



CITY OF MERRITT

MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

COUNCIL CHAMBER

TUESDAY, MAY 05, 2009

AT 6:00 PM

1. PRESENT:

Mayor Susan Roline
Councillor D. Baker
Councillor M. Goetz
Councillor N. Hunter (6:50 p.m.)
Councillor H. Kroeker
Councillor S. Sanders

REGRETS

Councillor A. Murdoch

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. J. Bridarolli, Administrator
Mr. S. Boven, Public Works Manager
Ms. R. Tolerton, Corporate Services Manager
Ms. M. Worrin, Financial Services Manager

CONSULTANTS

Mr. B. Hobbs, Urban Systems
Ms L. Clark, Urban Systems
Ms J. Harkness, Urban Systems
Mr. T. Carriou, BC Groundwater

2. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Roline called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

3. REPORTS

DEEP AQUIFER

- 3.1 City of Merritt Deep Aquifer Development Program: Initial Interpretations from March 2009 Kengard Deep Well Pumping Test and Recommendation to Retest the Aquifer; Thierry Carriou, M.Sc., P.Eng., Hydrogeologist, BC Groundwater Consulting Services Ltd. April 24, 2009 Letter
File: 2280.30

Circulated on table:

Groundwater Production Well Costs as at November 4, 2008
(circulated by Financial Services Manager)

Urban Systems Deep Well Project Agenda

Urban Systems "Recommendations"

BC Groundwater Consulting Services Information Package

BC Groundwater Historical Timeline for Deep Aquifer Development

There were no resolutions or recommendations to Council put forward from this meeting. The following is an executive summary of the discussion:

The consultants presented to Council history of the deep aquifer well project. They indicated that Council must decide at some point on what they're source of water will be – shallow aquifer, deep aquifer, a mixture of the two – and spoke on the risks and potential mitigating orders that might be forthcoming from Interior Health, as well as disappointed that Council had not completed USL's recommended GUDI (Groundwater under direct influence) studies.

The Consultants explained that the 21 day deep well test had been suspended at day 5 because of generator failure(s) and that the failure of generators or incompleteness of that contract is between the City and Interior Central Pumps – BC Groundwater had provided advice on the contract but takes no responsibility in the contract wording or administration.

The Consultants requested Council approve a re-run of the well pump test. Costs for the rerun are estimated at \$300,000. The Consultants suggested the appropriate timeline for such a test would be September when irrigation is completed for the year. The test would have to be conducted either with generator power or with direct access power. Permission for access to River Ranch property would also have to be secured.

Mr. Hobbs identified for Council the critical timelines, particularly with respect to completion deadlines set by the grant applications. He indicated that he is confident enough of the data obtained through the 5 day test completed to design and build the pumphouse and well system, with stamped engineering seal.

Mr. Carriou indicated that more information was required (through a 21 day pump test) regarding the sustainability of the aquifer at 75 liters/second pumping.

Ms Harkness and Ms Clark commented on the requirements for filtration and treatment that might be required by Interior Health, as well as yet unidentified issues with water aesthetics and taste. The consultants stated that it was up to the City to negotiate necessary permits with IHA, environment and fisheries.

The consultants left the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

There were some general discussion regarding the recommendations from the consultants and history of the project. It was directed that the request regarding the deep well pump test be placed on the next Council agenda.

4. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9:05 p.m.

Certified correct in accordance with Section 124 (2)(c) of the Community Charter.

**Original signed by
Corporate Services Manager**

Confirmed on the 12th Day of May, 2009

**Original signed by
Mayor**

