

APPENDIX 3 - Meeting Notes

Purpose	Public Information Meeting hosted by the applicant of a proposed water filling station at 56555 Chilliwack Lake Road
Date	Thursday, February 21, 2019 – 6:30-8:30pm
Location	Chilliwack Fish & Game Club 48685 Chilliwack Lake Road
Attendance - Applicant	Wilf Kricken, Property Owner
	David Kneale, P. Eng, Active Earth Engineering
	David Melnychuk, Agrologist
Attendance – FVRD To Observe PIM only	Orion Engar, Director Electoral Area “D”
	Margaret-Ann Thornton, Director Planning & Development
	Graham Daneluz, Deputy Director Planning & Development
Attendance – General Public	Approximately 100 members of the public. The applicant provided a sign-in sheet and comment forms

Prior to the public information meeting, display boards were posted and the applicant and his consultants were available to answer questions from the public.

1. Welcome & Introduction:

- The meeting started at 6:35pm. Wilf Kricken welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. David Melnychuk served as the meeting moderator. Presentations providing an overview of the proposal were provided by:
 - Wilf Kricken, Property Owner
 - David Kneale, P. Eng., Hydrologist. Power point presentation
 - David Melnychuk, Agrologist

6:56pm

2. Questions from the General Public

The following is a general summary of the questions and comments from the public

- How many trucks will be accessing the site, and what is the volume of water (gallons) to be extracted?
 - 12 trucks a day, operating 24/7.
- Who owns the water?
 - The Province of BC. There was a discussion of water rights in BC.
- Resident of Baker Trails (46511 Chilliwack Lake Road) expressed concerns that the Baker Trail well is at the bottom of the aquifer and it may go dry or silts up requiring additional maintenance and costs. Who is responsible for these costs?
- The Provincial water licence has no end date and cannot be reduced in volume once it is granted. Water is disappearing in the Chilliwack River Valley. Impacts of climate change were noted. Section 13.3.3 of the OCP was quoted, and stressed the need for a comprehensive water study.

- Where is the water to be extracted going? The Molson's Brewery in Chilliwack? Trucking is proposed now, but will a pipeline be constructed in the future?
 - No specific end user known at this time.
- What is the business plan for the site? If a user/client is not known, how will funds be generated to remediate the property for agricultural uses?
- There is an existing reservoir on the property that has been used for fire protection. Wilf Kricken, Property Owner has assisted with fire protection and has offered to purchase a new fire truck for the Chilliwack River Valley. Supportive of the proposal.
- Opposed to water commoditization – the private ownership and bottling of water. Provincial hydrological studies confirm that the Chilliwack River Valley aquifer is unstudied.
 - David Kneale reviewed his study results and that a 3 day well test (pumping) was undertaken in April 2018 with testing of the old well and monitoring of the new well.
- There was confusion regarding the volume of water being requested, and the number of trucks required to remove this volume.
- A number of wells went dry in Slesse Park and there were previous discussions of providing City water. (David Lamson)
 - David Kneale advised that Slesse Park is in an area of bedrock and not within the aquifer.
- Resident of the Bench Road area above the Chilliwack River Valley. The existing well can be used for agriculture on the property.
- Concern that this application is a precedent for water extraction. What are the cumulative effects? The proposal is not well thought-out (no known user). Need to examine the long term impacts of the environment. Cited run-of-the-river electric projects and the costs. The vision for the Chilliwack River Valley is for environmental stewardship.
- Will the trucks operating 24/7 decrease property values? What is the air pollution of the additional trucks?
- Is this a "done deal"?
 - Wilf Kricken advised no, and is in process of approvals from the ALC and the Province.
- What are the benefits of this proposal to the Chilliwack River Valley?
 - Wilf Kricken advised that this is a private business venture. Is willing to explore providing benefits to the Chilliwack River Valley.
- How much will the property value be increased with approval of this proposal? Will the water be exported to the USA?
- The FVRD required this public information meeting. The FVRD should be taking notes of the community comments at this meeting.
- The Northwest Hydraulics (NHC) needs to be reviewed and referenced. The water balance testing and low monthly discharge was noted. Need to confirm what data was used and future modelling needs to be updated to include climate change impacts.
- Resident advised that comments should be emailed to: FVRD; Agricultural Land Commission (ALC); Provincial Ministry of Forests, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.
- The Province charges very little for the water licence. Asked what are the fees charged by the Province for the water licence and for the water to be extracted?
- Resident of Williamsburg Estates cited that she currently pays \$600 year for water, and the Province will not intervene if problems arise.
- A previous gravel proposal was stopped because of the negative effects to water courses and the aquifer. The Province will not intervene and cancel or reduce water licences once issued.

- Concerned with the precedence of this application and other applicants. Opposed to the conversion of the property from agricultural lands to an industrial extraction site.
- Proposal is to extract 0.4% of the water resource in the Chilliwack River Valley. What is being provided in return to the community, the FVRD and the Stolo Nation (First Nations)? There is a lack of confidence and details with the proposal. If the water is to be bottled, not in support. If the water was to be used for emergency relief (ie Ashcraft and Boston Bar), there would be some support.
- Appreciation for the Public Information Meeting. A number of concerns have been raised regarding wells. There are also concerns for river habitat as the aquifer feeds the Chilliwack River. (David Lamson).
- Previous studies of the aquifer including studies conducted by the City of Abbotsford were noted. Streams in the Chilliwack River Valley currently dry-up in the summer. Additional comprehensive studies are needed.
 - David Kneale stated that MFLNRORD did not request a study on the surface flows in the Chilliwack River Valley. The well should not impact surface flows.
- The Fish Hatchery draws a lot of water from the aquifer, but the water is returned to the Chilliwack River.
- Sue Federspiel, Chilliwack River Valley Resident Association advised that comments should be sent to the FVRD and MFLNRORD. Contact information will be provided to the Chilliwack River Valley Resident Association facebook page. Who monitors the water being extracted?
 - David Kneale advised that the Province monitors the water extraction to ensure sustainability.
- There are impacts from lands in the USA (Mt. Baker glacier retreating) that will impact the Chilliwack River Valley water systems. There is not a full understanding of the water systems and aquifer. Caution needs to be provided before issuing water licences. There is only one beneficiary to this proposal – the property owner (Wilf Kricken).
- A long time Chilliwack River Valley resident (family since 1932) spoke in support of the proposal. “Go back to the City and leave us bush people alone”.
- A long time Chilliwack River Valley resident (family since 1901) spoke in opposition to the proposal.
- The proposal is premature. Flows have not been established or monitored. The new Molson Brewery in Chilliwack is serviced by the City of Chilliwack water (450 million litres).

Meeting adjourned: 8:15pm

The applicant and his consultants remained after the meeting to answer individual questions from the public.

FVRD staff advised that the current application, FVRD reports and background information will be assembled and located on the FVRD website for ease of reference.