



*In a continuing effort to provide information to our users, here is the latest newsletter. Please let us know what we can do to improve it.*

### **Community Engagement**

I would like to give a shout out to Dan Flynn who joined MBWD Board of Trustees at the last AGM and accepted the task of managing Board communications with our community. Dan's experience during his long-term service to the Canadian Armed Forces has proven invaluable to our organization as we navigate through the challenges of providing timely and transparent information to our Mill Bay residents.

Recent initiatives have included this MBWD newsletter with bi-monthly updates, improvements to our website providing links to important information, maps, and a community chat function.

Thank you, Dan.

Our Website has now been updated to include maps of our aquifers, proposed developments, and a discussion post. Please feel free to comment on additional suggestions and Dan will attempt to accommodate.

We've decided to contract a new meeting venue with Brentwood college to provide a larger and more modern space for our community to participate. Please join us for our Monthly Trustee meetings to hear and be heard on the important issues we face. Check our website for directions to the location. We look forward to seeing you there.

### **Water Restrictions**

Much has been said lately regarding MBWD policy on setting water restrictions. During past years, the decision to increase or decrease Mill Bay water restrictions were determined by the stage rate setting by the CVRD which is typically one level lower than the Provincial drought level rating. For example, when the Provincial drought level was elevated to stage 3, the CVRD would set their water restriction at stage 2, regardless of the availability of water to individual purveyors. MBWD, in the past, automatically followed the CVRD Stage setting regardless of our water availability or system fitness and conditioning.

This year, our Board of Trustees decided to set our stage restriction levels by following our MBWD Bylaw No. 276 (Water Distribution Regulation) Schedule “A” which states,

“Water Conservation Levels are determined through analysis of well levels, demand, precipitation, drought conditions, weather conditions, weather forecasts and other information deemed relevant to water supply, in order to ensure adequate water supply to district ratepayers, and to enable compliance with all water licence conditions and applicable regulations and legislation.”

Our current restriction levels are based on our ‘bylaws’ which consider our mechanical delivery system fitness, our aquifer regeneration, and our commitment to the environment. Our Trustees also factored in the potential cost of lost revenue to MBWD and those impacts to our residents.

Our MBWD policy, which came with much debate both inside and outside of our Board, is a business decision based on our fiduciary and governance duties as Trustees to our customers.

### **Conversion to the Regional Municipality**

Our talks with the CVRD and the Provincial Government continue in the discovery phase to determine the implications of conversion.

### **Contracts**

MBWD continues to review our vendor contracts, with the guidance and council of our legal advisor Lawson Lundell LLP., to determine the prudent path forward to deal with the challenges of our business needs, including consideration of the multiple developments being proposed.

### **Practices, Policies and Procedures**

We have implemented a health, safety, and environmental (HSE) policy and a code of conduct (CoC) policy as per the Provincial requirements and have committed to ongoing review for compliance. Several additional policies have been presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration.

### **Environmental Public Health**

New to this newsletter will be a report update from our Health Officer / Drinking Water Officer

The Ministry of Health released the Guidance Document for Determining Groundwater at Risk of Containing Pathogens (GARP) – Version 3 in September 2017. As the drinking water officers have been conducting routine inspections of the water supply systems, they have been applying the guidelines to those systems. Well log data, lithology and aquifer data, chemical analyses, and overall features of the surrounding area considered in conducting the screenings and assessments.

The Ministry of Health's Drinking Water Treatment Objectives (Microbiological) for Ground Water Supplies in BC, state that ground water wells that are at risk of pathogens from multiple sources require treatment equivalent to surface water. The Surface Water Treatment Objectives reflect the need for additional treatment methods beyond a single disinfectant for surface water (or groundwater at risk of containing pathogens), (GARP), to ensure that the water being supplied to the water users is safe to drink and free of pathogens. These drinking water treatment objectives provide a minimum performance target for water suppliers to produce microbiologically safe drinking water.

Early indications suggest the MBWD system may require upgraded controls to our system in order to meet the safe drinking water requirements from the Ministry of Health. Issuance of the report by our Environmental Health Officer, as expected in the coming months, will be shared with our customers. The plan to enact measures to bring MBWD into full compliance will take precedence over all other activities including added services to proposed developments.

***The provision of the safe and sustainable drinking water currently available to you, our customers, will always be our number one priority, above all others, for this Board of Trustees.***

### **Engineering and Asset Condition**

Since our last update we have not experienced any breaks or damage to our underground pipeline system, and we've not had cause for concern for our asbestos concrete (AC) sections of pipeline.

We've provided redundancy to our chlorine injection system by installation of secondary or backup pumps at the last two locations in our system.

We've provided a much-needed means of secured access to the roof of our reservoirs which will enable inspection by our Chief Operator.

We have, for the first time, initiated a hydrant maintenance program for our fire hydrants by testing, inspecting, and repairing where required. We are very pleased to announce all of our 113 hydrants in Mill Bay have now been serviced and are now in proper working order. However, 16 of the 113 hydrants will require further servicing due to their stiff operation. We have instituted a new policy to continue annual inspection and maintenance in the future.

As recently reported by our hydrologist engineering team and our MBWD operations team, our water system, including the health of our aquifers and mechanical fitness of our facilities, is in a stable state and fully capable of supplying service to the community.

## **Well Monitoring by Western Water Associates Ltd.**

Mill Bay Waterworks District (MBWD) applied for four new groundwater licences to divert water from five new bedrock source wells. MBWD was the co-applicant for three of the licences along with local residential property developers including Mill Springs Village, Stonebridge Properties and Malahat Properties. As a condition of the Province's groundwater licence, Western Water Associates Ltd. (WWAL) is developing a groundwater monitoring plan and assisting in the development of an operational plan for the new bedrock source wells.

To develop the monitoring plan, WWAL has compiled and consolidated existing available information to target the monitoring locations and discern and address any gaps in our knowledge. These data were collected from: WWAL's previous hydrogeological studies completed in the study area, the current groundwater monitoring program, available consultant's reports, the Province's GWELLS database, and Provincial mapping of aquifers, groundwater vulnerability and sea water intrusion risk of the region. Spatial data compilation has been facilitated through a Geographic Information System (GIS) to create a series of mapping layers. WWAL has met with the developer's and MBWD's civil engineering consultant to gather the proposed water demands for the respective developments. The proposed demands have been used to calculate the expected radius of pumping influence from the new bedrock wells. The next steps in developing the plan include identifying locations for dedicated monitoring wells. WWAL will develop a list of criteria and characterize and rank area wells for monitoring suitability (e.g., location, depth of well and fractures, use, construction, and accessibility). Ultimately, the selected monitoring wells will be equipped with datalogger transducers to collect continuous water level data.

## **Development**

MBWD continues to work with developers, with the Stonebridge development at the forefront. This project has the possibility of doubling the number of our service connections.

Before any new development may proceed, MBWD must first ensure compliance to Ministry of Health standards for our current system, develop and approve a feasibility study which must be preceded by the Well monitoring program by Western Water Associates Ltd., a MBWD Works Plan, a Strategic Plan, and a thorough risk assessment, all of which are yet to be completed. We will provide updates on the schedule of these activities and report them to our current users as available.

## **Employees**

MBWD has contracted the services of Vertical Bridge to assist the Board of Trustees in defining the roles and responsibilities of our District Manager and staff personnel. This exercise was necessary to align organizational function and set expectations for the duties of our management and workforce that operate and maintain our facilities.

Gary Orton  
MBWD Board Chair