

## **CHAIR'S REPORT 2022**

July 31, 2022

### **SSID HILITES of 2021 / 2022**

SSID addressed everything from hiring new employees , troubleshooting automatic pump cycling, creating a substantial Solar Grant Proposal, implementation of the Fire Hydrant Replacement Project (2 per year) and staying on budget. We have been busy.

#### **Introduction and Thanks**

I will start with a well deserved thank you to fellow Trustees John Revitt and Emer Dubois for their tireless contributions. And our employees Janine Reimer Administrator / Financial Officer who really keeps this organization on track, and Ruth White who continues as our Meter Reader providing water usage and pumping data. Thank you.

#### **Introducing our New Contract Employees**

Kerby Fisher joined SSID in October of 2021 as the SSID Operator. He has worked in the water and wastewater fields for 20 years, mostly at the City of Courtenay as a Water and Wastewater Operator, bringing invaluable experience to SSID, and conveniently has a property on Savary Island.

Jake Banting joined SSID in November of 2021. He is responsible for General Maintenance as well as being our Water Test Sampler. Jake comes to us with 3-plus years of experience as a Maintenance Technician in the private swimming pool industry in Vancouver, performing water sampling and maintenance on pumps and filters.

Neil Mclean joined SSID as our Electronics Consultant at the beginning of 2022. He has been a major contributor in troubleshooting the electronic automation issues we have been experiencing for the past months. Neil also was a member of the SSID team that put together the Solar Grant Proposal.

#### **On a Sad Note**

We have been notified that Sandy Miles passed away on June 29, 2022. Sandy was the SSID Administrator for 23 years prior to Janine assuming that role in 2016.

#### **Solar Grant Proposal**

In March of this year, we received an invitation from qathet Regional District to apply for a Strategic Priorities Fund Grant. The application required the creation of a very detailed cost analysis and design requirement.

The proposal SSID put forward was for a solar powered system that would be comprised of a 40-panel solar array. The concept was to replace this existing storage building with a new 1,000-square foot building that would accommodate the 40-panel solar panel array, and serve as a new maintenance, storage and control centre. Detailed cost analysis covering all aspects of the design, construction, and varied fees totalled \$482,000. A presentation of our proposal was made before the Regional District Finance Committee on May 18, 2022, pointing out the environmental advantages of this project. Diesel generator use would have dropped a minimum of 75 percent, thereby reducing our carbon output by 8.1 tonnes.

SSID was 1 of 3 applicants for grant funds, competing with two Improvement Districts from Texada looking for grants well in excess of \$1,000,000 each. Largely due to the lack of any support from our Area A Representative on the RD Finance Committee, our proposal did not receive a favourable result when it came to the Finance Committee endorsement.

A follow up contact with our federal MP Rachel Blaney, after rejection and unsuccessful bid for the grant by qathet Regional District Finance Committee, has so far met with little support or effective communication. We are hopeful this contact will improve going forward.

The balance of today’s agenda will provide more detail on the items I have touched on.

Bryan Miles, Chair  
Savary Shores Improvement District