# Board Approved- 04/23/24 Northwest Nanoose Residents Association Director's Meeting Minutes-April 2, 2024 1478 Madrona Dr., Nanoose Bay. B.C

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Chairman's Call To Order:

10:09 a.m.

Roll Call For Quorum: Full Slate (8) Directors Present & acknowledged as 1st time in 2024!!

**Review/Approve March 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes**: Moved by Wayne Stark, seconded Diane Springford & approved unanimously, as circulated. No discussion arising from those minutes.

Treasurers Report: \$3,275.36 in chequing & \$31.23 in savings, as advised by Bill Marsh, who briefly commented on a recent struggle with family health issues. This precluded reconciliation of new/renewal membership payments to bank account. Despite this, he was able to perfect new Membership Form/Receipt and requested posting on the website with "Auto-Fill" capability. He also advised a need to change website address, both to be dealt with by Neil Watson, Secretary. Moved by Neil Watson, seconded by Diane Springford & unanimously approved, as presented.

**Membership Report**: Rudi Widdershoven advised no new paid-up members since last report (65) and delivered to the Treasurer today new member: Brian & Jules Zimmer \$25 for 3 years, 1556 Arbutus Dr. Moved by Rick Ehlers, seconded by Gina Marchi & unanimously approved, as presented.

### **Priority Committee Reports**

**#1) Property Taxes:** Wayne Stark & Rick Ehlers conducted a 35 minute discussion update. Focus was needed on refining NNRA's Budget presentation to the RDN. Approval of RDN 2024-28 Financial Plan now scheduled for April 9, 2024. NNRA's detractors (incorporated areas excl Parksville) & supporters (rural areas) now becoming visible. All directors asked to be present, if possible, on April 9, 2024 meeting at the RDN. Wayne Stark & Bob Rogers to meet on April 3, 2024 to set the stage for "what's next", referred to as Path B & C. Moved by Neil Watson, seconded by Bill Marsh & unanimously approved, as presented.

#### #2) Water: No Report

Meeting scheduled with Bob Rogers, AED & David Murray, RDN Manager of Water Services April 3, 2024, see #1 attached. Rudi Widdershoven & Neil Watson to attend and provide follow-up report.

#3) Beach Accesses: Neil Watson and Diane Springford sought and received Board approval to distribute a "self-help" bulletin to adjacent property owners of MOTI beach accesses. See attached #2. It was agreed that prior to release to property owners, a covering memo to Bob Rogers, AED be sent & c/c'd to all involved government contacts. See attached #3. Diane Springford will now commence dispatch to property owners. Non-members of NNRA to be solicited in this regard. Moved by Gerry Theberge, seconded by Gina Marchi & unanimously approved, as circulated & presented.

## #4) Pools in Oceanside: No Report

**#5) Sign Boards:** Neil Watson discussed recent findings for actual posting board materials after attending Industrial Plastics. A 10 minute open discussion occurred along with input from Gina Marchi as to existing materials to be considered. Neil Watson agreed to try & develop a prototype bulletin board, possibly for next meeting, to further Board consideration.

#### **New Business:**

2024 New Provincial Electoral Districts- brief discussion ensued around our new association with Ladysmith? Received as information only.

Vacant Directors Position- Agreed to retain slate of Directors at current level, 8. Removal of David Jamieson from website & Societies Act Registry to occur. Full legal names of all remaining directors to also occur at this Registry.

Next Meeting: Tentatively set at: April 23, 2024 10:00 or at the "call of the Chair".

Motion To Adjourn: 11:34 a.m., as moved by Rick Ehlers, seconded by Gina Marchi & unanimously approved.

# neilawatsonbc@gmail.com

#1

From:

neilawatsonbc@gmail.com

Sent:

Sunday, March 24, 2024 11:04 AM

To:

'Bob Rogers'

Cc: Subject:

'Gina Marchi'; 'Rudi Widdershoven'

RE; Area"E"- A Continuing Discussion On Water

Importance:

High

#### Bob:

You're likely a busy man this time of year with the budget process or we somehow missed your reply to the below invite. In any event, NNRA wishes to continue discussions on water and increase our level of understanding around this important commodity of life.

Please recall as a result of the public forum you hosted last year and follow up discussions, we were assured that contrary to RDN's <u>discretionary</u> Stage 4 alarm, there in fact was plenty of water in our summer time storage wells/aquifers. Not only was last summer's supply plentiful, we came away with a clearer understanding of adequate water existing over all seasons to service existing residents, as well as future development. The reason Nanoose went to Stage 4 restrictions is that the Province declared a drought level that <u>recommends</u> going to the most severe water restrictions due to the lack of water in the rivers, impacting fish. We now better understand the <u>design and seasonal intent</u> of "turning on" our storage wells/aquifers when the Englishman River is low. This design and intent knowledge should have alleviated the RDN's discretionary call to go to Stage 4 restrictions, but it did not. Yes, the Province has the authority to <u>order</u> maximum restrictions, but they simply did not, last summer.

So, in anticipation of another likely dry summer, we would like to talk about these important storage wells/aquifers. Can you please provide or direct staff to provide answers to the following questions:

#### **Aquifers**

- How are the aquifers accessed by the RDN monitored?- i.e. monitoring existing wells, separate observation wells?
- 2. How many aquifer monitoring sites are in Area "E"?
- 3. What was the average drawdown of the aquafers during 2018 to 2022, depth and volume?
- 4. What was the maximum drawdown of the aquifers in 2023, depth and volume?
- 5. What is considered a critical drawdown level for RDN Aquifers?
- 6. On average, when are aquifers considered fully recharged after a summer drawdown?
- 7. What is the current status of aquifer recharge after 2023 summer?

Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to address these questions submitted on behalf of NNRA. Our next Board meeting is April 2, 2024. Anything provided by then would be appreciated or shortly thereafter.

Neil A. Watson, Secretary, NNRA

Home Office, Nanoose Bay, B.C.

H: (250) 468-9917 C: (250) 240-4652 世(9)

03/24/24-No REPLYS

From: Neil Watson < neilawatsonbc@gmail.com >

Date: Mar 19, 2024 5:58 p.m.

Subject: Area "E" Water Discussions
To: Bob Rogers <a href="mailto:bob.rogers@rdn.bc.ca">bob.rogers@rdn.bc.ca</a>

Cc: Gina Marchi <ggmarchi@yahoo.ca>,Rudi Widdershoven <madronarudi@gmail.com>

Hey Bob, as you may know Dave Jamieson has stepped down from the NNRA Board. Gina Marchi & I will be taking up Dave's Water Portfolio role.

Can you find some time to meet with Gina & I and get us"up to speed" on any changes or points of interest since you hosted the "Let's Talk Water" session last fall

Give us a range of times and we could simply meet at Pacific Moon Rising or the Rocking Horse restaurant for coffee, in us.

Looking forward to it

Neil Watson, (250) 468-9917- h (250) 240-4652- c



TO: Member/Property Owners Adjacent to 13 Public Beach Accesses RDN Mapped as E-54 to E-66

SUBJECT: Many of these accesses are unkept, some now deemed unsafe and environmentally non-compliant.

HISTORY: Prior to the advent of the Regional District of Nanaimo ("RDN") in 1967, the provincial government mandated that oceanfront property sub-divided and developed must provide public access to the oceanfront. These accesses were and remain crown land governed by what is today known as the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure ("MOTI"). It is believed 150+ of such accesses exist today throughout the

In 1967, the RDN became the authority having jurisdiction over what is now called rural Area "E" or Nanoose Bay, as we know it. These public beach accesses remained the jurisdiction of the province or MOTI. For some time now MOTI has had an internal policy along the lines that: "if it is not paved with black top, it will not receive regular repairs and maintenance by MOTI or its maintenance sub-contractors".

<u>The Issues:</u> Public Beach Accesses E-53 to E-66, referred to above, date back to the early 1970's. During this <u>50 year period there has been virtually no management</u> of these crown lands:

- Some trees, their related windfall and debris have grown to become threats to or hardships for adjacent property owners to manage.
- That 50 year accumulation of debris and under-burden is now becoming a potential threat of wildfire only compounded by increased public use. We believe some of these crown lands now breach the province's own guidelines known as Fire Smart (residential).
- Many of these crown lands within our residential neighborhoods are <u>now infested with provincially designated Invasive Species</u>, not limited to Himalayan Black Berry, Holly, English Ivy and Scotch Broom. Adjacent property owners have been left to manage spread of such invasive species to their own and ultimately other properties.
- Of late and to a limited degree, these crown properties have been used by tents and some overnight camping.

NNRA Actions to Date: The NNRA, since its inception in May, 2001 has been periodically called upon and acted for its member/adjacent property owners, to the best of our ability. We have strived to work with and through all local government agencies, with limited success. Over this 20+ year time period, those calls have become increasingly more urgent due to this <u>neglect by MOTI</u>.

The RDN has somewhat supported these concerns by posting: "No Smoking", "No Campfires" & "No Overnight Parking" signs at high use accesses. The RDN will be encouraged to continue and expand this signage.

#Za)

# **Adjacent Property Owner Action Required:**

Should you have concern or have current issues as outlined above, especially due to the threat of falling limbs or trees, address yours concerns in writing to the following contact, with a copy to your property insurance agent.

#1) Mainroad Mid Island Contracting, LP

1435 Springhill Rd.,

Parksville, B.C. V9P 2T2
Cell: (604) 312-7329
Office: (250) 586-8884
E-Mail: ijary@mainroad.ca

www.mainroad.ca

In the event you have not satisfactorily resolved your concerns through #1) above, please escalate by contacting, #2) James Miskulin, BBA. MCPM

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Sr. Development Services Officer,
Min. of Transportation & Infrastructure,
Vancouver Island District
(250) 734-4821
james.miskulin@gov.bc.ca

NNRA has also been advised that if property damage appears imminent, it would be prudent to contact your property insurer and encourage them to put MOTI on notice in the event of an actual claim and as motivation for their action.

#### Summary:

NNRA, as a volunteer organization, willingly tries to assist and advocate for our members. If you are not a "paid up" member and reading this notice, you simply need to be. Go to: <a href="www.nnra.ca">www.nnra.ca</a> Membership fees are only \$10 per annum or \$25 for 3 years.

# neilawatsonbc@gmail.com

From:

neilawatsonbc@gmail.com

Sent:

Thursday, April 4, 2024 5:03 PM

To:

'Bob Rogers'

Cc:

ijary@mainroad.ca; james.miskulin@gov.bc.ca; adam.walker.MLA@leg.bc.ca; 'Rick Ehlers'; 'Gina Marchi'; 'Bill Marsh'; 'Alexandra Diane Springford'; 'Wayne Stark'; 'Gerry

Theberge'; 'Rudi Widdershoven'

Subject: Attachments:

Area "E" Beach Accesses E-54 to E-66- Adjacent Property Owner Issues & Concerns

NNRA To Property Owners Adjacent To MOTI Accesses\_2024-04-04\_163537.pdf

#### Hi Bob.

As you may know some of NNRA member/resident property owners adjacent to MOTI beach accesses have advised us of issues and concerns regarding these provincially owned properties. In short, it's all about a history of a lack of property maintenance by its owner. In response to these member/property owners, NNRA will be issuing the attached "self-help" bulletin. You will note its only focus is safety: 1.

- from windfall & debris
- 2. from potential wildfire
- 3. from invasive species
- from unauthorized use 4

This bulletin captures the history and clearly lays out, in our opinion, where the onus of responsibility rests to better address these issues & concerns.

During the course of addressing this matter and supporting our member property owners, we encountered a RDN Staff Report prepared for Electoral "E" Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee dated March 14, 2024. As Chairman of this Advisory Committee, we are sure you are familiar with its content. It appears the intent was to identify and recommend certain beach accesses in order to promote the launching of small watercraft.

NNRA has a history dating back to 2001 of opposing any promotion of these accesses due to related increased traffic concerns within our strictly residential neighborhoods, and their narrow roadways. Please note we remain steadfast in this opposition of increased promotion. In the event it is decided to proceed with this promotional effort, NNRA respectfully asks to be part of its implementation for access points within our area. With regards to what appears to be \$65,000 allotted to this study, we believe it would be better spent on mitigating the hazards versus promotion and enhancement, other than safe access.

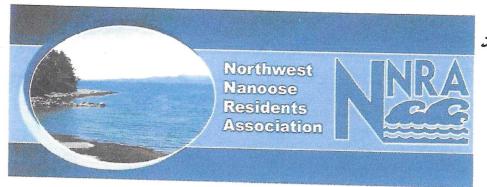
We wish to thank you & the RDN for the support of better signage focused on safety issues and request that the No Smoking / Fire signs be installed this year prior to fire season. We

would also appreciate the RDN's support resolving issues brought to MOTI, as outlined above and attached.

Please note the c/c of all parties involved along with my fellow NNRA directors.

Thank You, Rudi Widdershoven, NNRA, Chair





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