

Skaha Estates Improvement District (SEID)

Year End Report December 2023

2023 has been a challenging year for SEID. Due to increasing water quality issues and Trustee turnover, the Board approached the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen (RDOS) and asked if they would takeover the operation of our water system. The RDOS has started their due diligence to evaluate our system. We expect to plan for a community meeting and referendum sometime in 2024. The decision to turn our water system over to the RDOS will eventually come down to a vote by our ratepayers.

Some of the main issues we dealt with this year include:

- Trustee Peter Hormes resigned and Ryan Tribbeck was nominated by acclamation. Ryan is a Power Engineer with Suncor and has experience with pumps and water treatment.
- Trustee Derek Jedrusiak resigned from the Board and Kandis Lipsett has recently joined us. Kandis has experience as a water technician for the City of Kelowna with a Bachelor of Science. She is excited about her role as Trustee and hoping to use her knowledge and skills to improve water quality for the users. We thank Peter and Derek for their many contributions to SEID.
- We have added some automation to our system, as required by Interior Health, which will inform us to shut down the water pumps if the chlorine or turbidity levels fall outside of approved levels. This upgrade cost \$70,000 and will protect us from pumping unchlorinated or turbid water into our system. This very thing happened last summer when an electrical panel overheated and shut down the chlorine pump while the water pump filled the reservoir. That was the start of our Boil Water Notice.
- We had two pumps serviced over the last year. We have noticed a 25% increase in pumping efficiency from this and can expect many more years of good performance.
- After notice from our insurance company that they would not insure our 25+ year old roof on the lower pumphouse, we had a new metal roof installed to protect the electronics and pumps.
- After getting a quote for a new park shed roof of over \$3000, the Trustees and Bailiff Marvin Barga did it ourselves and saved over \$1000.
- We have embarked on engineering studies of our water intake pipe as well as a full system analysis at the request of Interior Health. Estimated costs are in excess of \$125,000.
- We had an estimate of \$6000 to repair a leaking street valve on Panorama Cres. Our Water Operator, South Okanagan Waterworks Ltd. (SOWW), suggested a work-around which allowed us to stop the leak without excavation and saved \$5900.
- We added two water testing stations to check chlorine levels on dead-end streets where water quality can stagnate. These tests are helping us improve water quality.
- In November, SOWW identified a drainage pipe on the upper reservoir that had no screen on the end. It has been secured to prevent any possible contamination.

- Our water system has been assigned to a new Drinking Water Officer for Interior Health. Even though we have gone over a month without a failed water sample, and all indications are that we have good water quality now, we have not been released from the Boil Water Notice. This is a frustrating situation for all and one that we have no control over. Installing an in-house water purification system is one option to avoid having to boil your drinking water.

LOOKING FORWARD:

- The RDOS is looking at all options including combining SEID with Heritage Hills if they acquire both systems.

- We are awaiting an update from the Park Committee volunteers who are tasked with preserving ownership of the lakefront park if SEID is acquired by the RDOS.

Wishing all a Merry Christmas

Skaha Estates Improvement District
Board of Trustees