



PIID Water Trustee's Report

November 2019

Let me recognize the important volunteers that continue to support the provision of world class water on Piers Island. This group continues to amaze me in their dedication to a completely volunteer, largely thankless task.

My sincere thanks to:

Bob Crooks, Maureen Crooks, Ming Huey Chang, Mary Jordan, Phil Macoun, Lloyd Phillips, Cam Russell, Colin Robertson, Katie Steenman, Conrad vander Kamp, Velvet Warrior, Philippa White and Ander Wynne-Edwards. As a show of appreciation for the efforts of the team, I took them out for an annual appreciation lunch today. A small token in acknowledgement of a large effort.

Qualified Water Operators

We are fortunate to have on our team people willing to accumulate the necessary number of working experience hours, take the two-day Water Operators' course, and follow that up with a certification exam. Add to that number, Katie Steenman, who, despite her busy schedule, managed to take the course in early November and is sitting the certification exam in mid-December. Thank you, Katie!

Water Quality and Testing Update

The water operators are able to report continuing excellent lab test results. We were very careful to sanitize spare parts installed during our recent waterline break and keep dirty water from entering the line during the repair. The additional testing completed shortly thereafter showed no negative results. Details of regular test results are stored and available to any landowner.

Recent Activities

- 2019, meter reading completed.
- Water team information and education meeting. We reviewed the recent water line break, described how invaluable our parts kit is (thanks to Bob Crooks) and also visited the pump houses to review the emergency generator procedures for each location.
- Underwater lines to North Saanich flushed.
- Replaced plastic receptacles in pump house 2 with ceramic receptacles.

Upcoming/ongoing Projects

- I still haven't installed the no anchoring signs and can now no longer blame this on nesting purple martens!
- Clean out of pump house 3, behind reservoir. This will give room for the team to store repair kits and spare parts. Underway with good progress to report.
- Installation of new emergency generator at pump house 2 is underway.
- Editing water system documentation including system descriptions, governance, operational procedures and emergency procedures is underway.
- Upgrading of individual landowner service entrance facilities will be tackled after the water tank installation is complete.


Routine Maintenance Procedures

- Weekly water tests.
- Underwater line testing.
- Visual inspection of tank and pumphouses.
- Emergency generator maintenance.
- Service air valves.

Emergency Generator Installation – Pump House 2

Early this year, during a major snowfall, we became aware of the shortcomings of our emergency standby generator. The system would only run for a short period of time without re-fueling and did not adequately power the required circuits in the pump house. Without these systems, we lose the ability to chlorinate our water as required. Help is on the way! We have installed a new propane-powered generator complete with four 40-pound propane tanks. We are now awaiting the completion of the electrical work required. The work is scheduled to be completed prior to the winter storm season.



See the picture of the new 6500-watt 110 / 220-volt dual fuel (propane and gas) generator, and four 40-pound propane cylinders. 

Water tank replacement project

The trustees are approving the Select Committee and Stantec Consulting’s recommendation to proceed with the installation of a 50,000-gallon, bolted steel, glass lined water tank. The trustees are also approving the recommendation that we proceed with this project in 2020. Our progress to this date has been immeasurably aided by the assistance of the Water Select Committee. Thank you to the members of the team: Bob Crooks, John Hall, Bill Jordan, Colin Robertson and Ander Wynne-Edwards.

We are disbanding the Water Select Committee, its work being complete, and replacing it with a Water Tank Installation Support Select Committee that will assist the trustees, Stantec Consulting and the successful water tank installer. My thanks to the above-mentioned volunteers for agreeing to continue to assist Piers Islanders in the efficient, cost-effective installation of our new water tank.

We will now be focussed on reviewing and editing tender documents and, once a vendor is chosen, we will be working with them to assure the efficient and cost-effective installation of the new water system.

As we approach the installation date of our new water tank, we will be completing a number of small projects intended to make the project proceed more smoothly.

I mentioned in earlier correspondence that I have applied for a grant to help off-set some of the capital costs of the water tank installation. I have a good news/bad news story to report. I received word from the CRD today that our grant application for \$73,000 exceeds the amount that can be granted to a single applicant by \$23,000. They asked me to modify my ask to \$50,000 in order to be compliant. I can, however, report that we appear to have strong support for the application and there is a reasonable likelihood of approval. I will let you all know as soon as I receive word whether the application has been approved.

Submitted by:
 Charlie Troger
 PIID Water Trustee