

- PRESENT:** S. Johnson (Chairperson)
K. Jones (Vice-Chairperson)
D. Stonoga
J. Yu
- COUNCIL:** Councillor Trevelyan (Council representative) (arrived at 4:10 p.m.)
- ABSENT:** D. Bower
I. Lessner
S. Doerksen
- STAFF:** J. Gordon, Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations
S. Jasim, Manager, Water Utilities
E. Tuson, Committee Clerk
- Public: 0
Press: 0
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1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.
2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
2020-WCAP-01 **IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED**
THAT the Water Community Advisory Panel adopt the agenda for January 14, 2020 as circulated.
CARRIED
3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
2020-WCAP-02 **IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED**
THAT the Water Community Advisory Panel adopts the minutes of the November 12, 2019 meeting as circulated.
CARRIED
4. **ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON**
Members of the Committee to appoint a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the 2020 Committee year.

2020-WCAP-03

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the following members be appointed as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the 2020 Committee Year:

- Chairperson: S. Johnson
- Vice-Chairperson: K. Jones

CARRIED

Note: S. Johnson assumed the role of Chairperson.

5.

UPDATE ON THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Staff provided the following update:

- Staff have been in contact with the consultant. Plans for improvement were discussed and adding chloride to the water was proposed, which will help precipitate out phosphorous.
- After the regeneration process begins, improvements in the water quality should be seen in two (2) to three (3) weeks.
- The City will conduct the regeneration process by running through the filter for two (2) hours, which will change the pH levels.

In response to questions from the Panel, staff noted the following:

- The City is working towards reducing the ozone and monitoring Arsenic levels. As a result, the Phosphate concern will be reduced.
- The filters for the removal of Arsenic have shown signs of premature aging. After the regenerated process, the filter should be at 90%, which will produce better results.
- The regeneration process is conducted by taking one filter out of service at a time. Sodium Hydroxide is cycled through it for two (2) hours. The circulation helps remove the Phosphate and other contaminants like Arsenic. After which, the filter will be drained and flushed with water. The regeneration results are received after 24 hours and the filter is put back in service. The Water Treatment plant has four (4) filters, this process is estimated to take one (1) week to complete.
- The cycling of Sodium Hydroxide through the filters will change the pH.
- The regeneration process does not leak into the water system.
- The regeneration testing and results will be included in the City's new patent request.

A Panel member noted concern for the discoloration of a household water filter. Staff responded that any residue seen on the filter is a result of what is in the pipes. It was also mentioned that older homes have had manganese run through the pipes long before the Water Treatment Plant was implemented. It may be useful to flush the pipes for a more accurate result.

A Panel member noted concern for residue build up on drinking glasses. Staff noted that the residue is due to the calcium (hardness) in the water. The water here is considered moderate hard at 100 mg/L.

The Panel discussed using a water softener and other types of filtration to reduce the residue. The compound of dishwasher agents were also debated.

Staff noted that there is no additional chlorine being added to the water.

In response to a question from the Panel, Staff noted that the arsenic levels are not increasing. They are currently at 4.0 micrograms per litre, with Manganese sitting below the detection line.

The Panel reviewed the December 23, 2019 Water Treatment Plant results report, and noted the high iron content. Staff noted that they have more recent results than December 23, 2019 and they will look into relaying that information to the Panel.

Action Item: Staff to provide the Panel with the most recent Water Treatment Plant test results.

6.

UPDATE ON WCAP RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

Councillor Trevelyan provided an update on the outcome of the previous recommendation provided to Council from the Panel. The following was noted:

- Council endorsed all of the Panel's recommendations.
- Communication has been relayed to the public regarding the status of the Water Treatment Plant.
- Council has agreed to hold off on the changes to the rate structure at least until the following year (2021).

In response to a question from the Panel, Councillor Trevelyan noted the following:

- Council was considerate of multi-family units and businesses rates increasing if the City moved towards a pay-by-use rate structure.
- It is important to consider large community partners (e.g. Peace Arch Hospital) when determining how a pay-by-use structure will be implemented.

The Panel discussed the process of composing a pay-by-use rate structure and the tools they would need to consider before making a recommendation to Council.

7. **2020 WORK PLAN**

The Panel discussed and prioritized their work plan for the 2020 term. Potential topics for discussion were noted:

- Proposed water rate increases in White Rock over the next four (4) years.
- Discussion on joining Metro Vancouver water.
- Review of comparable water rates in other cities and their proposed water rate increases over the next four (4) years.
- Consumption-based model – graduated plans, alternative fixed/consumption ratios, communication plan.
- Emergency fire system, emergency preparedness and the City’s emergency plan.
- Development Impact on our Water System – Development increase in White Rock causes pressure increases of manganese levels. It could also be labeled “Fines or Penalties for improper Water Use”.
- General public communication of water updates and initiatives.
- Water conservation initiatives.

The following additional comments were noted:

- The water rate will increase each year over the next four (4) years. This includes rates for the existing model. Staff noted that whether or not the rate model is adjusted, rates would still increase 6% per year.
- Staff noted that under the *Local Government Act* the City is required to come up with a five (5) year financial plan. This plan includes a yearly increase in operating costs; however, when council reviews the budget each year this can be adjusted.
- It was noted that White Rock is charging more than neighboring municipalities like Surrey who charges \$1.50 per cubic meter.
- Staff noted that Community Amenity Contribution (CAC) money could not be used on the water system, neither can general taxation revenue.
- Development Cost Charges (DCC) can only be used for growth purposes, not maintenance.
- A report from 2013 is included in the agenda package that outlines the cost to join Metro Vancouver. Staff noted that the water in Metro Vancouver has disinfectant byproducts that increase towards the outskirts of the system. White Rock would be hooking up to the outskirts of the system. Metro Vancouver water also has a low pH, which causes the bleaching of lead.

The Panel discussed their mandate and what they would like to focus on. The idea of integrating water conservation efforts into their work plan was also mentioned.

2020-WCAP-04

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Water Community Advisory Panel adopt their 2020 work plan as follows:

1. Consumption-based model – graduated plans, alternative fixed/consumption ratios, communication plan.
2. Emergency fire system, emergency preparedness and the City’s emergency plan.
3. Review of comparable water rates in other cities and their proposed water rate increases over the next four (4) years.

4. Proposed water rate increases in White Rock over the next four (4) years.
5. Miss-Use of the Water System.
6. General Public Communication.
7. Water Conservation Initiatives.

CARRIED

8. INFORMATION

The following documents were received by the Panel for information: Corporate Report dated June 10, 2013 –

- Acquisition of EPCOR White Rock Water Inc.
(This document can also be accessed on the City website at the following link: <https://www.whiterockcity.ca/DocumentCenter/View/521/June-10-2013-Closed-Corporate-Report---Acquisition-of-EPCOR-White-Rock-Water-PDF>)

9. ACTION TRACKING

Corporate Administration provided an action tracking sheet to the Panel. This spreadsheet will be updated after each meeting and provided to members for information.

10. WATER COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL MEETINGS

The following 2020 Water Community Advisory Panel meeting dates were approved by the Panel and are noted on the agenda for information purposes:

- February 11
- March 10
- April 7
- May 12
- June 9
- July 14
- September 15
- October 13
- November 10

11. CONCLUSION OF THE JANUARY 14, 2020 WATER COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL MEETING

The Chairperson declared the meeting concluded at 5:57 p.m.



S. Johnson, Chairperson



E. Fuson
Committee Clerk