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VALLEY WATER NEWS

BMID NEWS

Mr. Allan Kirschner was successful in seeking re-election as BMID Trustee for the three year term. The Board and Trustees for 2008 are:

Chairman: Gordon Ivans

Trustees: Alfred Kempf, Allan Kirschner, Heinz Koetz, Laurence Petch

BMID PROJECTS UNDERWAY

Mission Creek Water Use Plan: This plan is being developed jointly with several other local government agencies. The plan sets out strategies for reservoir operations so that the beneficial use of water is maximized for both the BMID customers and the environment. Several stakeholder meetings with other licensees of the creek have been held, modeling work on reservoir operations is underway, and the operational recommendations will be tested through 2008.

Scotty Creek System Separation:

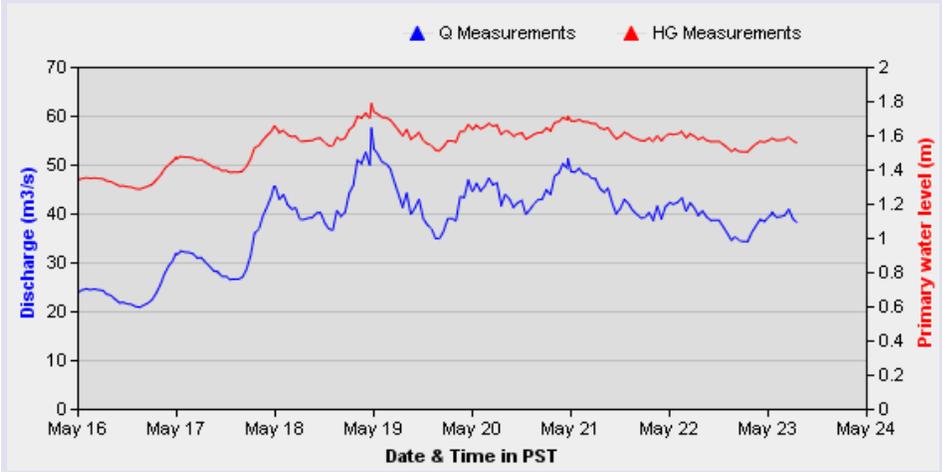
The design drawings have been completed and approvals have been obtained for these works. Right-of-ways for pipe installation are being obtained as are prices from contractors. The work is expected to begin within the month. Approximately 135 customers are to be transferred off the Scotty Creek source.

Metering: Metering of all larger agricultural customers has been completed. Retrofitting of existing industrial and commercial meters to current radio read technology is underway by Corix Water Products and is approximately 70% complete. BMID continues to meter all new connections and has purchased an automated remote read device that can collect all reads within the District in less than one day. This will assist us in promptly reporting water use information to the customers.

FortisBC Land Sale: BMID is in the process of selling 6.0 acres of land to FortisBC for a proposed new electrical substation that is located within City limits at the top of Joe Riche Road. The site is relatively remote, the land is already encumbered with electrical transmission right-of-way. The existing land use options are limited. BMID has the sale revenue designated to cover costs in the BMID reservoir project. (continued on Pg. 2)

SPRING RUNOFF

Spring runoff from the higher lands surrounding Okanagan Lake is underway. The runoff this year is compounded by the wet weather which adds to the moisture levels and simultaneously melts the snow pack. The result is higher than average levels of stream flow. Lower Mission Creek has a channel capacity in the range of 100 m³/s. A flow rate of 98 m³/s was attained on June 16, 2006 which resulted in scouring and damage to the banks of Mission Creek and a great deal of silt and sediment deposition in the lower channel. To put the flow volume during spring runoff in perspective, four days of flow at 40 cubic metres per second, as shown on the graph, is a sufficient volume to meet the needs of BMID for an entire year.



Link Environment Canada: <http://scitech.pyr.ec.gc.ca/waterweb/formnav.asp?lang=0>.

Real time flow rates for Mission Creek at the Ziprick Road station is available on the above internet address. The peak flow in creek occurs typically between midnight and 2:00 am as it takes time for the water to flow from where snow is melting to the lower part of Mission Creek.

Creek Safety Issues: Extra precautions should be taken when creek flows are high. Dangers include: the banks may be saturated with water and may be unstable; the water temperature is very cold (in the range of 4 to 6 degrees Celsius) and if one gets swept into the water, they would become hypothermic in a matter of minutes; the current is very strong and the creek is moving very quickly at a velocity of up to 3 metres per second. People have perished when being swept into Mission Creek, therefore one must respect its powers.

BMID does not have jurisdiction to regulate the creek other than for water supply for BMID customers. Although we control several gates and our normal works have a bearing on the summer flows, we are one of many stewards of the Mission Creek watershed. Cooperation, understanding and communications with all stakeholders on Mission Creek is needed to look after this critical natural resource.



Mission Creek in mid May, 2008

"We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors: we borrow it from our children"
Native Proverb



EXPERT REPORT RELEASED - TURBIDITY AND MICROBIAL RISK IN DRINKING WATER

BMID Reservoir and Pipeline Projects:

Due to the size of the proposed reservoir and height of the dams, BMID must carry out a Canadian Environmental Assessment for the project. This work is underway and is being completed by Golder Associates.

Pipeline for the project is all located within the BMID yard at 1200 Belgo Road. BMID purchased the 8.5 km of steel watermain for \$0.30/pound. Current steel prices have since risen to where scrap steel is now being purchased for \$0.55/pound. BMID was very fortunate to secure the pipe. The pipe will be coated over the next 8 months inside the new building located at the BMID Works Yard.

Highway 33 Crossing Delay: As part of the reservoir project, BMID is planning to install two large diameter steel pipes across Highway 33. This work is to proceed in conjunction with the proposed highway widening. The Highway 33 widening works have been delayed as the upgrades to the Trans Canada Highway has taken priority over the Highway 33 works. BMID still plans to cross the Highway at the same time as the Highway works to minimize traffic congestion and delays.

KELOWNA JOINT WATER COMMITTEE

The KJWC is making progress on the following items in 2008:

- Setting of common sprinkling regulations for the Central Okanagan region;
- Developing a data collection process for groundwater boreholes, water wells and geothermal boreholes within the Kelowna City limits;
- Further developing the Cross Connection Control program to assess risks for all severe hazard conditions within the City and develop appropriate actions for protection.

OBWB / OWSC

The Okanagan Basin Water Board and the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council have been working on the following:

- Continuation of the grant program for water stewardship projects within the Okanagan Valley for water suppliers and stewardship groups;
- Development of a *Sustainable Water Strategy* which will set out recommendations for future policy on water management for the Okanagan Basin.

OBSERVE, RECORD & REPORT
questionable watershed activities to
BMID at 765-5169

With the concerns raised by local politicians and water suppliers on the overwhelming number of water quality advisories, the Minister of Health, George Abbott, commissioned a Ministerial Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to review the water quality risks and notifications. The TAC consisted of five well respected experts in North America on drinking water. The report was publicly released on April 24, 2008 and is available on the internet at:

<http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/protect/dwcommittee.html>

The key conclusions quoted within the report include:

- Risk Communication plays an essential role with the goal of safe drinking water and is an essential element of risk management;
- The TAC found that in general, Drinking Water Advisories are only effective as a measure of last resort and do not provide an effective alternative to securing the safety of drinking water;
- Turbidity in itself is not a causal explanation of infectious illness;
- A water quality index using several parameters will not accurately portray the level of risk in a water supply system. Judgment will always be necessary.
- Provision of consistent information by local health authorities and local water purveyors will help avoid undermining confidence in the advice and in the organization communicating it. Anecdotal information suggests that repeated or continuous advisories undermine confidence in the water supply, the regulator, or both.
- The TAC considered a broader issue, "*Whether filtration of surface water supplies should be mandatory*". Disinfection is essential. A multi-barrier approach is sound. Fortunately recent advances, particularly the demonstrated capability of UV disinfection, offer the potential to develop equally effective alternate means to conventional filtration for achieving agreed upon public health protection goals.

The TAC report is not binding but the Water Supply Association is hopeful that some changes will be made in the current Turbidity Notification Program. Improvements can be made in terms of better communication techniques, ensuring that imminent risk events such as a disinfection failure are highlighted and left for media release and lesser on-going risks are presented in a more educational format. Ensuring that the water suppliers and regulator agree with the risk communication program is the first step.

" Global Warming - The scientific community agrees that the average temperature on the Earth has increased substantially in the last 100 years. We have yet to fully understand the impacts of Global Warming and it remains to be seen if the results will be as grave as some predict. In the event that the predictions might be correct, **we cannot take the risk of acting inappropriately now** when we can make a difference collectively with our choices! To make these choices, our *Standard of Living* may decrease, but our *Quality of Life* may actually improve" Anonymous

Water Quality Advisory—Remains in Effect

BMID issued a Water Quality Advisory on April 18, 2008. It is not a Boil Water Notice as initially reported by some media outlets! The advisory was issued district wide due to elevated levels of 1.5 NTU turbidity units in the water supplied from the Mission Creek source. Disinfection was not compromised and microbial contamination in the raw water before disinfection was at low levels.

Although turbidity levels have been below 1.0 NTU since April 26, 2008, BMID has chosen to leave the advisory in place as we do not know how challenging the raw water quality in Mission Creek will be during the spring runoff. Our water treatment plant is reducing turbidity levels in the creek from over 50 NTU to around 0.70 NTU. Through the entire period, *Total Coliform* and *E.Coli* levels before disinfection have been very low. BMID plans to remove the advisory once the spring runoff has ended which should be in mid to late June.