



PIID Water Trustee's AGM Report 2019

BC Water and Waste Association Convention

Bob Crooks, Colin Robertson and I recently attended the trade show floor of the BCWWA Annual Convention in Victoria. It reinforced for me that old adage about “the more you know, the more you realize there is to learn”. It is imperative that the Water Trustee has a Water Team that is mindful, not only of water quality, but also of the level of maintenance and capability of the system as a whole. This is of course, the motivator for replacing the water tank at this time. We saw an array of products designed to make the role of operation and maintenance of our whole system more reliable and predictable and that will make the job of the Water Team just a little less onerous. It will be a positive move to be investing in up-to-date technology.

Volunteer Efforts

Those who know me will recall that I am not a great sleeper. Last night in the small wee hours of the night I awoke thinking in a panic how important it is that Piers Island have such a dedicated and knowledgeable team of volunteers! Join me in acknowledging their efforts on our behalf and for expressing our deep gratitude for their time and dedication. These folks just plug along on a daily basis undertaking activities without which our supply of world class water would be compromised.

Please allow me to acknowledge those landowners who contribute to our water system: Ming Huey Chang, Bob Crooks, Maureen Crooks, John Hall, Bill Jordan, Mary Jordan, Phil Macoun, Lloyd Phillips, Colin Robertson, Cam Russell, Katie Steenman, Philippa White, and Ander Wynne-Edwards.

Water Quality Results

You may recall a few years ago we actually had some water quality issues on Piers Island. Those issues were a result of low chlorine levels received from North Saanich and through our underwater lines. The problems in the CRD water system that contributed to those issues seem to be completely resolved. We are now receiving consistent and reasonable chlorine levels. Piers Island has had no water quality issues this year. Thanks to our volunteer water operators for conducting the necessary tests to monitor that fact.

Maintenance Plan

This year's maintenance focus will be on rationalizing, sorting and cataloging the water department supply of parts and materials. The storage shed located behind the lower reservoir will be cleaned out, the walls sheeted, storage shelves installed, and access improved. Materials will be re-located from pump house #s 1 and 2, landowners' properties and the old firehall.

Water Tank Replacement Project

The water Tank Replacement Project has entered the next phase. We have retained Stantec Engineering and are now ready to embark upon the process of developing a Tender Proposal document and a cost estimate for the project. Within the next few weeks we will identify the location of all underground services on site and will expose to bedrock the area identified as being geotechnically sound for locating the new tank. It is looking very likely that we will be purchasing a “glass lined, bolted steel water tank”. This tank type is very typical of the choices pursued by many other Gulf Island locations. One major advantage of such a tank is the on-site assembly eliminating some major transport issues.

Ease of operation and reliability are major drivers in any Piers Island system that is run by volunteers. That, of course, was a great motivator for undertaking the Water Tank Replacement Project. Once that project is complete, the one final piece for a very reliable system will be to upgrade and standardize our service entrance facilities including the curb stop valve, meter, back-flow preventer and owner shut off. It will be our plan in the

two or three years after the Water Tank Replacement Project is complete, to upgrade all of this infrastructure. This is not a volunteer project and I will be working with the Water Team to determine the requirements and develop a budget for this final project.

I remain confident that we are on the right track in upgrading our water system to meet our future needs. Thank you for your continued support.

PIID Water Trustee
Charlie Troger