



**MINUTES**

**Trustee / Operations Meeting**

4:30 pm September 16, 2024

via Zoom

Present: Chair Bryan Miles, Trustee Lee Davis, Trustee Brent Brucker, Operator Kerby Fisher, Administrator Janine Reimer, Electrical Consultant Neil McLean.

- 1. **Approval of the Agenda** ..... Moved L.Davis, 2nd B.Miles. Carried.
- 2. **Approval of the Minutes**  
Operations Meeting of July 19 ..... Moved L.Davis, 2nd B.Miles. Carried.
- 3. **Operator’s Report**..... K.Fisher

**(a) September 7 chlorination cancelled**

Lower system residents had been advised in advance of the September 7 weekend that the water would be chlorinated if results of the water retest continued to show background colonies after flushing at the 3 lower system sample stations. It turned out that the samples showed no background colonies, so the September 7 chlorination was cancelled.

**(b) Air bubbles and ARVs**

The operator reported occurrences of bubbles in upper system water, and suggested possible causes and solutions. As part of the air release valve replacement project, the operator would replace the upper system valve at the corner of Blair and Arbutus roads, flush water through hydrants-1 and -2, and observe over time whether the valve replacement addresses the bubbles. The other 2 ARVs were also scheduled for replacement this fall.

**(c) Float switch lines lengthened**

The operator had lengthened both float switch lines by approximately 6 inches in an effort to reduce excessive generator starts that could shorten the life of the starter and/or whole generator. At the July 19 meeting, approval of float adjustments had been postponed, but the operator later had an opportunity and approval to make the adjustments. A cursory review of the Thomson controller’s event data since the lines were lengthened showed less-frequent tank refills, and longer refill times, as would be expected. The operator suggested that float lines not be further adjusted until after review of the lithium batteries effect on charging frequency over the winter.

**(d) Generator-1 fails, service**

There had been 3 generator-1 “failed to start” calls on July 19, Sept 15, Sept 16. Trustee Chair Miles had attended troubleshooting with the electrical consultant. They reported that generator-1 would attempt to start three times, then lock out, but could be restarted by turning off the automatic start, and manually priming the pump. The problem was determined to be the primer pump.

.....Administrator to order 2 more primer pumps for immediate delivery

The 3,000-hour advanced service for generator-1 had been postponed to the fall, and would be done by Lund Marine in the fall. The operator said another option for advanced service is Total Power.

**(e) Meeting SIVFD re blowoffs**

The operator said he had met with Savary Island Fire Department members Chief Chris Philpott and Doug Corbett on August 27 at the blowoff (standpipe) at Campbell Way to review access and operation for firefighting purposes. The operator had reviewed with them his proposed two options for simplifying the use and safety of the blowoffs.

The operator suggested to the trustees one option in which the 4 blowoff chambers could be filled with dirt, with an on/off valve installed near the surface, and the cement lids repurposed as ARV chamber lids. He also suggested an option of permanently affixing a long curbstop key, accessible at the surface. The operator’s preference was the buried option.

Trustee Davis addressed this as a SIVFD First Responder, as she had practiced accessing and operating the Campbell Way blowoff. She recommended the buried option, for easier use by the fire department. The trustees agreed.

The operator suggested an early spring 2025 schedule to fill the blowoff chambers and move the lids to the ARV chambers. He said the work would require a machine, and might take about 6 hours.  
..... Operator to schedule blowoff changes for early 2025

**(g) Lower tank pressure test for upper system**

The lower tank water pressure would be tested for use in the upper system in the fall.  
..... Operator to schedule

**(h) White board projects**

The operator gave an overview of his task management, as outlined on the whiteboard shown onscreen.

**4. Electrical..... N.McLean**

**(a) Batteries to charge Thomson**

The consultant’s research had been stalled due to difficulty in finding local availability of suitable lithium batteries and charger. He suggested a few different potential suppliers. The trustees said they supported Neil in whatever direction he should decide. The operator asked that we aim for installation before the winter.

**(b) Call-in number to override Thomson**

The consultant had been asked to discuss how the fire dept might gain access to water if the generators were programmed to stay off at night. The scenario would involve programming that enabled a telephone activated override. The topic was tabled so as to first see how much the planned lithium batteries would reduce night starts of the generator.

.....Administrator to add as agenda item after lithium battery installation and review

**5. Studies..... J.Reimer**

**(a) SSID data to qRD water study, August 23**

The administrator updated the trustees on water data that had been provided to GW Solutions for their water study underway commissioned by the qathet Regional District. GW Solutions had asked for access to the wells to test water level and temperature. The operator advised against it, because of the risk of contamination, and the trustees agreed.

**(b) Groundwater At Risk of Pathogens**

The administrator restated the Drinking Water Officer’s June 28 annual report of the water system indicating a hazard rating of “low risk” of pathogens, and directing SSID to “consider further GARP determination as per provincial guideline.” The report states 3 GARP risk factors, the first being an error as to well-1 having no surface seal. The well is in fact sealed, as per 2018 video proof emailed to Drinking Water Officer following his report. The other 2 risk factors of the wells are stated as: “located in an unconfined aquifer” and “located within 300m of a probable source of enteric viral contamination (many sewerage systems and uncharacterized viral transport time).” This last point is a reference to viruses that can travel from septic systems toward the wellheads.

**(c) Feasibility Study of Upper Tank, 2025**

The administrator had not yet completed her review of Scope-of-Work details, and advised that the budget for this project was now designated to 2025.

**6. Task List..... J.Reimer**

The administrator advised that contractor Travis Ontkean would complete the Valve chamber tin roof and drain box cladding in October as planned.

**7. Next meeting ..... TBD**

**8. Adjournment.....5:45 pm B.Miles**