

**BEAVER FALLS WATERWORKS DISTRICT**  
**Environmental Health Officer Meeting Minutes**  
**July 30, 2024**  
**Montrose Hall, Upstairs**

**ATTENDANCE:** Ellen Vallie, Kyle Beeton, Wendy Settle, Wendy Allen, Amy Guerette, Vicky Poulsen, Roger Poulsen, Bev Piccolo, Deb Winter, Garrett Vandermeer, (2 other guests came late, did not get their names)

Meeting begins with Pouria Mojtahedi (PM) introducing himself and stating his title/position is the Environmental Health Officer for large Drinking Water Systems. His area of responsibility is from the Kootenays to the north Okanogan and operates under the authority of the Drinking Water Protection Act. His priority is the health and safety of people with regards to drinking water,

(PM) Initiates meeting: Thanks the group for inviting him out and he understands there are questions about why the District needs to chlorinate if it wants to use the new well when Beaverfalls has always had good water. He also understands there are questions about the new well the District has drilled. He also understands there are some other concerns. He's here to help and answer what he can.

Ratepayer: Questions why we are considered a large water system.

(PM) Response: The District was a large water system before and now it is again.

Ratepayer: Questions how can we be a large water system with 200 or so hook ups?

(PM) Response: The category is based on a census of the area and if there are more than 500 people it is considered a large system. If the ratepayers want to challenge the large vs small, I am willing to challenge it for you.

Ratepayer: Questions why do we have to chlorinate now when our water has always been good? The new well is in the same area so why shouldn't it be good? It's a lot of money to spend on a well we can't use. Who made this decision and why is it after the well is drilled do we find this out?

(PM) Response: We can't know if the well will pass the GROUNDWATER AT RISK OF CONTAINING PATHOGENS (GARP) test until it has been drilled. In this case, when the Hydrologist examined the drilled hole, he didn't feel he could approve it based on what he observed as well as the proximity of the well to the creek. He then let Wendy Settle (Water Operator) know that to move forward without chlorination we would need a GARP test, which is very costly.

Ratepayer: We had an Engineered study done in 2009 (Golder Report Wendy Settle confirms). It said everything was fine. What has changed since then? Our water samples are done how often?

Wendy Settle: 4 times a month they are sent to Passmore Labs for testing.

Ratepayer: What does that cost?

Wendy Allen: \$180 per month,

Ratepayer: That's a large expense.

(PM) Response: You can have it tested in Vancouver for free but the time it takes to get there spoils the samples. 4 times a month for water sampling is the minimum allowed for testing, it is just a snapshot the whole system. Things can be very different in different parts of the water system. Testing doesn't show potential viruses in the water that can make people very sick, and Chlorine is the only thing that kills viruses.

Ratepayer: If we go ahead and have the GARP testing done, does it have to be interpreted by the same people? Are we able to get a second opinion? Since we have one Engineered report that says differently from 15 years ago, I think it would be a good idea.

(PM) Response: If you want, yes. If you want to challenge the previous decision and how I arrived there, I will help you through it. There is a lot of documentation that comes along with that so yes, no problem. Each well is different even when drilled close to each other.

Ratepayer: So we are on just the one well now? What if that fails? What happens? Some of the infrastructure is getting old, what if we have a major breakdown?

Wendy Settle: Yes, the one well. We would switch to Montrose; we have a Water Agreement with them that is good until 2028. We just did work on the well and it's working great.

(PM) Response: It is recommended to have a Water Management Plan to deal with upcoming replacement of worn-out parts of the system. Most improvement Districts have them or are working on them. I am willing to come back out for another meeting if you need it and help in any way I can.

Adjourned 8:02 pm