



MINUTES

January 17, 2023

RDMW Office – 2044 McNeill Road, Port McNeill, BC

CALL TO ORDER: 11:38 am

Attendance:

EA/PA Directors: Chair Andrew Hory, Kevin Cameron (Zoom), Michelle Pottage, Dave Summers, Brent Schmidt (Alternate Director, Area C)

Regrets: Kathryn Wykes

Staff: David Kim, CAO; Patrick Donaghy, Operations Manager, Cody Pawluk, Operations Assistant, Nicole McDowell, Recording Secretary

1. Agenda

23-01 It was moved and seconded, that the agenda dated January 17, 2023 be approved.

CARRIED

2. Minutes

23-02 It was moved and seconded, that the minutes dated October 18, 2022 be adopted.

CARRIED

3. Reports – Gas Tax

a) Manager of Operations – Request for Additional Funding

i) GT2021-02 Woss Water Supply Emergency Generator Power Back Up

Also noted:

- *Budget of project was initially estimated at approximately \$65,000; it is now estimated at \$80,000*
- *Spent more on the genset than originally intended to enhance its capacity to use larger propane tanks (extra tanks would also be stored at Well #2), and with its portability, it would be more versatile emergency backup system.*
- *Project is 85% complete.*
- *Manager of Operations shared photos of:*
 - *65 kW Propane Genset Powering Well #1 in Woss*
 - *Storage Shed for 65 kW Propane Genset at Woss Recycling Depot*

Alternate Area C Director: Why was propane selected over diesel?

Woss Community requested propane because they thought it would be more stable and would require less maintenance.

- *Electrical connection costs were estimated at \$5,000 with actual costs approximately \$18,000*
- *Tex Electric was the contractor; prices higher due to external factors/inflation.*

Alternate Area C Director: Was there not a quote first? No.

- *If quote had been received, it would have been irrelevant at time of project start.*
- *Cost of the shed was kept down and is located inside the Woss Recycling Depot*
- *This will be the last request for funding for this project.*

Port Alice Municipal Director:

We are seeing cost overruns; if we could watch that closely, it would be great.

- *Nobody wants costs over-runs.*

- *In many infrastructure projects, especially when you are self-managing for cost savings, they can take longer to complete.*
- *BC Consumer Price Index, as of November, was 7.2%; infrastructure is higher.*
- *An option could be to put in healthier contingencies, but again, depending on the nature of the work, you are very susceptible to these cost increases.*

Board Chair added:

The RDMW does have a very good track record of managing projects directly, as opposed to contracting them out, which saves a substantial amount of money. If there is an over-run; project costs still comes in much less than if contracted out.

23-03
GT2021-02
Additional Funds

It was moved and seconded, that up to an additional \$15,000 be approved for the Woss Water Supply Emergency Generator Power Back Up, Gas Tax project GT2021-02.

CARRIED

ii) GT2021-04 RDMW Local Service Power Outage Resiliency Project

Also noted:

- *North Island is often disrupted with power outages.*
- *In 2021, staff put forward a plan for better resiliency for operations.*
- *Pilot project at a Coal Harbour Lift Station which used a Lithium 3-phase power pack and it was sized so it could provide sufficient power for a 24-hr period (if over 24 hrs, then a genset would be needed to recharge the batteries).*
 - *Lithium batteries were chosen over genset for environmental safety because other could be susceptible to leakage from diesel; and battery packs have no moving parts, so maintenance will be a lot less.*
 - *When battery replacement is needed; they will likely be replaced with more superior batteries – so battery pack will likely get better and better*
 - *Inverters were chosen that could be repaired, rather than replaced.*
- *Had budget of \$387,000 and now requesting an additional \$60,000*
 - *Professional engineering costs were higher than anticipated*
 - *One of the Lift Stations in Coal Harbour is owned by the Quatsino First Nation, who requested a battery pack as well, and were responsible for the infrastructure costs, but the RDMW has not received reimbursement. Reimbursement should return up to \$40,000 to the project.*

Chair added: RDMW put in the equipment in good faith place because there was an agreement with the QFN on face value, but we have yet to receive payment.

Alternate Area Director C: With the power outages, is anyone looking at the encroaching trees by the lines?

BC Hydro does their vegetation control; RDMW can make comments, but ultimately up to BC Hydro.

23-04
GT2021-04
Additional Funds

It was moved and seconded, that up to an additional \$60,000 be approved for the Local Service Power Outage Resiliency Project, Gas Tax project GT2021-04.

CARRIED

b) Operations Assistant – Request for Additional Funding
GT2022-01 Woss Sewer Flow Monitoring Pre-Lagoon

Also noted:

- *By monitoring the flows pre-lagoon, we will be able to access the inflow and infiltration in the Woss Sewer System more accurately.*
- *Original estimated project cost was \$11,000 and is now estimated at \$25,000.*
- *After funding was granted, project costs were higher for these reasons:*
 - *Changed flume manufacturer.*
 - *Shipping costs went up quite a bit.*
 - *Main increase in costs were construction based.*
 - *Cost estimates were made early on.*
 - *Change of scope once project was started.*
 - *direct burial of 700 ft2 of cable*
 - *extra material was needed*
 - *contractor rates were much higher than expected*
- *Project now 90% complete; should be fully operational within a few weeks.*
- *Still believe that the flume and sensor combination was the right design and that the expected outcomes will be quite valuable in improving the Woss sanitary system.*

23-05
GT2022-01
Additional Funds

It was moved and seconded, that up to an additional \$15,000 be approved for the Woss Sewer Flow Monitoring Pre-Lagoon, Gas Tax project GT2022-01.

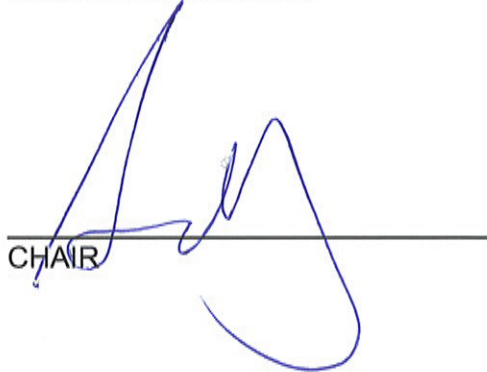
CARRIED

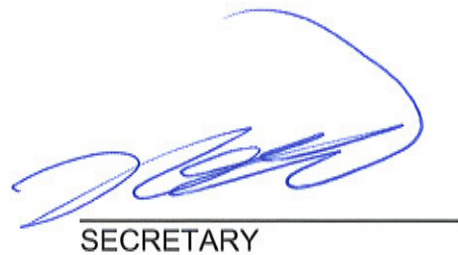
Chair commented: Instead of waiting until project is almost complete to request additional funding; perhaps make the request to the Committee as soon as you foresee that project costs are going to be higher than expected.

Next Meeting – To be announced

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:11 pm

CERTIFIED CORRECT


CHAIR


SECRETARY