

**Rutland Residents Association
General Meeting ~ April 21, 2016
7:00 pm, Pool Room, Rutland Centennial Hall**

Call to order -7 PM Chair John Vielvoye, sitting in for President John Huston (out of country)

Roll call 10 members plus 20 visitors signed in, but many did not sign in. Visitors included observers from SEKID and GEID as well as Mr. Ron Westlake of the City.

Purpose of meeting Information meeting to discuss the City of Kelowna proposed amalgamation of water districts

Guests Mr. Gordon Ivans, trustee Black Mountain Irrigation District
Mr. Garry Zarr, trustee Rutland Waterworks

Mr. Ivans and Mr. Zarr referred to the Kelowna Joint Water Committee (KJWC). This is a coordinating organization for the five water utilities that operate within the City of Kelowna. It was formed in 1991 to promote standardization of methods and materials, improve communication and to provide an integrated approach to water supply within City Boundaries. The five utilities include: the City of Kelowna Water Utility (City), the Black Mountain Irrigation District (BMID), the Glenmore-Ellison Improvement District (GEID), Rutland Waterworks District (RWD), and the South East Kelowna Irrigation District (SEKID).

Comments amalgamation of the water districts with the City of Kelowna.

- A 300 page report outlining the Kelowna Integrated Water Supply-Plan (KIWS Plan) is a City-wide water improvement plan for all of Kelowna that provides overall water quality solutions regardless of utility boundaries or available resources. The plan was prepared in 2012 by a technical committee representing the five largest Kelowna water utilities. The plan was agreed to by the City of Kelowna (Mayor Walter Gray) and the major water providers (BMID, RWW, GEID, SEKID). The City would be the vehicle for grant applications by individual districts.
-
- The City now no longer supports the KIWS Plan and has prepared its own separate hypothesis plan. As a result of this turn around by the City there are now mediation discussions to set terms of reference for a value planning process overseen by Hon. Peter Fassbender representing the Province and two consultants Mr. George Abbott and Mr. Chris Trumpy hired by the Province. Mr. Trumpy is working with the City and Mr. Abbott is working with the four other major water providers.
-
- The water districts and the City are meeting with provincial government mediators to work out terms of reference and a process for value planning, which is a third party review of planning for proposed new water projects.

- The governance structure for an amalgamated water body is a contentious issue and is not part of the discussions, and is not supported by the four major water providers.
-
- BMID, RWW and GEID water districts have completed many millions of dollars of infrastructure work on behalf of their ratepayers to meet health standards. The districts are not allowed to apply for grants for projects that are in progress. Infrastructure grants for water projects may be available to the City. The City wants control of those funds and wants control of the allocation of those funds to various projects.
- BMID, RWW, GEID have compliance water systems and meet health standards and would not benefit from an amalgamated water body. They are not eligible for grants for projects that have already started. The SEKID system is the one that the most needs help. SEKID has a large agriculture component and needs a dual system for domestic and agriculture use. SEKID lacks the population base to upgrade their system using their own funds and would need help to raise the estimated 24 million or more through grants and from other water districts.
- The Ellison area is part of the GEID but this area is outside the City. At the present time the City would not support funding any projects in that area.
- Value planning needs to be done.
- Treasury Board in Ottawa has not figured out how grant money will flow.
- RWW and BMID are interconnected and support each other.
- The BMID and RWW reservoirs are full to capacity as a result of a large snow pack. Water resources for BMID and RWW are secure and adequate.
- The governance structure of an amalgamated water authority is not presently under discussion. The City wants to take over control all water supplies in the districts. At the moment the trustees do not know where a discussion dealing with governance is going; how it would work, etc. Should the Regional District be involved?
- Residents are also concerned that the City would, if it had control of our water, sell water rights and water to outside sources.
- The City does not have legal powers to force amalgamation of the water districts with the City. That power lies with the province. The premier has stated that the Province will not force amalgamation.

- The meeting did not vote on the issue of amalgamation as this was an information meeting, but residents in attendance expressed their satisfaction with the current water supplies provided by RWW and BMID and actions of the trustees. Those in attendance did not support amalgamation with the City.
- It was suggested that the RRA write a letter to Hon. Fassbender indicating support for RWW and BMID and their efforts on behalf of their ratepayers as well as a lack of support for amalgamation of water districts with the City.

This part of the meeting adored at 7:40 PM for 10 minutes to permit guests who did not want to stay for the continuation of the regular meeting to leave.

Minutes of the last meeting March. 17

Reviewed. Adopted as circulated

Treasurer:

Evelyn Vielvoye reported that the bank balance is now at \$ 3,045.76.

Report accepted Shirley Schmidt/Peter harshening

Old Business

Letter by Peter Harshenin re: unsightly premises sent to Pres. John Huston. For his consideration and forwarding to the City.

Letter by Jill Siebert re. snow on sidewalks sent to pres. John. No reply from City but there were two articles in the Courier on the subject. One supporting a need for more snow clearing from sidewalks and the other an editorial stating it is not the City's' job to clear snow from sidewalks.

Canada 150 celebrations

Work in progress. Proposed in an afternoon tea at the Centennial Hall with music and birthday cake, during heritage week. Heritage week is Feb. 13 to 19. The theme is Inviting Canadian to Celebrate "My Canada". Grants are available but need to apply soon.

Internet web site-- Cheque for \$ 34.00 has been written for Pres. John Huston, but not claimed as he has been in South America working.

New Business

Speeding on Springfield Road

Paul Pierron and a group of 4 people are working with the City to slow traffic on Springfield Road. Would like support from RRA. He has a list of suggestions that would slow traffic but they do not sit well with the City. Paul will bring a list of suggestions to the next meeting.

305 Homer Road

Peter harshening mentioned that the development at 305 Homer Road will proceed to 4th reading on April 26 at the council meeting starting at 6 PM. Peter has a reply from the Ombudsperson to his concerns

Meeting adjourned 8.35 PM **Next Meeting May 19, same place, same time.**
Additional information regarding Kelowna Joint Water Committee KJWC

The following is taken from the KJWC web site (<https://www.KJWC.org>)

The KJWC was formed in 1991 to promote standardization of methods and materials, improve communications, and to provide an integrated approach to water supply within the City boundaries. Each member of the KJWC is an autonomous statutory organization with independent decision-making authority derived from the *Community Charter* and the *Local Government Act*. Participation in the KJWC is voluntary.

The on-going objectives of the KJWC include:

Common Standards: Continue to review and develop the servicing standards of all water utilities within the City and maintain standards and a product approval program.

Communication: Continue to provide utility information for beneficial use by City Council, Boards of Trustees and related staff, including the City of Kelowna Planning Departments and stakeholders within the community.

Integrated Water Supply Plan: Prepare a comprehensive, integrated water supply plan to provide the citizens of Kelowna with a safe, reliable and cost effective water supply.

Public Education: Increase education and marketing to the public on the value of water.

Public Safety: Continue promotion and practices for delivering the public a safe water supply.

Maintain Agricultural Interests: Provide a dependable and affordable water supply to the agricultural industry in Kelowna.

Supply Redundancy: Develop a strategy for emergency cross boundary servicing between all purveyors within the City of Kelowna.

Source Water Protection: To maintain, preserve and protect the quality and quantity of all surface and groundwater sources for the City of Kelowna.

Water use efficiency/conservation: Continue to develop an effective water conservation program for the benefit of the community as a whole.

For more information about the Kelowna Integrated Water Supply Plan consult the KLWC web site and these reports

[2012 Kelowna Integrated Water Supply Plan Executive Summary](#)

[2012 MoU - Kelowna Integrated Water Supply Plan - Implementation Plan](#)

[2012 Kelowna Integrated Water Supply Plan](#)

Consult the web sites for your water provider for more information about the history, upgrades to systems, advisories etc. and area served

Glenmore-Ellison Improvement District

<http://www.glenmoreellison.com/>

City of Kelowna

<http://www.kelowna.ca/CM/Page393.aspx>

Black Mountain Irrigation District

<http://www.bmid.ca/>

South East Kelowna Irrigation District

<http://www.sekid.ca/>

Rutland Waterworks District

<http://www.rutlandwaterworks.com/>