

Board of Trustees Report 2019

Water Project Phase 3

Just like the last couple of years, our board meetings in 2019 were dominated by the Water Project. The financing of the project, in particular, was a major topic. It seemed we had no sooner finished the post-mortem of Phase 2 of the Water Project than we were discussing the contracts for Phase 3. The engineering contract was awarded to ISL Engineering, a large firm with offices in BC and Alberta. SPID worked with the ISL team out of Victoria and we were extremely pleased with them. We were equally pleased with Wacor Holdings, the company that was awarded the construction contract. Phase 3 was the final phase of this multi-year project. The initial phase commenced in 2014 and the final phase will wrap up before the end of this year. In a meeting with CVRD staff in January, SPID was congratulated for its foresight in replacing our asbestos concrete water pipes, an issue plaguing small water suppliers across the province, and for the judicious management of the financing from our own tax base. Many folks over the years have worked on various phases of the Water Project but two people in particular, Jim Wahl and Bill Trussler, deserve our deep gratitude. These two guys logged an amazing number of volunteer hours to ensure the success of the project. At the end of the project, SPID ratepayers will have a state of the art water system that is the envy of small water purveyors up and down Vancouver Island.

Below are some of the highlights of the year *other than* the water project!

Health & Safety Consultant

The Board approved a proposal from the Joint Health & Safety Committee to hire a consultant to assist the Committee to build a comprehensive safety program that meets all WorkSafe BC requirements and ensures the safety of our office administrator, water operators and firefighters.

Drought Response Plan

The Water Supply Committee, chaired by Bob Timbers, initiated a Drought Response Plan, including drought levels and a water sharing policy.

Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure (MOTI)

We continue our efforts to ensure that (MOTI) is aware of our dissatisfaction with the disgraceful condition of our roads here on Ships Point. The Board met with MOTI representatives to discuss possible synergies with road repair and our water project. We emphasized the critical role that Vivian Way plays as the egress road for our fire trucks and the need for extensive repair to the road before one of the trucks ends up with a broken axle. MOTI agreed to consider repairs to Vivian Way.

Meeting with the CVRD

In January, SPID representatives met with Daniel Arbour, our Area A Representative, Russell Dyson, the CVRD Chief Administrative Officer, and staff from Mr. Dyson's office. We requested the meeting to discuss possible financing options for Phase 3 of our Water Project. The

Municipal Finance Authority of B.C. offers preferred rates of interest to Regional Districts but these preferred rates are currently denied to Improvement Districts We wanted to discuss ways that the CVRD might help us access these rates. The CVRD representatives were sympathetic to our cause but were unable to offer a solution. SPID determined that we needed to address the issue at the province level and have requested a meeting with our MLA.

Fire Department

As the water project entered its final push, the board turned its attention to the needs of the fire department. SPID board members met with our Fire Chief to review and discuss equipment needs, fire department vehicles, staffing, training and budgets. As a result of the meeting, the Board approved a multi-year capital plan to ensure our fire department remains current with firefighting equipment.

That was plenty enough to keep us busy for the year. We would welcome a quieter year next year. As a board of trustees, we are honoured by your trust in us as we strive to manage two important elements of life on the point – adequate, safe water and fire protection.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees,
Jackie Ainsworth, Chair