

SAMBRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held 7:00 PM on Tuesday, June 11, 2019
Oyster River/Black Creek Fire Hall
2241 Catherwood Road, Black Creek, BC

MINUTES OF MEETING

In attendance: 15 Residents of the Saratoga and Miracle Beach area. Names recorded on separate sign-in sheet.

Guests: Bruce Green, Chief, Oyster River Fire Department; Edwin Grieve, Electoral Area C Director; Neil Ross, Water Systems

Call to order: Curtis Scoville, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

Minutes of May, 2018 Annual General Meeting:

Moved/Seconded: Pearl McKenzie/Jane Bentley to approve the minutes as read.

Reports

Treasurer's Report: Jane Bentley, Treasurer, presented the Year End Financial Report:

- **Expenditures:** \$189.34; **Income:** \$.07; **Balance:** 1352.35

Moved/Seconded: Neil Ross/Paul Barnett that the Treasurer's report be accepted as read.

Chairperson's Report: Curtis presented an informal Chairperson's Report.

- Finalizing of LAP has been delayed because the CVRD is dealing with other emergent issues
- Road conditions – no news on this issue. CVRD and Ministry of Transportation have not been able to schedule an open house on this issue yet

New Business

Election of Board Members

Curtis Scoville explained that the SAMBRA directors are the voting members of the association and represent a quorum. However, residents are polled at the SAMBRA meetings in order to determine their support or objections to any motions. There are seven director positions. There are currently three vacancies including Vice Chair. Neil Ross is resigning as Director at Large but will continue to inform SAMBRA about community water systems issues. Curtis thanked him for his prior service and his continuing work for the community.

Nominations

- Bill Crowder
- Kip Keylock - withdrawn
- Bud Bablitz

Question: Can a director live outside of the SAMBRA area? Seaview Road residents have always been included, as have any residents who live close to the community and have shared concerns with the community. It was decided that for now we expect that directors live within the Saratoga & Miracle Beach Settlement Node as defined by the CVRD.

Moved/Seconded: Pearl McKenzie/Jane Bentley that the following people be accepted as directors: Bill Crowder and Bud Bablitz.

New Business:

CVRD Black Creek Oyster Bay Water Service

Curtis gave some background on the water service issues. Following are links to current CVRD committee meeting minutes:

BCOB Water

Service: http://agendaminutes.comoxvalleyrd.ca/Agenda_minutes/CVRDCommittees/BCOB/27-May-19/20190524_Rutten_SR_BCOB_Well_Update.pdf

Watutco

Feasibility: http://agendaminutes.comoxvalleyrd.ca/Agenda_minutes/CVRDCommittees/BCOB/27-May-19/20180411_Dyson_SR_Watutco_Feasibility.pdf

Neil Ross outlined current issues:

- Shortage of water during dry periods. Current system cannot meet current demands.
- System is aging
- Third well site has been identified and CVRD has obtained a provincial grant to pay for 80% of costs to drill
- Provincial grant expires in Mar 2020, but the drilling would have to take place this summer
- SRD has not granted permission for the CVRD to drill the new well in the park. (It is located within the SRD in the Oyster River Nature Park on the north side of the river.)
- No agreement between the SRD and the CVRD has been reached to date.
- Residents who live on the north side of the river up to Oyster Bay use the same water system. They may not be aware of this urgent issue because they do not attend SAMBRA meetings, and media coverage has been minimal.
- Watutco – feasibility study has been done to determine if the CVRD could take over the system. Watutco system could be a support for the Black Creek Oyster Bay Water Service (eventually) but doesn't solve problems for the short term.

Question: Is there a chance the province will step in to help with a resolution between the SRD and CVRD regarding drilling of the proposed new well? Local MLAs are reluctant to get involved.

(See additional information on this issue under Edwin Grieve's report.)

Kip Keylock, local developer, described his development on Oyster River Way (off Miracle Beach Drive). Kip is also a member of the Area Planning Committee for Area C.

Phase 1:

- Seven 5-acre lots; piped water; septic systems
- Storm water issues – undersized culverts have caused flooding; issues are being addressed
- development follows LAP

Phase 2:

- Twelve $\frac{3}{4}$ acre lots (10 acres)
- CVRD has asked the developer (Kip) to densify as much as possible

Oyster River Way will eventually extend to Schulz Road within the next year and eventually to Saratoga Beach Estates and on to Regent Road.

Report from Edwin Grieve, Area C Director

Edwin provided further information on the water issues:

- Two existing wells in the Oyster River Nature Park were both drawing from the same aquifer. This is why a third well is needed.
- Grant has been extended to March, 2020
- SRD wants commitment that they will be able to use the water source for northern Area D (which is currently supplied by Campbell River)
- CVRD believes that support from the SRD for this well is not imminent
- Provincial MLAs are reluctant to get involved

Question: What are the next steps?

Curtis wrapped up the discussion:

- Letter writing campaign Neil started earlier this year was a good first step
- Any new letters should be CC'd to Russell Dyson (CAO of CVRD) and David Leitch (CAO of SRD) and Edwin Grieve, Area C Director. Following are email addresses:

Edwin Grieve, CVRD Area C Director: edwingrieve@shaw.ca

Russell Dyson, CVRD Chief Administrative Officer: rdyson@comoxvalleyrd.ca

Brenda Leigh, SRD Area D Director: bleigh.53@gmail.com

David Leitch, SRD Chief Administrative Officer: dleitch@srd.ca

Question: Could a legal opinion be sought?

- Edwin will make some efforts to suggest the use of a mediator
- SAMBRA will write a letter requesting involvement from the Ministry in resolving the Black Creek Oyster River Water System situation
- Concerns raised about availability of water to fight fires during drought conditions

Mosquitoes:

- CVRD does not have the budget to deal with this issue
- SAMBRA could use some funds to address the issues in some way

Other

Oct. 2 next beach Clean-up with help from Miracle Beach School.

Next Meeting TBA

Adjournment: Neil Ross 8:48 p.m.