



**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**October 18, 2016**  
**7:00 P.M.**  
**MUNICIPAL HALL MEETING ROOM**

Present: **Council:** **Mayor Gwen Johansson**  
**Councillor Dave Heiberg**  
**Councillor Kelly Miller**  
**Councillor Heather Middleton**

**Absent:** **Councillor Nicole Gilliss**  
**Councillor Travous Quibell**  
**Councillor Caroline Beam**

**Staff:** **CAO, Tom Matus**  
**Office Assistant, Becky Mercereau**

**Other:** **Pieter Bekker**, FLNR, Water Allocation/Utility Regulation-  
Manager & Deputy Comptroller of Water Rights  
**Glen Davidson**, FLNR, Water Management Branch  
Manager & Deputy Comptroller of Water Rights  
**Greg Van Dolah**, FLNR, Dawson Creek Resource  
Operations, District Manager

**7 in gallery**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**  
The meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. with Mayor Gwen Johansson presiding.

**RESOLUTION NO.160/16**  
**M/S Councillors Middleton/Miller**

**THAT:**

**"The regular procedure be waived for the delegation to present."**

**CARRIED**

7. **DELEGATIONS:**

**Information on Water Rights in British Columbia**

Pieter Bekker, Glen Davidson, and Greg Van Dolah, from the Ministry of Forests, Land, and Natural Resources, made a presentation to Council with information on a variety of water related issues.

*Water Rights and New Act*

- In February 2016, the Water Sustainability Act (WSA) was introduced; which now replaces the old Water Act
- Some of the areas that are dealt with in the act are protection of stream health, regulation of groundwater, licences for groundwater, new fees and rental rates, groundwater protection and enhanced dam safety
- Now with groundwater licences they can start collecting information on aquifers

- Domestic use does not require a licence, but you can register them
- People are advised to keep records when you sink your well and when you start using the well
- Dealing with the water quantity, not the water quality
- All non-domestic groundwater waters have 3 years to apply
- Currently in the process of policy and regulation development

#### *Dam Safety*

- Monitor dam safety on all dams in BC, including privately owned dams
- Current projects at the WAC Bennett Dam are the spillway upgrades and the riprap project
- Current project at the Peace Canyon Dam is the gate rehabilitation
- Fracking is a concern around dams because of the increased number of localized earthquakes and the costs of repair and/or maintenance from these earthquakes
- No more licences will be issued within an agreed upon distance from the dams

#### *Site C Project*

- They will be monitoring water during the construction
- Diversion and storage water licences have been issued
- The reservoir water will have a narrow band with not a lot of fluctuation in levels
- Independent engineers and environmental monitors have been hired who report directly to them
- The effects on surface and ground water from the Site C project are not completely known; monitoring wells are being established to look at the quality and quantity of this water prior to the construction
- If you find the project is effecting your water source and there is a link with the construction, BC Hydro has to provide another source of water for you, replace the intakes or replace the well
- The water licence for this project has been issued for 40 years, instead of indefinitely like has been done in the past
- Bridges are completed for accessing the construction site
- All equipment on the construction site is using bio-degradable fuels
- Test holes will start to be completed in the Spring for the Hudson's Hope berm, with preliminary designs to follow
- With the berm the District should consider the effects on the water treatment plant, boat launch tie ins and walking trails
- Highway realignment work is being worked on
- Fish passage facility will allow fish to swim into the facility and then to be trucked the appropriate spots determined by the type of species it is

- BC Hydro did receive some exemptions, for example using equipment in the river, but they are required to do environmental monitoring afterwards
- Questions on the damages to the aquatic life going from a river to a lake or reservoir

*Lynx Creek Landslide*

- Questions on continual landslides that may occur once the reservoir is completed and the heavy metals and toxics that could be released as has happened with the Lynx Creek landslide
- Questions on the toxics being released into the water and whether it is of concern; however, it is being released whether it is into the Peace River or a new reservoir
- Takes approximately 17 days to flush the reservoir; but questioned if the entire reservoir actually flushes out
- There were many concerns when the Dinosaur Lake reservoir was completed with the landslides there, but no problems on that reservoir and no toxics being detected there
- The majority of the trees will be cleared which will help with keeping mercury out of the water, but was requested that some tree life be preserved for the aquatic life
- More access points for boats and for "car top" water crafts be looked at to make it more of a recreation area

It was recommended that the community protect their water sources and think of alternative sources that can be used if ever their current source was contaminated.

Recommended that Council speak with other agencies that also deal with water such as Northern Health, Ministry of Environment, etc.

The District will help to get information to residents with regards to registering their domestic wells. As well, get information to the non-domestic users within our District.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Johansson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:19 pm

**DIARY**

***Conventions/Conferences/Holidays***

*Beryl Prairie Playground*

*UBCM resolution- Alternate Director*

***Diarized***

*07/25/16*

*10/11/16*

Certified Correct:



CAO/Tom Matus



Chair/Mayor Gwen Johansson