

Chair's Report – AGM August 3, 2025

Over the past year SSID has dealt with a number of issues both on the operational side and on the personal side.

April 6 2025

The devastating loss of Neil McLean and Darren Claydon due to the terrible accident in April of this year has significantly impacted SSID as well as the Community.

SSID engaged Neil as an Electrical Consultant to provide the District with valuable insight into our Electronic Automation Systems. His guidance allowed the Trustees to make educated decisions on solving our automation issues. Neil was always available to run down to the Pump House to trouble shoot a problem that had arisen day or night. We not only lost a knowledgeable contributor to SSID's well-being, but also a true friend of the Savary Shores Community. Neil and Darren Rest in Peace!

On the Operational side we embarked on a journey that none of us expected:

Upper Tank

- It started with a small project to clean and photograph the exterior of the Upper Tank. The photos showed areas of corrosion on the underside.
- SSID engaged a welder to do thickness testing and provide a report on the degree of degradation. The report indicated corrosion loss of between 25% – 50% on the tank underside.
- As recommended by the welder, remedial work was ordered to treat the most corroded areas with Rust inhibitor and Rust paint.
- Due to the perceived degree of deterioration SSID engaged Water Systems Engineers MSR to provide a feasibility study to recommend options to address the Upper Tank replacement. The five options presented ranged in value from \$500,000 to \$2.5 million.
- Many weeks of consultation with suppliers, engineers and financial institutions made the Trustees realize we had a very large problem to deal with that could not be rectified without a major capital investment.
- Knowing we were in a tenuous situation the Trustees felt they needed to seek a second opinion regarding the condition of the Upper Tank.
- Acuren, a certified tank inspection firm, who has done previous work for SSID on the Lower Tank, was hired to do an in-service inspection of the Upper Tank with recommendations for future tank life. The inspection was completed on June 6-7, 2025. A preliminary report was issued indicating the Upper Tank was in considerably better condition than initially thought and could extend its life significantly with repair and inspections on a five-year cycle. The final report has been delivered, reinforcing the preliminary findings.
- The lesson SSID learned from this experience is that we were not fully prepared to resolve a major incident that fell outside of our Asset Management Schedule.

- We must embark on a more aggressive Reserve Plan to ensure there is sufficient funds available when an emergency befalls us. This initiative will be discussed later in the meeting.

Lithium Battery Upgrade

- Lead Acid Batteries have been up graded to Lithium Ion to provide a more reliable power source for the Thompson Automation system in the pump house.

Generator Noise Issue

- We are actively investigating an electronic solution to automatically initiate the well pumps so we can avoid late night and early morning generator run cycles. The solution needs to be tested to ensure that the electronic float switch activation is not deactivated. More information to come from our consultant.

Valve Chamber Roof

- A new metal roof has been installed on the Tank Farm Valve Chamber.
- GARP Study (Groundwater at Risk of Containing Pathogens)
- The study was initially ordered by VCH to comply with the current desires of the Province to safeguard water supplies. Upon review by the Vancouver Coastal Health DWO officials they placed this request on hold as being too expensive for SSID to initiate in 2025. In that SSID would in all likelihood not pass a GARP Test we have begun the investigation of remedial actions such as notice postings and/or a Chlorine Injection System. Discuss later in meeting.
- Wharf Fire Protection Project
- SSID is no longer directly involved in this project as it was felt our participation created many requirements that were outside the scope of the initial project idea. This project will be moving forward as a SIVFD / qathet RD project.
- SSID contribution to GW Solutions report
- It should be noted that the recent qathet RD Water Study utilized and acknowledged the significant amount of data provided by SSID from our data bases.
- Tetra Tech report: rationale as per SSID letter to qRD.
- SSID authored a letter to the qathet RD in October 2024 pointing out several incorrect statements and data contained in the report. The implications of the report if included in the new OCP would create a major problem for SSID at the systems Tank Farm.

Water Consumption Report

Water consumption for 2024 1,373,784 gallons or 7.9% below 2023.

Water Consumption to June 30, 2025 is running at 12.8% above last year.

In closing

I would like to acknowledge and thank the people that keep this water system running successfully:

Administrator - Janine Reimer

Operator - Kerby Fisher

Meter Reader / General Maintenance – Lisa Jackson

Water Sampler – Karen Cunningham

Trustees: Lee Davis and Brent Brucker