

**DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER
COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

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Minutes of the Council Workshop of the Council for the District of North Vancouver held at 7:02 p.m. on Monday, January 14, 2013 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
Councillor L. Muri
Councillor A. Nixon

Staff: Mr. G. Joyce, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. L. Carter, Manager – Utilities
Mr. J. Gordon, Manager – Administrative Services
Ms. S. Berardo, Confidential Council Clerk

1. Opening by the Mayor

Mayor Walton opened the meeting and welcomed members of the public.

2. 2013 Water Stewardship

File No.

Presentation: Lorn Carter, Manager – Utilities

Mr. Gavin Joyce, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, advised that the purpose of this meeting is to educate Council on water consumption, universal water metering and its alternatives, and water conservation initiatives.

Mr. Lorn Carter, Manager – Utilities, spoke to the PowerPoint presentation on the “District of North Vancouver 2013 Water Stewardship” dated January 14, 2013. The topics covered were:

- What is water stewardship and who has responsibilities for providing potable water;
- Regional municipal water use and how the District of North Vancouver compares;
- Water use versus growth for the District of North Vancouver;
- Current, 2013, and post-2013 potential water conservation initiatives;
- A status update for lower mainland municipal universal water metering;
- A summary of the District of North Vancouver’s water metering infrastructure;
- Actual single family water purchase and sewage handling costs;
- Potential residential water savings due to universal water metering;
- Potential residential sewage savings due to universal water metering;
- Expected current and future cost and savings of a universal water metering program;
- Issues with a universal water metering program;
- Benefits for collecting water meter data for select groups of single family residents; and,
- Alternative programs to reduce water consumption.

Councillor MURI left the meeting at 7:46 pm and returned at 7:48 pm.

Mr. Carter discussed the benefits and disadvantages of universal water metering.

Benefits include:

- Primary tool to address equity;
- Addresses private side leakage; and,
- Excellent system information.

Disadvantages include:

- Average resident will pay more than they currently are;
- Requires a change of habit for residents to achieve success;
- Currently a cost/benefit loser;
- Permanent expensive infrastructure and system; and,
- Causes carbon dioxide footprint to implement.

Mr. Carter summarized the presentation stating:

- Universal water metering provides equity for billing and excellent water use data;
- Universal water metering can save resident-side water leakage;
- Universal water metering is expensive and a cost benefit loser as the average resident will pay more than they are now;
- There are environmental impacts to implement;
- Existing water conservation programs can cost effectively reduce water demand;
- Each toilet replacement can permanently reduce consumption without habit change; and,
- Noise loggers are cost beneficial.

Next steps include:

- Noise Logger pilot program in 2013;
- Single family residence meter pilot to gain key information in 2013;
- Expand toilet replacement program in 2014; and,
- Return to review decision on universal water metering in 2015.

Council questioned how water meters are checked and if this was costly? Staff advised that these meters are meant to be fairly maintenance free.

Council suggested metering residents with pools on their properties. Staff noted that residents with pools are charged a one-time flat rate.

Council questioned if a ten percent water reduction is possible without metering? Staff advised that with programs such as toilet rebates, noise loggers, and educating the public, this is achievable. It was also noted that a ten percent water reduction equates to a savings of \$1.235 million a year.

Council commented on the beneficial effects of using social media as a tool to educate the public.

Council agreed to focus on the toilet rebate program.

Public Input:

Mr. Corrie Kost:

- Noted that universal water metering has an “anti-family” connotation;
- Mentioned that the slope of the pipes may affect the quality of low flush toilets; and,
- Noted that Britain has started to withdraw from water metering.

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Confidential Council Clerk