



WATER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Open Meeting **MINUTES**

A Water Services Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. PST through a hybrid meeting model.

Quorum was maintained throughout the meeting.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:	Director G. Jackman	Area A	In-Person
	Director R. Tierney	Area B	
	Director K. Vandenberghe	Area C	
	Director A. Watson	Area D	
	Director C. Graham	Area E	
	Director T. Newell	Area F (2025 Committee Chair)	In-Person
	Director H. Cunningham	Area G	
	Director W. Popoff	Area H	
	Director H. Hanegraaf	Area J	In-Person
	Director T. Weatherhead	Area K	
	Councillor D. Dumas	Town of Creston	
STAFF PRESENT:	U. Wolf	GM – Environmental Services	In-Person
	C. Gainham	Utility Services Manager	In-Person
	E. Senyk	Water Services Liaison	In-Person
	E. Clark	Meeting Coordinator	In-Person

1. ZOOM REMOTE MEETING INFO

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote (hybrid model).

Meeting Time:

1:00 p.m. PST

Join by Video:

<https://rdck-bcca.zoom.us/j/94251587997?pwd=lcttqVxsmjwxAZTmptO2CWLt27wCl.1>

Meeting ID: 942 5158 7997

Passcode: 285704

Dial by your location

- 833 955 1088 Canada Toll-free

In-Person Location: RDCK Board Room, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC

2. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Chair Newell called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2.1 Traditional Lands Acknowledgement Statement

We acknowledge and respect the indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

2.2 Adoption of the Agenda

Moved and seconded,
And resolved that:

The Agenda for the April 2, 2025 Water Services Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried

2.3 Receipt of Minutes

The February 12, 2024 Water Services Committee minutes, have been received.

3. WATER CONSUMPTION REPORT

The Committee Report from Chris Gainham, Utility Services Manager providing a high-level summary of the RDCK 2019–2023 Water Consumption Report and highlighting its alignment with the goals and action items identified in the 2019 RDCK Drinking Water Conservation Plan, has been received.

Note: Attachment A of the Committee Report (Staff Presentation) was updated prior to the meeting and will be circulated after the fact.

DIRECTOR Director Popoff left the meeting at 1:55 p.m.
ABSENT

4. CRESTON ALTERNATE WATER SUPPLY FEASIBILITY STUDY

Chris Gainham, Utility Services Manager provided a verbal report on the Creston Alternate Water Supply Feasibility Study. Below is a summary:

- The RDCK commissioned this study to explore a long-term agricultural water supply solution for the Creston Valley, due to capacity constraints and environmental pressures on existing sources—Arrow Creek which is tributary to the Goat River.
- Kootenay River was identified early as the preferred source. The study evaluates its feasibility to reduce pressure on Arrow Creek which has limited ability to provide the required peak demands during irrigation season and support sustainable agriculture amid a changing climate.

- A comprehensive background review and stakeholder engagement process was undertaken. This included meetings with local water purveyors, farmers, provincial ministries, and Yaqaan Nuʔkiy.
- Stakeholder feedback emphasized:
 - Ongoing supply shortages and restrictions, especially in Erickson.
 - Aging infrastructure and governance challenges in several improvement districts.
 - Concern from producers over water costs, reliability, and long-term viability of current supply models.
- Yaqaan Nuʔkiy strongly supports shifting agricultural demand away from the Goat River due to cultural, ecological, and hydrological concerns, including low summer baseflows, aquatic life environmental flow needs and cultural significance.
- The Arrow Creek system is already near peak capacity in summer and cannot support expanded agricultural demand.
- Lister faces a backlog of infrastructure renewal needs and is groundwater sourced with limited ability to expand.
- The study leverages the province's Agricultural Demand model to estimate future water demand under different crop use scenarios (incl higher value crops that have higher water demands than current crop mix) and climate change that are used to estimate ultimate demand from the service areas and infrastructure needs/sizing for 2 planned pump stations, storage and distribution system piping, and proposes a phased (4 phases) multi-million dollar infrastructure plan:
 - Phase 1 – Servicing Erickson
 - Phase 2 – Servicing Lister
 - Phase 3 – Servicing North Canyon, South Canyon and Orde Creek
 - Phase 4 – Servicing Rykerts and Bountiful
- The centralized system is not proposed to replace all existing systems, but to alleviate pressure and offer a reliable agricultural water source where most needed.
- Next steps include seeking out grant funding to support a next study phase that would include further design development and would refine infrastructure concepts, cost, undertake further engagement, and evaluate governance and funding models for implementation.

Staff will present the final report at the next Creston Valley Services Committee in May.

RECESS/ The meeting recessed at 2:19 p.m. for a break and reconvened at 2:30 p.m.
RECONVENE

5. 2025 WATER RATES & PARCEL TAX SUMMARY

Chris Gainham, Utility Services Manager will provide a verbal report on the 2025 Water Rates & Parcel Tax Summary. The Utility Rate Summary Sheet has been received.

6. WATER OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee Report from Alexandra Divlakovski, Water Operations Manager, providing an update and highlighting the larger maintenance and capital projects completed to date in 2024/2025, has been received for information.

7. WATER SYSTEM EXPRESSION OF INTEREST UPDATE

Chris Gainham, Utility Services Manager will provide a verbal update on current Water System Expression of Interests.

The report covered the following:

- Two systems located in Robson/Raspberry & Sunshine Bay have submitted EOIs to date.
- Staff are currently working through the process with them to help move things forward.

8. WATER COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

The following meeting minutes have been received:

8.1 Arrow Creek Water Treatment & Supply Commission: Meeting Minutes, February 10, 2025

8.2 Ymir Water Commission of Management: Meeting Minutes, March 17, 2025

9 CORRESPONDENCE FOR RECEIPT

The following information has been received:

9.1 Interior Health Meeting Minutes: March 13, 2025

10 PUBLIC TIME

The Chair called for questions from the public and members of the media at 2:46 p.m.

11 ADJOURNMENT

Moved and Seconded,
And Resolved:

The February April 2, 2025 Water Services Committee meeting adjourned at

Carried

CERTIFIED CORRECT

APPROVED BY

Director T. Newell

Water Services Committee Chair

April 2, 2025

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS AS ADOPTED AT THE APRIL 2, 2025 WATER SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

No recommendations.