

# MAYNE ISLAND INTEGRATED WATER SYSTEMS SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

**Sunday, June 6, 2010, 1:30 p.m., at the Community Centre**

The Annual General Meeting of the MIIWSS was attended by 28 people.

## **1. Approval of agenda.**

M/S Wesley Mulvin, Bill Warning. Carried.

## **2. Minutes of 2009.**

Jim Petrie asked that the 2009 minutes be corrected to read that \$1m was the budgeted amount for the dam structure repairs

M/S as amended John Zloman, Klaus Tewes. Carried.

## **3. Treasurer's report.**

Diane Plucinak gave the Treasurer's Report as reviewed by Barb Baker. She noted the generosity of the CRD who made substantial grants to MIIWSS last year, and thanked the Local Trust Committees who supported the Annual Water Workshop through purchases of the Workshop report. All projects came in under budget.

Balance as of December 31, 2009, was \$8,983.52.

M/S Treasurer's Report be accepted. Diane Plucinak,  
Liz Howard. Carried.

## **4. Business arising from the minutes.**

There was none.

## **5. Video presentation by Gynet Panchaud**

This artistic video focused on the water conservation message, Mayne Island Integrated Water Systems Society, through an interview with Chair Mary Cooper. Ms. Panchaud was thanked for her generosity in sharing it with the AGM.

## **6. Chairman's report.**

Mary Cooper felt the members had been kept up to date on the year's accomplishments because of regular e-mail contact. She did report that the school dual flush toilet replacement project was 100% successful, thanks to community

support, and all 10 toilets and 2 urinals would be replaced by the school maintenance staff this summer. She stressed the importance to the Island of protecting this excellent and important aquifer that supports the Health Center, fire hall and ambulance facilities. She then moved on to explain the reasons for the planned salt water intrusion assessment. Copy of her report is attached.

## **7. Election of 3 Directors.**

Past President Ev McKay took over the nominations to fill three Directors' positions.

Positions filled by acclamation:

Mary Cooper, Marie Elliott, and Bill Maylone

## **8. New Business:**

### **(a) Salt water intrusion assessment project**

Mary Cooper and Bill Warning outlined what they hoped to accomplish, although the parameters haven't been firmly established at this time. The audience was most receptive. Mary shared information about desalinization systems in San Juan County, Washington State, which illustrated that capital costs would be \$15,000 per lot to provide desalination for a 30 lot subdivision. (2008 \$US)

Currently, desalination and reverse osmosis systems are not permitted for providing primary water supply within new subdivisions in San Juan County. They may be allowed for an established community water system.

The assessment hopes to establish island-wide areas of intrusion, as well as areas with no problems, and attempt to discover how far inland the influence reaches in certain areas. From that base, problems areas can be monitored in the future and the intrusion progress graphed. The tests will be done by qualified MIIWSS people, free of charge, and confidential unless otherwise permitted.

There were questions from the floor related to timing, preferring a post drought start, and how wells with difficult or special access problems would be dealt with.

This assessment is to include all water systems and single well owners who wish to participate.

Mary recognized that this may well be a topic many would prefer not to discuss, but that approach would not change the circumstances, but could lead to more problems in the future if we continued to deny the existence of potential problems, when our sister islands such as Saturna and Lopez Island are struggling with intrusion on a major basis.

**(b) Ron Pither – Glen Echo development update**

Ron discussed the drainage concerns connected with this 9 well development and brought us up to date on work done so far. Patrick Lacy, Galiano Aquatek, has been used as a consultant. Better ditching is in place.

**(c) Business from the floor.**

Don Friesen expressed concerned that well drillers were going down more than 300 feet at Gallagher Bay.

**(d) Memberships rates**

M/S Diane, Mary, that all memberships remain at \$5.00 with the exception of \$20 for water systems for 2010-2011. M/S: Diane Plucinak, Jim Cooper. Carried.

**9. Water provider's reports**

**Laura Point Water Society:** Ev McKay – 1 well for 14 houses; UV system but no chlorination activated. Emergency water storage; well is 320 feet deep, but pump is set at 220 feet.

**Lighthouse Point Improvement District:** Bill Warning –

There was a crack in the casing and the system users had to go on Boil Water Alert. Pipe had broken 6 ft. down the well and the pump jammed coming up. System currently operating temporarily on 2 out of 4 wells.

**Dinner Bay Park and Library:** Bill Warning –

Water tested OK. Users of the Pavilion must run water 5 minutes to allow UV to get purified water from the well house to the pavilion.

**SurfsideLocal Water Committee:** Wesley Mulvin –

62 users. A huge leak had recently been repaired. Bills show 3 month usage basis. The newly installed auto read meters take about 10 minutes to do the district reading and are used solely for leak detection. Next year there will be a major cost for installing water valves.

**Agricultural Hall:** Wesley Mulvin –

Consumption is in the 20 gallon range for the hall. With this low flow, fairly constant monitoring is required to keep the water quality acceptable.

**Bakerview Holdings Ltd:** John Zloman –

13 users. One negative fecal coliform reading in December. Will clean out reservoir in near future. Compliance a problem. One major leak from well 2, now repaired.

**Village Point Improvement District:** Ben Bergman –

Out of 276 lots, 225 are connected. Three wells are in operation. One well is being monitored extensively for possible salt water intrusion but so far OK. 21 fire hydrants. There was a major leak near the ferry terminal. They are trying to improve manganese removal.

**Bennett Bay Waterworks District:** Klaus Tewes –

The system is gravity fed. Not doing many large projects like pipe replacement in 2010. VIHA Engineering in Nanaimo requires schedule 80 pipe now, which is not always possible to obtain in an emergency.

**Campbell Bennett Bay Improvement District:** Erick Nordquist –

131 users; 60,000 gal storage; budgeting for a new tank. They have cleaned out wells and put in new pumps. Everything operating well and they have a good handle on consumption.

**Mount Parke Estates:** Gillian Ewing- had a good year.

**Magic Lake Estates, Pender:** Jim Petrie -

1206 properties, 980 connected = 80% usage. They have a \$8.75 million project under way, expecting \$5.25m grant from federal government. Metering in place but quarterly billing is not based on the amount used. They have had to make extensive improvements to the dam because of a rusting overflow pipe. Jim recommended others should think about including the individual household consumption figures on each quarterly bill, encouraging conservation through better knowledge of actual use.

The meeting adjourned for refreshments celebrating Mary Cooper's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday and receiving the 2010 CRD EcoStar Award for Water Stewardship on June 1, 2010.

**Guest Speaker Southern Gulf Island CRD Director Ken Hancock** then spoke on the importance of water on Island lifestyle from the perspective an organic market

gardener. Ken stressed that each individual footprint has an effect our on resources---  
all things come full circle, and all depend on water.  
Ken then presented to Mary, on behalf of the CRD and for the enjoyment of our  
MIWSS members, the EcoStar Award trophy.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Chairs Report Below

## 2010 CHAIRS REPORT – TOPICS:

Thank you to the Board for their support over the past years.

Going to touch on what's ahead, since most are aware of the past through e-mails and articles. Feel free to ask any questions.

School toilet project: toilets ordered and we are able to do the full job. They will be installed over the summer by the school maintenance people. (re: Dave Henshall )

The MIIWSS stance on hydrofracturing, as well as more protective measures in place within legislation for the use of non potable water within the home, has been acknowledged by the Water Act Modernization committee as under consideration. So all we can do now is sit back and hope it makes its way into the new legislation.

Fall technical workshop, Saturday, October 16, at the Ag Hall: about 2 hours of water chemistry with Bill Warning, and 6 of backflow prevention both for systems and single well owners as it pertains to introduction of non potable water into the home. Purple pipes are mandated for this use. I have also learned that this is only the beginning. There will be a full range of piping colours, each with industry standardized use and across the board agreement is being worked on now. There is purple for rainwater, there will be another colour for greywater etc. Plumbing under the house will look quite vibrant in the future---unless you have a colour blind plumber.

Salt Water Intrusion assessment: Bill and I will talk with you later about where we are and what we plan specifically, but I want now to tell you why. There are printouts here about Lopez Island desalinization plants FYI. We also had a guest speaker at the 2009 workshop addressing the issue that it is increasing in urgency in the San Juan Islands. That they let development go for so long that it had to come to installation of 11 plants on 1 island, is regrettable.

We are experiencing salt water intrusion into areas of Mayne Island aquifers, and it is affecting not only single well owners, but water systems. We feel it is urgent that we get a feel for not only where intrusion is a problem now, and give us a base to work on in the future, but to discover how far inland this is occurring----and also where it is not occurring. In other words, we are looking for a base map that can be built on over the next few years and learn where and/or if this is a problem for our island----yet.

As to the comments about de-sal being the answer for the future, if you read the paper, you will note that de-sal raises very serious concerns around costs, effluent effects, membrane pickling and cleaning.

The concern that I see looming in the future is land use. Development currently requires proof of potable water. I have sat through Trust variance applications where not much more than a mud hole for 1 lot and a well with high multiples of esthetics for the 2nd easily passed the LTC and staff as acceptable wells for variance approval. With such low standards of expectation, de-sal plants could easily open up a whole new field for developers.

We need to learn the sphere of influence for the wells we know have “gone to the dark side”.

So these are some of the reasons, and we can discuss how we can get there later in the agenda.

Changes in MIIWSS. We have talked over the past couple of years about changes, more member involvement and plans that will allow MIIWSS to stay vibrant and fully on the radar for water issues.

Discuss: cutting back on programming

- librarian; need someone take this on. Probably doesn't involve more than 10 hours in a year
- website, Bill Maylone has expressed an interest in this
- NO workshops- no grants. Need more help for the board in the organizing areas if we are to continue. This area is important to the operators for CEU maintenance
- not necessary to be on the board to take on an existing facet of MIIWSS

