



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

ERICKSON WATER SERVICE

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DISCUSSION NOTES

Time: 10:00 am PST / 11:00 am MST
Date: Friday, December 5, 2025
Location: Hybrid Model – Zoom & In-Person at Erickson Room, Creston & District Community Complex, 312 19 Ave N, Creston

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://rdck-bc-ca.zoom.us/j/95459226303?pwd=sijwdxOlvJKn6KjK627GdX2Fl0f0Ku.1>

Meeting ID: 954 5922 6303

Passcode: 762214

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee Member Low
Committee Member Quinn
Committee Member Beaudry
Committee Member Armour
Committee Member Harringa
Director R. Tierney & Electoral Area B (ex-officio)
Director K. Vandenbergh, Electoral Area C (ex-officio)

STAFF

Uli Wolf	GM of Environmental Services
Chris Gainham	Utility Services Manager
Alex Divlakovski	Water Operations Manager

- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- 2. CAC MEMBER QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION**
- 3. STAFF REPORTS**

3.1 Operations and Maintenance Update

- Replaced four service lines crossing Hwy 3 and their respective curb stops valves. Installed tandem meter/DCVA pits at the 3 commercial properties during excavation.
- Continuing to locate service valves for properties included in the Phase 1 Universal Metering Project.
- Repaired and replaced parts for water main blow off on Hwy 3 as the old steel line had crumbled.
- Replaced the service valves off the main for Second Hand Heaven and Skimmerhorn Motel and replaced old steel service line (2 leaks when exposed) with new municipal poly on the road crossing for the Skimmerhorn Motel.

3.2 Capital Works Update

- Erickson Road (from train tracks west to Morris Flowers) watermain replacement project and PRV station installation have been completed. This replaced 260m of 2" non-standard, 150psi rated PVC line under high pressure with new 4" HDPE. The PRV station reduced pressures from >110psi to ~80psi. Five meter pits were installed as part of the project under Phase 1 of the metering program.
- Phase 2 Universal Metering procurement completed, RFP for installation to be posted early 2026.
- Phase 1 Universal Metering installation for all new tandem meter/pits is 75% completed.

3.3 Future Capital Projects

- Design for replacing 200mm AC transmission main currently located on private property with 200mm PVC within a statutory right-of-way.
- Phase 2 Universal Metering installation in summer/fall of 2026.
- Remaining Phase 1 installation to be completed early in 2026.

Staff provided an overview of recent and ongoing distribution system work, including the completion of a high-pressure zone upgrade on Erickson Road. This work involved installation of a new pressure reducing valve (PRV) station and replacement of a short section of non-standard, low-pressure PVC pipe that had a significant break history and posed a high risk of catastrophic failure. The replaced segment was approximately 260 m in length and services multiple properties, including agricultural and commercial users.

Staff noted that construction was challenging due to narrow road right-of-way, congestion with other utilities, historic infrastructure not shown on record drawings, and the need to minimize impacts to private property features. Discussions with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) are ongoing regarding unrecorded infrastructure encountered during construction and limitations on work within highway right-of-way.

Staff confirmed that irrigation allocation standards remain unchanged at 4.5 gallons per minute per acre, and that meter sizing and pressure losses have been accounted for to ensure properties can continue to access their permitted irrigation volumes.

Staff provided total water production figures from Arrow Creek to the end of October, including volumes supplied to the Town of Creston and to Erickson. CAC members requested that annual system production and distribution figures be summarized and shared for context in future discussions.

CAC members raised questions regarding the extent, condition, and long-term replacement costs associated with asbestos-cement (AC) pipe in the Erickson system.

Staff outlined the RDCK asset management approach, noting that:

AC pipe typically has a shorter service life than modern materials.

Replacement (rather than lining) is generally the industry-standard approach for small-diameter AC water mains.

Trenchless lining of AC water mains (and especially small mains) is uncommon and, based on preliminary cost screening, may exceed the cost of replacement.

RDCK policy allows for leaving AC pipe in place under specific circumstances (e.g., where removal costs are disproportionate), but this creates long-term legacy liabilities.

Staff agreed to provide additional background information on AC pipe management policies and assumptions used in the asset management plan

A discussion was held regarding the Goat River Bridge watermain and the number of properties serviced on the far side of the bridge. CAC members suggested exploring alternative servicing arrangements, including potential connection to the North Canyon system, subject to further technical, financial, and governance review. Staff noted that any servicing realignment would require significant analysis, bylaw changes, and public assent.

Staff committed to providing the following information to the CAC following the meeting:

- A comparative overview of Erickson water rates relative to similar systems
- A system map showing major infrastructure and planned capital projects (at an appropriate level of detail)
- Annual water production and distribution summaries
- Clarification on trailer park billing and per-unit water charges
- Background information on AC pipe management policies and asset management assumptions

4. 2026-2030 DRAFT FINANCIAL PLAN

The DRAFT 2026-2030 Financial Plan for Service S250 Water Utility-Area B & C (Erickson) is provided.

Clarification of administrative, project management, and environmental services cost allocations across RDCK water systems.

CAC members requested clarification on year-to-date versus budgeted operating variances and how unspent funds are managed at year-end. Staff confirmed that operating surpluses carry forward and are reflected in subsequent financial planning, while unspent capital funds remain available for their intended purpose.

5. NEXT ASSEMBLY

The next assembly of Erickson Water Services Community Advisory Committee will be scheduled in accordance with Section of 9 (1) of the RDCK Drainage, Water and Wastewater System Community Advisory Committee Bylaw No. 2858