



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

WATER SERVICES COMMITTEE OPEN MEETING MINUTES

A Water Services Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, August 5, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. PST through a hybrid meeting model.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Director G. Jackman	Area A	In-Person
Director R. Tierney	Area B	In-Person
Director K. Vandenberghe	Area C	
Director A. Watson	Area D	
Director C. Graham	Area E	
Director T. Newell	Area F (2026 Committee Chair)	In-Person
Director H. Cunningham	Area G	In-Person
Director W. Popoff	Area H	In-Person
Director H. Hanegraaf	Area J	
Director T. Weatherhead	Area K	In-Person
Councillor D. Dumas	Town of Creston	

STAFF

U. Wolf	General Manager of Environmental Services
C. Gainham	Utility Services Manager
E. Clark	Meeting Coordinator

11 out of 11 voting Commission/Committee members were present – quorum was met.

1. ZOOM REMOTE MEETING INFO

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote (hybrid model).

Join by Video:

<https://rdck-bcca.zoom.us/j/94251587997?pwd=lcttgVxsmjwxAZTmptO2CWLt27wICl.1>

Join by Phone:

833 955 1088 Canada Toll-free

Meeting ID: 942 5158 7997

Passcode: 285704

In-Person Location: RDCK Boardroom, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson BC

2. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Newell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2.1 TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

2.2 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and seconded,
And Resolved:

The Agenda for the August 5, 2026 Water Services Committee meeting, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

2.3 RECEIPT OF MINUTES

The April 1, 2026 Water Services Committee minutes, have been received.

DIRECTOR PRESENT: Director Cunningham joined the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

3. STAFF REPORTS

3.1 FOR INFORMATION: OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee Report dated July 30, 2026 from Alexandra Divlakovski, Water Operations Manager providing an update to the Committee, and highlighting the larger maintenance and capital projects completed to date in 2026, has been received.

3.2 FOR INFORMATION: WATER QUALITY REPORT

The Committee Report dated August 5, 2026 from Nathalie Nick, Environmental Coordinator summarizing the water advisories issued from January 1, 2026, to June 30, 2026 for water systems operated by the Regional District, has been received.

3.3 VERBAL REPORT: GRANT OPPORTUNITIES UPDATE

Chris Gainham, Utility Services Manager will provide a verbal update on the challenges finding and securing grant funding for water projects.

Staff reported on the continued challenges in grant funding for water system infrastructure renewal. For example, the Build Communities Strong Fund - Local Impact Stream provides funding for shovel-ready projects asking for \$125,000 to \$1 million per project up to 50% of eligible project costs (suitable for the readiness, scale and matching contributions of many of our small water system projects), however, further communication with the grant provider clarified that this stream is not intended for grey infrastructure projects, including water systems. Staff continue to search for suitable grant funding streams that can support sustainable lifecycle asset replacement in many of our aging water systems.

Upcoming Community Works Fund Applications scheduled for the August board meeting include the Burton Water Main Replacement Project - \$200K CW grant request and Fauquier Water Main Replacement Project – also a \$200K grant request.

3.4 VERBAL REPORT: SYSTEM ACQUISITION UPDATE

Chris Gainham, Utility Services Manager will provide a verbal update on water system acquisitions including the Robson Raspberry Improvement District, Taghum Improvement District and Armstrong Bay Improvement District.

The RDCK is currently working with three water systems who have submitted Expressions of Interest to become a RDCK water service:

Robson Raspberry Improvement District (RRID)

On January 14, 2026 a public information session was held regarding the potential acquisition of the Robson Raspberry Improvement District (RRID) water system a public information session was held regarding the potential acquisition of the Robson Raspberry Improvement District (RRID) water system. Approximately 120 members of the public attended, with presentations covering the RDCK acquisition process and the condition, risks, asset renewal needs and financial position of the water system. Discussion focused on the long-term sustainability of the system, including infrastructure needs, operator recruitment and retention challenges, and volunteer Board capacity. The RRID undertook a survey of water system users in March 2026 to gauge support for proceeding with the acquisition process – out of 180 votes returned, 160 (89%) were in favour of continuing with the acquisition process. RDCK staff are currently competing work on a draft asset management plan for RRID that will inform the development of a draft financial plan for the system. Site visits and a walk-through of RRID treatment and distribution system infrastructure is planned before end of summer.

Taghum Improvement District (TID)

On June 10, 2026 the RDCK presented to the Taghum Improvement District water system users regarding the acquisition process. Taghum Improvement District completed a community survey to gauge support to move forward with the acquisition process – votes from users were 89% in favour of continuing with the process. RDCK staff are currently competing work on compiling asset information for the system, developing a draft asset management plan for TID that will inform the development of a draft financial plan for the system.

Armstrong Bay Improvement District

On August 4, 2026 RDCK staff met with Trustees from the Armstrong Bay Improvement District to discuss the acquisition process, better understand their infrastructure and challenges and to provide the Trustees with information that they could communicate at a planned AGM. The next step is for RDCK staff and Armstrong Bay Trustees to determine a suitable date and venue for a public information meeting.

DIRECTION TO STAFF – Director Graham requests that staff provide a written report on System Acquisition Updates going forward.

3.5 REGIONAL WATER AND WASTEWATER SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK - GUIDANCE TOOLS FOR SUPPORTING THIRD PARTY WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS, INCLUDING COMMUNITY WORKS FUNDING

The Committee Report dated August 5, 2026 from Chris Gainham, Utility Services Manager regarding the development of a Regional Water and Wastewater Sustainability Framework that establishes guidance tools for supporting third party water and wastewater systems, including community works funding, has been received.

MOVED and seconded,
And resolved that it be recommended to the Board:

That the Board direct staff to develop a Regional Water and Wastewater Sustainability Framework that establishes the governance, principles, eligibility criteria, evaluation methodology, planning requirements and decision-making framework under which the RDCK may consider providing administrative, technical and financial support to non-RDCK water and wastewater systems, including consideration of Community Works Fund investments in eligible third-party water and wastewater infrastructure projects that demonstrate regional benefit and align with Board priorities.

Carried

4. PUBLIC TIME

The Chair called for questions from the public at 10:15 a.m.

No questions from the public.

3. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and seconded,
And Resolved:

The Water Services Committee meeting adjourn at 10:15 a.m.

Carried

APPROVED BY

Director T. Newell, Chair