land via WID property.
7. WID has very little recourse with Blue Mountain given they are private landholders. Forestry regulations for private logging are not nearly as robust as logging on Crown land.
8. Preliminary discussions were held with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) to alert them to the situation. NCC will consider their options with respect to pursuing acquiring Blue Mountain lands. No decisions have been made yet.

Summary

There is a remarkable amount of work being undertaken by numerous groups throughout BC related to the negative impacts of logging on watersheds. The more visible and funded groups have influenced and continue to influence BC Government

watershed strategy policies. It is unlikely, however, that these policies will impact current legislation or forestry regulations in advance of Canfor filing their logging plans.

Consistent with WIDs mandate, the committee and Board will continue to advocate for the community's safe drinking water supply. The committee is keeping the pressure on the relevant provincial ministries and as well as engaging with Canfor to minimize impacts to the watershed and WID infrastructure.

[Optional:

Unfortunately WID, and by extension ratepayers, will be left with little recourse should there be water system damage related to logging. If you are interested, we can provide an information sheet and email addresses where you can voice your concerns.]

Other

Here are a few points to have on hand should they be required.

- WID is not privy to detailed LKB activity on this issue. LKB works directly govt to govt. However, council member Robin Louie not only participated in a Canfor field trip last summer as well as select committee meetings, he retains interest in all our communications and is actively pursuing initiatives related to declining Kokanee salmon stocks, including the impacts from logging.
 - Multiple government departments, oversight boards and academic reports find accountability measures for safeguarding drinking water are lacking. Accelerated clear-cutting and other unsustainable land-use practices are negatively impacting watersheds; watershed risks are amplified with high elevation logging and climate change. BC Auditor General is particularly scathing in findings related to protecting drinking water.
9. Forest Practices Board recommendations (2022) include:
- Improve public involvement by making water a core value in forest planning.
 - Manage cumulative effects of forest practices on water as a legal requirement in all watersheds.
 - Improve regulation of forest practices that contribute sediment to streams.
 - Reduce the impact of historical practices on water through a renewed program of watershed restoration.

WYNDEL IRRIGATION DISTRICT

(SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD)

May 2, 2023

Trustees : Kip Cantrell, Lorne Ostendorf, Hugh Grant, Dean Bryans, Kip Cantrell

Staff : Kelly Vandenberghe

Appointment of officers following the AGM:

Trustee Grant nominated Trustee_Bryans as Chair. Seconded by Trustee_Dodge. All voted in favour.

Trustee Dodge nominated Trustee Ostendorf as Vice-Chair. Seconded by Trustee Cantrell. All voted in favour.

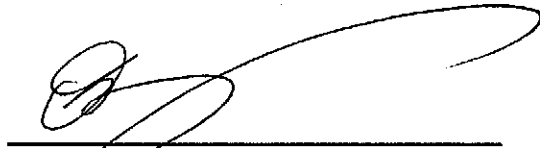
Trustee Bryans nominated Trustee Cantrell as financial officer. Seconded by Trustee Grant. All voted in favour.

Signing Authority:

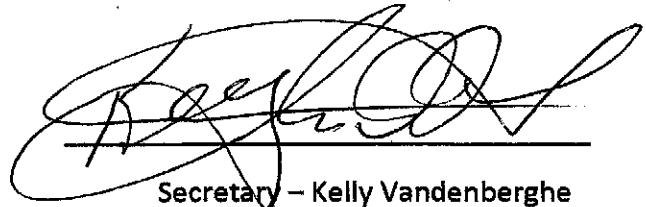
Dean Bryans

Lorne Ostendorf

Kelly Vandenberghe



Chair - Dean Bryans



Secretary - Kelly Vandenberghe