



Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: January 14, 2026

Location: Robson Community Hall

Time: 6 pm PDT

Attendance:

RRID: Jenn Holt, Jordan Durkin, Wesley Greep, Paul Markin

RDCK: Uli Wolf, Chris Gainham, Eileen Senyk

Xenon Cyber: Jason Marchese

Approximately 120 members of the public attended.

Purpose:

This meeting was an information session intended to provide customers of the Robson Raspberry Improvement District with information regarding the RDCK's acquisition process for water systems.

Hard copy materials provided to the public were as follows:

- RDCK Acquisition Plan
- RDCK Acquisition Policy No. 600-03-09
- Brochure showing Acquisition Plan steps
- Flow chart showing RDCK Acquisition Plan steps
- Brochure for Robson Raspberry Improvement District

Presentation #1: Chris Gainham – RDCK

Highlights included:

- Requirement for 2/3 of returned ballots being in favor of continuing with Expression of Interest to proceed
- Submission of State of the Water System report
- Evaluation matrix
- Inventory of Statutory Rights of Way
- Direction from the Board regarding public approval process.

Presentation #2: Jason Marchese

Highlights included:

- The study was funded by Community Works funding
- An overview of the water treatment plant and distribution system was provided

- Summary of asset values was presented
- Mechanical/Electrical/SCADA/OT risks and opportunities were presented
- An overview of asset renewal schedule and financial position
- Next steps were discussed

Questions/Discussion:

- How would properties in arrears be handled
 - These properties would have to clear debts, if not unpaid funds are transferred to taxes.
- Would water restrictions remain the same?
 - For the most part yes though they would be authorized by the RDCK water bylaw.
- Could the source water and water treatment plant be replaced with the West Robson wells?
 - Aquifer study would be required but this is not a great option, better to fix up the water treatment plan.
 - Further to the question above the RRID noted that there remains 1.4 million owing for the WTP and that this will need to be paid off.
- Why would the RDCK take the system if it is this rough of shape?
 - RDCK staff noted that the problems experienced by this water treatment plant are normal and not a major concern for the Regional District and that the bigger problem is the distribution system but that this is also normal for older water systems.
- What are the good things about the system?
 - Great source water quality/quantity
 - Type of treatment (UF) highest level of treatment
 - Operations have improved with fewer emergency calls in recent years
 - Economies of scale – lots of connections
- What are some advantages that RDCK has as the owner/operator?
 - Procurement (bulk)
 - Experience and full staffing
 - Shared on-call service
 - Remote control sub and GPR shared among all water systems
 - Access to senior government grants
 - Project management team
 - Access to low interest loans through Municipal Financing Authority.
- Who pays for the cost of the study and the meeting?
 - Community Works funded
- Who pays for public assent process?
 - Initially paid out of RDCK general rural taxation service.
 - If assent for system transfer is provided then the service carrying the newly established RRID water Service would have to pay the funds back.
- How are Community Advisory Committees appointed?
 - Appointed by the Electoral Area Director
- Why did the RDCK have a moratorium in place for so long?

- The RDCK took on 9 systems within 2 years the last time the moratorium was lifted, this was not sustainable.
- Putting a moratorium in place enabled the RDCK to establish staffing resources and processes to properly manage additional water systems.
- How can the community get input regarding what other systems have experienced in becoming an RDCK system?
 - Advised to reach out to the Community Advisory Committees.
- How does the RDCK plan to conduct metered billing?
 - Meters don't mean metered billing, they are more of a tool for water use data and leak detection.
- What happens if the RRID Board dissolves?
 - Most likely the system would be transferred to the RDCK through a Ministerial Order.
- Are there land use plans in place to protect the watershed?
 - A large portion of the watershed is in Electoral Area I which has a newly adopted Official Community Plan bylaw which has provisions for riparian protection.

There were other questions related to a lawsuit concern the Mountain Ridge Bridge but as this is separate from the acquisition process, the questions were not included here.

Comments from RRID Board members:

About half way through the question period, some of the RRID members provided some information from their perspective. Their points were as follows:

- Many Board members are experiencing burnout.
- It is a large responsibility to carry as a volunteer especially when staff leave, as has happened with both administrative staff and operational staff over the past few years.
- It is difficult to find qualified operators and even more difficult to retain them because there is no pension or benefits.
- Board members will be leaving and there will be vacancies to fill in the coming months.
- Rate will be increasing to address the debt still owing on the water treatment plant.

There was discussion among the public regarding the long term sustainability of the system. Several members of the public also expressed their gratitude to the RRID Board members and thanked them for their hard work.