

**DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER
COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

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Minutes of the Council Workshop for the District of North Vancouver held at 5:04 p.m. on Tuesday, January 31, 2012 in the Committee Room of the District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, British Columbia.

Present: Mayor R. Walton
Councillor R. Bassam
Councillor R. Hicks
Councillor M. Little
Councillor D. MacKay-Dunn (5:09 pm)

Absent: Councillor L. Muri
Councillor A. Nixon

Staff: Mr. B. Bydwell, General Manager – Planning, Lands & Permits
Mr. G. Joyce, General Manager – Engineering, Parks & Facilities
Mr. L. Carter, Manager – Utilities
Ms. N. Letchford, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Ms. L. Brick, Confidential Council Clerk

1. Opening by the Mayor

Mayor Walton welcomed staff and members of the public to the meeting.

2. 2011 Drinking Water Management Plan
File No. 01.0470.35/019.007

Presentation: Lorn Carter, Manager - Utilities

Mr. Lorn Carter spoke regarding the proposed updates to the Metro Vancouver 2011 Drinking Water Management Plan; Metro Vancouver is seeking Council endorsement for the municipal actions within the plan. The Plan was last amended in 2007 and is aligned with other Metro Vancouver plans and Provincial initiatives. Staff advised that the changes in the plan are not substantive; however, the complete cost and resources required to implement the Plan are unknown but unlikely to be substantial.

Councillor MacKay-Dunn arrived at this point in the meeting.

Mr. Carter reviewed the goals and strategies of the Plan:

Goal 1: Provide Clean, Safe Drinking Water

- Re-assess the need for secondary disinfection;
- Monitor water quality in the municipal distribution system;
- Clean water distribution system;
- Implement, administer, and maintain backflow prevention and cross connection control program. It is anticipated that this initiative will have the most impact on private businesses.

Goal 2: Ensure the Sustainable Use of Water

- Re-assess residential metering and municipal rebate programs for water efficient fixtures;
- Work with businesses on water conservation;
- Deliver education programs promoting behaviour change and sustainable use of water; and,

- Residential water metering has potential for significant impact.

Goal 3: Ensure the Efficient Supply of Water

- Expansion of risk management program regarding replacement of aging infrastructure;
- Leak detection and repair programs;
- Pressure management programs through leakage decrease;
- Further enhance lawn sprinkling regulations to address seasonal and peak day consumption; and,
- Review the policy for watering in interface areas.

Council Discussion:

Council requested staff meet with Council to identify municipal issues for the Metro Vancouver Committees Council members are appointed to. Staff advised they will conduct a survey to identify localized issues and present their findings to Council at a future meeting.

Staff advised that the overall consumption is not increasing; however, there is a fixed cost for infrastructure and maintenance programs which increase the cost of water rates. Council requested a review of the Metro Vancouver costs and how they are set.

Council inquired if any of the regular water quality readings have they ever caused any concern? Staff advised that there has been one incident of a false reading for coli form in the Seymour area.

Council queried if it would be economically advantageous to borrow funds at the current reduced interest rates to accelerate the asbestos cement concrete watermain replacement program? Staff advised that a cost benefit analysis comparison of the benefits and risks of this is difficult to conduct as when an asbestos cement concrete watermain breaks the results are usually catastrophic, however, it is anticipated that the majority of these breaks have already occurred. The life span of an asbestos cement pipe watermain is estimated to be 70 years, in perfect soil conditions. The acidity and rock content of the soil affects this life span.

Council queried if reducing pressure in the system cause breaks? Staff advised that the system changes pressure through the day naturally.

Council expressed concern regarding the residual levels of chlorine in the system could be higher in North Vancouver than at the end of the system in White Rock. Staff advised that residual levels are required to be maintained throughout the system to ensure safety of the water and the levels of chlorination have been lowered since the new treatment plant has come on line, the residual levels are maintained longer in the system.

Councillor MacKay-Dunn left the meeting at 5:50 pm and returned at 5:53 pm.

In summary staff advised they will bring this item forward to the next regular meeting of Council and will address issues which have been raised this evening. Staff will discuss the rate structure issues with the Finance and Audit Committee. Staff will review the District policy regarding community water use, water consumption, sprinkling, enforcement, swimming pool permits, and water metering.

3. Adjournment

The January 31, 2012 Council Workshop was adjourned at 5:57 pm.

