

Annual General Meeting  
Minutes- 12/13/23  
Nanoose Place Community Centre

**Call To Order:** 7:11 pm, Quorum determined; 46 members and all Directors in attendance.

1. Welcome & Introduction of Board of Directors.
2. **President's Report:** Last AGM 01/16/23 and those minutes previously accepted and posted on [www.nnra.ca](http://www.nnra.ca). Neil Watson advised Kirke has been our president for 20 years to which the audience responded with a standing ovation. Refer appendix "A" for the balance of President's Report.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Neil Watson advised as of today NNRA's chequing account held \$2,389.76 +savings of \$31.09= \$2,420.85. Only expenses since last A GM; \$10.07 for receipt book, \$65.41 for 2 mikes & 1 speaker for tonight and \$60.00 for tonight's hall rental. Funds currently held primarily for any professional fees encountered when dealing with any contentious matters. Treasurer's report unanimously accepted as read. \$695.00 of membership fees collected this evening + \$1 donation (couldn't make change for 3 Toonies 😊 ).
4. **Nanoose Fire Department:** Captain John Newall & Firefighter Sean Newall advised another busy year for NVFD that enjoys a current roster of 29 members. Calls this year will surpass 350 consisting of primarily medical emergencies, pending ambulance arrivals, motor vehicle accidents and only 3 structure fires including one death. They then made a brief presentation and support of the provincial Fire Smart Program. Questions from the floor indicated some interest to pursue this program in 2024. Duly noted.

5. Ravensong Aquatic Centre: Directors Wayne Stark and Rudi Widdershoven made a detailed report of considerable effort towards the RDN's attempt at arbitrary and inequitable cost sharing of this Qualicum Beach Pool expansion and management costs being foisted on Area "E" taxpayers. Through persistent lobbying of both provincial and regional governments plus attending numerous meetings, our society seemed to have accomplished changing cost sharing of this pool to a more equitable "based on pure usage" model, as requested NNRA. Final satisfactory resolution of this matter will not be known until 2025 and may be impacted by a proposed new pool in Parksville. In closing, Mssrs Stark & Widdershoven advised this change potentially saved Area "E" taxpayers as much as \$250,000. This drew an ovation from the floor. This will continue require some follow-up attention in 2024.
6. RDN Watering Restrictions: Director Dave Jamieson submitted a report, refer appendix "B" attached. In short, NNRA has encountered conflicting information around decision making around water. It has come to the conclusion there is no shortage of water requiring draconian Level 4 restrictions. There is a need to better understand the capacity unused wells in order to truly grasp the risk realities of this local commodity of life. A lengthy discussion ensued with questions from the floor. This will be a priority for 2024.
7. Maintenance of Public Beach Accesses: Director Neil Watson lead a discussion of these provincial Ministry of

Transportation & Infrastructure (“MOTI”) properties. It is believed 13 such accesses exist within NNRA’s catchment area. Primary concerns are total lack of maintenance by the province resulting in potentially unacceptable wildfire risk and early signs of also attracting the homeless. Tours of these accesses by the RDN & the Fire Chief have occurred without unanimous consent of action being required. Area “E” Director Bob Rogers also advised all of 2023 and most of 2024 Fire Smart funds have already been allocated. Further, he advised only the RDN can apply for Fire Smart Grants, not the NNRA. Currently somewhat of a stalemate for the 2024 Board to decide what, if any, further action is required.

8. Property Tax Increase: Director Rudi Widdershoven has been advised Area “E” property taxes are proposed to increase by 14.7% in 2024 and another 12% in 2025. A heated and lengthy discussion ensued. It was further advised that prompt retaliatory action would be required in order to possibly prevent this proposal from becoming action by the RDN. It was agreed this matter was to receive priority action by the new Board.
9. Annual Membership: NNRA, at the end of this AGM had 33 paid up members. All those in attendance were encouraged to discuss the purpose and goals of NNRA with the expressed intent of garnering new members, active participation and collective representation.

10. Election of Directors For 2024: Director Neil Watson advised Kirke MacMillan after 20+/- yrs. as Director and President will be stepping down. A standing ovation occurred in response to Kirke's dedication and guidance of NNRA. Directors to stand: Dave Jamieson, Bill Marsh, Wayne Stark, Neil Watson & Rudi Widdershoven. After 3 "Calls To the Floor" Gina Marchi and Gerry Theberge asked to stand for nomination and were accepted. It was determined the 2024 Board of Director will stand at 7 of a maximum of 11. Nominations closed after all standing directors, past & present, received a round of applause.
11. Motion to Adjourn: 8:20pm, accepted.

Appendix A: 2023 President's Report, Kirke MacMillan

Appendix B: Water Report, Dave Jamieson

END

## **Appendix A**

### **Presidents Report**

- **Welcome to our 2023 Annual General Meeting**
- **The last AGM was held on January 16, 2023.**
- **During the past year, the BOD has met on six occasions, January 16<sup>th</sup>, March 27<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, July 13<sup>th</sup>, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, and November 22<sup>nd</sup>.**
- **The minutes of all of the BOD meetings are available on the website at NNRA.ca.**
- **On January 23<sup>rd</sup> we along with the FCA President had a Zoom meeting with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs regarding the Ravensong Pool during which we presented an Area E Resident Counter-proposal to the RDN By Law 899.02. In essence we recommended that our members participate in funding pool services provided that the taxation formula is based on residential usage only.**
- **On March 31<sup>st</sup>, a meeting was held with Adam Walker our MLA, to discuss our concerns regarding the Ravensong Pool By Law. (David Jamieson, Barry Nichols (FCA) and myself attended)**
- **A further meeting on the Ravensong Pool Bylaw was held with Mayor Doug O'Brien on April 5<sup>th</sup>. (Wayne Stark, Barry Nichols (FCA) and myself attended.**
- **We believe that both of the above meetings were productive and that both Adam Walker and Doug O'Brien were supportive of NNRA's proposal to base fees 100% on usage.**
- **At the RDN Board Meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup> in Qualicum and on June 29<sup>th</sup> and July 26<sup>th</sup> at the District 69 Select Service**



Committee Meeting in Parksville, Rudi Widdershoven and Wayne Stark made presentations maintaining our recommendation that fees be based 100% on usage.

- The RDN Directors have become increasingly concerned regarding the protocols used by the RDN to implement watering restrictions. One of the major priorities for the NNRA Board in 2024 will be to obtain a detailed understanding regarding the water resources that are available to Nanoose residents and how Level 4 water restrictions might be managed so they are not as restrictive as at present.
- Neil Watson will provide an update on progress that has been made to date with cleaning up the public beach accesses.
- Rudi Widdershoven will provide an update on proposed tax increases for 2024.
- Bob Rogers, our Nanoose Bay Director on the RDN has agreed to answer any questions after the AGM adjourns.

SUBMITTED BY KIRKE MAC MILLAN

From: David Jamieson davidjamieson@shaw.ca  
Subject: AGM  
Date: Dec 5, 2023 at 9:57:52 AM  
To: Dave Jamieson davidjamieson@shaw.ca

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APPENDIX "B"

## RDN WATERING RESTRICTIONS

### A) ISSUES

- 1) who is responsible for implementing water restrictions Stages 1-4
- 2) why Stage 4 in some jurisdictions and not in others
- 3) link between restrictions and available water resources
- 4) are all restrictive actions necessary

### B) ANSWERS

- 1a) local government is responsible
  - RDN for Electoral Area E and other unincorporated areas
  - Parksville Council for Parksville
  - Qualicum Council for Qualicum
- 1b) provincial government has legislative authority to override local gov't if deemed necessary
  - Water Sustainability Act (WSA) is one tool
  - WSA allows application of a Temporary Protection Order (TPO) to regulate actions and apply penalties for non compliance
    - an example might be: Englishman River flows below 1.6 m<sup>3</sup>/sec (minimum flow for fisheries) and RDN continues to divert water for domestic consumption thereby triggering intervention via a TPO to ensure compliance
  - provides SUGGESTED action items for consideration by local jurisdictions for each drought level class in its drought level classification system. One of the

"B"-2

actions in level 5 drought is to implement the most severe water use restrictions defined by the local jurisdiction

- RDN states they always comply with suggested action items,

2) since implementing Stage 4 water restrictions is a SUGGESTED action at level 5 drought, local jurisdictions can chose a different strategy. Qualicum in 2023 chose not to impose Stage 4 restrictions. A jurisdiction that does not comply is expected to demonstrate adequate water reserves from storage sources ie aquifers or reservoirs

3) Water Resources Area E: Let's Talk Water - Oct 26, 2023 - hosted by Area E Director Bob Rogers - presenters Murray Walters and Julie Pisano, RDN

- Julie Pisani advised there are adequate water resources to supply the full anticipated buildout of Area E, mainly related to Fairwinds

- in this summers drought there were only modest drawdowns of the aquifers with expected full recharge from the fall, winter, spring precipitation. This was in spite of the cut off of the draw from the Englishman River source due to flow levels below 1.6 m<sup>3</sup>/sec.

- Murray Walter's advised there are 6 unused backup wells available for emergency purposes but there is no infrastructure to link them to a treatment plant ie lack of infrastructure investment

\*\*\* apparently water supply is not an issue!

4) restrictive actions are defined and implemented by the local jurisdiction (RDN) so they can obviously be modified. Some concerns raised included: occasional car or boat cleaning, flushing salt water from boat engines, adding water to hot tub, topping off pool levels, protecting expensive garden plants and other vegetation

SUBMITTED BY DAVE JAMIESON