

HAGENSBORG WATERWORKS DISTRICT

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The AGM IS APRIL 23, 2015... WHY SHOULD YOU BE THERE?

Over the course of the pilot project, extensive data has been collected regarding the domestic POE systems including performance, maintenance, and the monitoring needs. This information is starting to paint a realistic assessment of the costs and logistics associated with full implementation of treatment for all homes in Hagensborg.

The new well has undergone further tests, as required by the Vancouver Health Authority (VHA), before a permit would be issued for connection to the distribution system. This is complete and Hagensborg Water District (HWD) awaits the engineered stamp of approval to obtain the permit.

In an effort to reduce maintenance costs, flow meters have been installed on the POE pilot systems reducing the calibration from 10 gallons per second to 2 gallons per second. With the calibration set at 2 gallons per second there are virtually no shutdowns with minor turbidity events, reducing the amount of maintenance and thus the cost.

Accordingly, a more accurate maintenance cost will be available this coming year, which will bring an end to the POE pilot project signaling the time for the community to make a decision regarding water treatment as promised by the HWD when the project was started.

Risk Management – for discussion at the AGM

What is acceptable risk and how should limited tax dollars be spent to achieve water quality improvements and “potability”?

In addition to purification as defined in the *Drinking Water Protection Act* (DPWA) and Regulations, and the scrutiny of the Health Authority, the trustees are mindful of the need for primary service pipeline upgrades and dam/Intake repair.

Compliance to the DPWAs “includes the distribution systems, which means potability must be maintained, in accordance with section 6 of the DPWA, as water travels to system users” (page 1 of the DPWA). The thinking in the Province is evolving and pipeline replacement is now regarded as a critical asset to consider that impacts potability equal in importance to purification. The Ministry of Health Services, in an [Action Plan for Safe Drinking Water in British Columbia, Principals for Protection](#), proposes a number of improvements, Specifically #5 on pg.3 identifying a “proper ... water distribution system”. This means that the service line is part of the overall water treatment system, and it better not leak contaminants into the water supply. Some of HWD primary service line was installed up to 50 years ago and pipeline replacement has been one of the highest priorities of the HWD.

With upgrades and repairs needed for the dam and intake, the trustees, in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, are having discussions to redesign and rebuild the intake.

The Ministry of Health Services best risk management practices (BMPs) include, but are not limited to: implementing an asset management plan where water distribution can be addressed as a priority. In their updated document [Progress on the Acton Plan for Safe Drinking Water in British Columbia \(2011\)](#), this is affirmed on pg. 33 where, “water treatment and distribution are at the heart of providing clean, safe and reliable drinking water to consumers.”

Hagensborg Waterworks District is undertaking an Asset Management Plan that includes primary service pipeline replacement as a critical asset that impacts potability, equal in importance to purification. The development of an Asset Management Plan may very well provide written justification for risk assessment and prioritizing expenses, i.e. replacement of the mainline as a priority vs. implementation of the POE system.

Note: POE and primary service line replacement, among other specific upgrades or replacement projects will come under the term “**compliance**”.

Discussion at the AGM: Next steps. The priority for the HWD was replacement of the primary service pipeline to reduce contaminants from entering the system through leaks, and to improve pressure in the lines for “fire flow”. This work was stopped with the announcement of the *Drinking Water Protection Act* as the trustees began saving the money while seeking an affordable way to comply with regulations. With the Province now acknowledging the importance of pipeline integrity that impacts potable water delivery, equal in importance to purification, the HWD will be engaging discussions with the land owners to establish their priorities. Our discussions will center on whether “monies saved may be better spent on primary service line replacement, and whether consideration of replacement should take precedent at this time”. Having community support for priorities that will be outlined in the Asset Management Plan will help in our discussions with the Province and the Vancouver Health Authority.

Further to this, the Trustees want to have a discussion regarding operational costs that have never been adjusted annually to reflect increases in inflation. To give this some context, the HWD looked back to the official audited numbers in 1987. Commercial liability insurance rates increased 550%, fire phones rates increased 425%, and fuel for heating the fire hall and for the fire truck has increased 400%.

As costs increase, water tolls and/or parcel tax charges need to be adjusted annually to reflect inflationary costs, e.g. current water tolls of \$100 (per house) have not been changed since 1984. Using the inflation rates from Statistics Canada this would mean water toll rates would have been \$236.07 per house in 2015. There are a number of ways to do that without drastically increasing your annual costs.

Trustees desire to bring options for discussion to the community at the AGM and seek their preference for increasing general revenue for operations either as an increase in tolls, an increase in Parcel Tax overall, and/or a reallocation within the existing \$500 parcel tax, which would require an increase in the Parcel Tax for lands without water service. This will be an important topic for discussion at the AGM.

The Trustees also wish to discuss and are seeking ways to address options for payment, including monthly or quarterly billing and/or setting up monthly auto payments with the credit union, with the water users at this AGM.

This is a very full agenda so, the chairing of this AGM on **Thursday April 23 at 7:00 pm** will start on time and be tight to effectively enable meaningful discussions to occur prior to elections. The HWD Trustees wish to thank everyone for their patience as we work through these trying times.

Our challenge, our focus is to provide the highest value of service to you, our landowners, while endeavoring to meet the legal direction the province has required of us, without providing any approved funding for Improvement Districts.

Community members can opt to receive these newsletters & reports via email. If you would prefer to receive your letters electronically, please send your email address to the office at admin@hwwdistrict.ca