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Newsletter

Water Supply Association Of British Columbia

April 2021
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Founded in 1923 to represent the interests of B.C.'s public and irrigation water suppliers and their customers

WSABC MEMBERSHIP NEWS

2021 SPRING WORKSHOP

Please join us for our Spring Workshop that will be held via ZOOM teleconference on Friday, April 9, 2021. The meeting is scheduled to start at 8:30 a.m. and will utilize a variety of formats to inform our membership on a current water supply issues.

There will be interactive questions and answers, and polling of the attendees on their perceptions on public and regulatory issues. In addition, we have numerous presentations, a bursary award to a deserving Water Engineering Technology (WET) student from Okanagan College, service awards to retired industry persons, and updates from our regulators.

Members are asked to register on-line to attend so that appropriate meeting information and the web-link can be circulated to them prior to the video conference. The Eventbrite link is on our [website](#).

The entire WET class will be attending as will students from the UBCO. Please consider sponsoring a student to attend (\$25.00). They are in the early stages of a career and support from the greater membership demonstrates the community values need for public water supply.

WSABC DIRECTORS

At the recent AGM, Directors Shawn Grundy and David Reid were re-elected by acclamation. In addition, we welcome Kevin Trottier from the Regional District of Central Okanagan. We have a full slate of Directors for this year. Our fiscal year runs from Sept. 1 to Aug 31.

Director List (2020-21)

- Cheryl Halla—Keremeos & Kaleden
- Shawn Grundy—District of Peachland
- Rob Hillis—City of West Kelowna
- Rod MacLean—City of Kelowna
- Dawn Williams—GEID
- Zee Marcolin— Greater Vernon Water
- David Reid— School District 51
- Chris Cochrane—Town of Golden
- Kevin Trottier— RD of Central Okanagan
- Patti Meger - Lake Country
- Bob Hrasko - Black Mountain I.D.

PERMANENT CHANGES DUE TO THE COVID PANDEMIC?

BC water suppliers have been fortunate in that the majority of the essential service work that we provide can be carried out with limited interaction with our customers. This has led to many utilities being able to survive and maintain healthy staffing through the past 12 months. With employees erring on the side of caution and staying home at the first sign of illness, some utilities have even seen a reduction in staff sick time.

There is fatigue in society from the pandemic and with the new COVID variants, the recent numbers for infections and illness are again increasing. Some of the public is questioning the directions by Health officials, fortunately however, the majority of the public follows the rules.

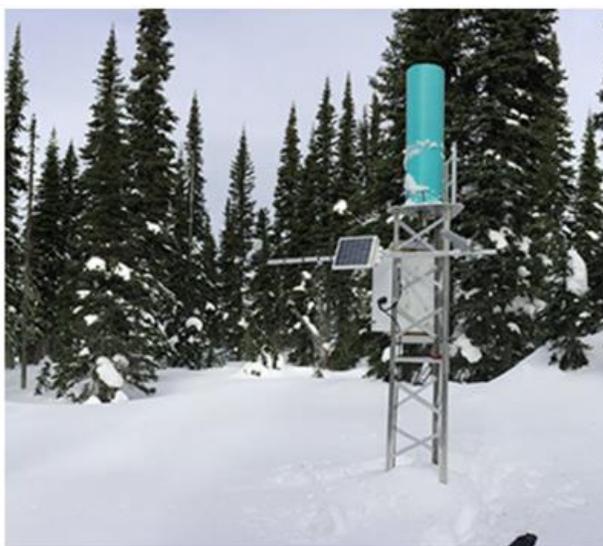
At water utility offices, most have plexiglass at the front counters, handwashing is more frequent, it is now socially unacceptable to cough freely anywhere, it is law that the public has to check-in in order to enter premises, and most have all gone on a crash course of understanding how to video conference on a number of software platforms, (Skype, Zoom, Teams). Most of these practices will likely continue after this pandemic has run its course. The WSABC anticipates being able to provide video conference links for future water conferences. This will hopefully widen our membership base and reduce attendance costs, particularly for smaller water utilities.

Perhaps the largest impact of the COVID pandemic will be a new appreciation for in-person meetings. It is human-nature to value things more once they are no longer available.

DLC SNOW PILLOW INFORMATION

Throughout 2020, the District of Lake Country worked with the Snow Survey Program Coordinator from the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. Last fall an automated weather station was installed adjacent to the Oyama Lake manual snow course. The newly installed automated weather station transmits hourly data via satellite and records relative humidity, ambient temperature, snow depth, and snow water equivalents. This real time data is collected and tracked by the Province and can now be accessed online. The data is used to help determine water availability in that specific area of the watershed, and can help project potential flooding issues the District may face during spring freshet.

Verifying the collected data from the automated weather station will take approximately three years. Once data is validated the manual process which dates back to 1969, can be phased out. Implementation of the automated weather station will reduce the need for District staff to travel to the upper elevation watershed during winter months, reducing safety concerns. The technology is not new as automated weather stations are already being used in the region. Mission Creek, Brenda Mines and SilverStar have implemented similar technology.



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WSABC—WEBSITE LINKS

This column is dedicated to providing our membership with a range of useful resource links.

Water Supply Association of BC [Link](#)

BC Water and Wastewater Association [Link](#)

BC Real Time Streamflow: [Link](#)

BC Snow Pillow Network— Interactive map: [Link](#)

OBWB—Okanagan Water Library: [Link](#)

OBWB—Okanagan Flood Story: [Link](#)

OBWB—Source Water Protection [Link](#)

MOE Water Library—ECOCAT [Link](#)

COVID Sites

BC Centre for Disease Control [Link](#)

Provincial Government Best Information [Link](#)

Self Assessment [Link](#)

SPRING WORKSHOP TOPICS

Friday April 9, 2021 8:30 am-3:30 pm

Spring Runoff Forecasts (Shaun Reimer)
Shaun will start off our day with the hydrometric conditions for the BC Southern Interior

Source Protection Toolkit (Kellie Garcia & Heather Larratt). This session will introduce the work carried out by a committee of many water utility representatives in the Southern Interior

Lead in Drinking Water (Laith Furatain)
Laith will provide an overview of what utilities need to know in regarding to possible lead found in drinking water supplies;

UV Start-up and Commissioning (Kiel Wilkie) Lake Country recently started up their UV system for the large water supply from Okanagan Lake. Project details and issues during start up will be provided.

Ministry of Health Guideline Documents (Stephen Horsman) The Province has draft guideline documents issues on UV disinfection, Pathogenic Log Reduction Credits and for Design Guidelines for Drinking water systems in BC. Stephen's presentation will provide an overview of the work completed to date, and the input requirements from utilities.

Groundwater Licensing Update (Jeff Nitychoruk, FLNRORD) Jeff will provide an update on the current status and Provincial approach in assessing groundwater licensing applications.

Ministry of Health—Requested Feedback

During the pandemic, the Ministry of Health has been active in developing new Province-wide guidelines for a number of water system issues. The Ministry of Health has issued Draft documents for the following issues:

"Guidelines for Ultraviolet Light Disinfection in Drinking Water (Feb 2021)"

"Guidelines for Pathogen Log Reduction Credit Assignment (Feb. 2021)"

"Design Guidelines for Drinking Water systems in British Columbia (Mar. 2021)"

The Province is looking for comments back from the utilities and the associations by April 12, 2021 and there will be presentations on these topics at the Spring Workshop.

The Province is not quite as advanced but is developing two other guideline documents:

"Emergency Response and Contingency Plan Guidelines"

"Water Users Communication Guidelines"



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT - POTABLE BULK WATER STATION—GOLDEN



The Town of Golden now has a commissioned, pay-for-use, Potable Bulk Water Station thanks to a successful partnership with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI). As many in the province may be aware, the MoTI has recently awarded another phase of the Trans-Canada Highway (TCH) Project, referred to as Phase 4 of the Kicking Horse Canyon Project. The project will see four-laning of the Kicking Horse Canyon section of the TCH just east of Golden.

Work is expected to commence in earnest in spring 2021 and last about three years. The Highway project provided the impetus for construction of a potable bulk water filling station in Golden, as several regional district residents that are currently users of a water source point on Dart Creek will have their access cut-off during highway construction for the project duration.

The MoTI approached the Town in spring 2019 regarding possible solutions for the disruption in creek access that would arise during TCH construction. Golden had previously been interested in a potable water loading facility for broad pay-for-use service.

A partnership agreement was struck in spring 2020, and design work quickly ensued and a construction contract was established in summer 2020 for procurement and installation of a Flowpoint pre-fabricated bulk water filling station at the Golden Public Works facility. By October, 2020 the station was commissioned and served the first customer in December.

The station has two available fill ports depending on customer need, is equipped with industry standard metering and backflow prevention devices, and is tied into the town's SCADA monitoring network. Water is available by application and deposit wherein a key chain fob is issued for the customer to access water and draw down account credit.

(contributed by Chris Cochrane)

"The earth, the air, the land, and the water are not an inheritance from our forefathers but on loan from our children. So we have to handover to them at least as it was handed over to us." – Gandhi