



Representing the Residents and Ratepayers of Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River
www.opsrra.ca

2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 17, 2020

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: Zoom Meeting

Directors Present: Bill Dushenko, Diane Foster, Cheryl Wirch-Ryckman, James Gaston

Guest: Mike Hicks, JdF Regional Director

OPSRRRA Members and Public Present:

1. **Introduction and Announcements:** President Bill Dushenko welcomed the members to the AGM and outlined the meeting format. He introduced the current board and instructions around Zoom. Mike Hicks spoke at the beginning of the meeting prior to the AGM due to overlapping meetings.
2. **Approval of Agenda**
Moved: Cheryl Wirch-Ryckman
Second: James Gaston
Approved
3. Mike Hicks, JdF Regional Director, spoke to a number of new initiatives and projects in the region. A CREST tower is being put in at the Otter Point Fire Hall, providing better coverage for the region and funding for the Fire Hall. \$3.5 million in improvements on Otter Point Road is in progress. A water line was not included in the project due to cost - \$2 million dollars - leaving the project with 1km gap from a water connection. A new water station has been put in place down Otter Point Rd and is up and running. Kemp Lake Water System is hooked up for Kemp Lake at a cost of \$2.60/100 gallons for users. This is a higher cost per household than municipalities such as Langford, Sooke, Colwood. Kemp Lake beaver damage to waterways will be looked after through the parks.

A port-a-potty was placed in the Muir Creek parking area in order to minimize the human excrement in the area. Soccer fields in the region are being cleared of goose feces by Mike personally. Geese management in the CRD is becoming a bigger issue in the municipalities that do not have bylaws that permit hunting. SEAPARC gym is finished and open. Although serving the entire region. Sooke pays for 75% of

the facility and JdF pays for 25% of the costs. Through funding by developers in the Sun Rivers area, an additional outdoor recreation area is being planned that should be able to accommodate a skating rink, tennis courts, pickleball, lacrosse, outdoor hockey, etc. The Sooke golf course is breaking even and doing well. Highway 14 improvements as far as Port Renfrew have been a boon for the region, including an electric charging station in Port Renfrew at the Community Centre.

Gowdy Creek Watershed is fully protected now, all 100 acres, through private dollars. Shirley Fire Hall has completed their training centre. JdF office remained open during the COVID crisis while retaining safety for both staff and visitors. Guests have to be buzzed in and staff remain behind enclosures. Although other jurisdictions have discussed tax breaks during this time, taxes for JdF are unlikely to be cut as they are currently bare bones.

There was an unapproved dump discovered on Forebay Road in Jordan River. It was described by some of the bylaw officers as “one of the biggest dumps in the region they had ever seen”. The property was owned privately and was hauling construction and other materials up there and burying it. It required a combination of CRD, First Nation and provincial effort in order to get it resolved. The property owner is responsible for hauling everything to Hartland Dump. Failure to clean up the site will result in up to \$300,000 in fines and 6 months in jail.

Question from the community regarding the need for additional parking at Sandcut Beach and Jordan River as COVID is creating parking challenges. Response this isn't in the CRD purview. Additional question on Rainwater Harvesting and a question why the CRD isn't doing more to encourage this practice privately. Again not in CRD purview but encouraged. Water remains a major issue in our communities and there are currently 3 grant applications that he has in play but federal grants can be challenging.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the April 2019 Annual General Meeting

Moved: Brenda Mark

Second: James Gaston

Approved

5. President's Report – Report on website

6. Membership Report (report attached)

7. Treasurer's Report (report attached)

Motion to approve the President, Membership & Treasurers Report

Moved: Rosemary Jorna

Second: John Burrows

Approved

8. Election of Officers - Report of the Nominations Committee

Bill Dushenko thanked Fiona McDannold for her 10+ years on the OPSRRA board. Bill outlined the responsibilities for being a board member.

The OPSRRA Nominations Committee puts forward the following names for election at the 2020 AGM

- President: President: Bill Dushenko
- Vice-President: Cheryl Wirch-Ryckman
- Treasurer: Diane Foster
- Directors: James Gaston & Jay Evans

Any OPSRRA member in good standing may stand for nomination for election to the OPSRRA Board.

Elections

Fiona McDannold outlined the procedures for the election. Nominations from the floor were asked for, there were none.

The Directors acclaimed at the August 2020 OPSRRA Annual General Meeting are:

- President: Bill Dushenko
- Vice-President: Cheryl Wirch-Ryckman
- Treasurer: Diane Foster
- Director: James Gaston
- Director: Jay Evans
- Director: vacant
- Director: vacant

It was noted that the directors can appoint a member to a vacant board position at any time before the next AGM.

9. Questions from the floor

Vacation rentals seem to be in hand currently because of the COVID restrictions, although vigilance on this should be maintained.

One of the attendees questioned if there might be a grant to cover the costs for the installation of the Jordan River signs. Between \$3500 and \$4000 is needed to complete the installation.

Discussion on BC Water Resource Atlas and where water shortages are in high risk. There is more attention being paid to licensing of ground and surface water in order to better protect the province's water resources.

Awareness of Food Security challenges are growing, the attendee stressed that this is something that OPSRRA should focus on in conjunction with other local stakeholders.

A request was made to keep an eye on maintaining and growing trails and parks in the region as OCPs will soon need to be revisited. These green spaces also play a role in maintaining animal corridors and biodiversity. Links can be found on the OPSRRA website for projects on water and other resources.

10. Motion to Adjourn

Moved: Diane Foster

7:45 pm