Scott Point Waterworks District

Annual General Meeting 2020

Report of the Chair

Summary

2019 was another busy year for the Water District. Project Blend and the project to install remote monitoring and alarms were both completed in 2019, and there were a few commissioning issues that occupied a significant amount of trustees' time.

There was also significant District time involved in identifying a leak on the water main and leaks at several properties. Early detection and action on these leaks is a very important part of the management of our scare groundwater resource. The District also commenced to better understand the volume of water used during water treatment processing – the reject water from the Well 1 Reverse Osmosis, and backwashing of the filtration units at all 3 wells. This volume of water is substantial and is now tracked and reported as a separate item.

I would like to thank my two other trustees for their hard work and time as we navigated these waters. And I would like to thank our contractors: Jean Eastman our billing administrator, and the operators at North Salt Spring Waterworks for their diligence in dealing with day-to-day issues.

Operations

There was one major leak on the system in 2019, discovered in November. It was in the same area as a leak in 2017 and again caused by an impinging arbutus tree root. The District has flagged a number of trees to measure the extent of trees growing above the water main that may cause future problems. While the water main appears to be in good shape with little evidence of deterioration of the concrete pipe during the one excavation, a consultant working for CRD pointed out to that the lifespan of AC Transite pipe is normally 50-70 years. The District will examine water main life in 2020 to determine if water main replacement should continue to remain outside of the timeframe of the 10-Year financial plan.

While there were no leaks on the 50 year-old bare copper service lines between the water main and the water meters in 2019, these continue to be an identified risk. A program will commence in 2020 to pro-actively replace 3 service lines and meters per year.

There were a few small leaks reported by individual residents, all found by the monthly meter reading for leak detection. Residents are reminded that damaged lines from the shut-off valve to the house, old toilets, old brass fittings and automatic irrigation systems have an increased probability of being a source of leakage.

Treatment for THMs

We have been reporting for several years about the presence disinfectant by-products (DBP), particularly tri-halomethanes (THM) in the water and were put on notice by Island Health in 2015. To address these issues Project Blend was completed in early 2019. With completion, we have commenced closer examination of certain quality measures in order to optimize the treatment parameters and meet the goals for THM reduction. The January 2020 sampling showed THMs levels well below historic readings and the maximum standard set by government. Please see the Water Quality Report for more information.

Other Operation Items

Sediment cleaning of the Reservoir was expected to proceed in 2019, but NSSWD scheduling of the installation of a Reservoir isolation valve was delayed.

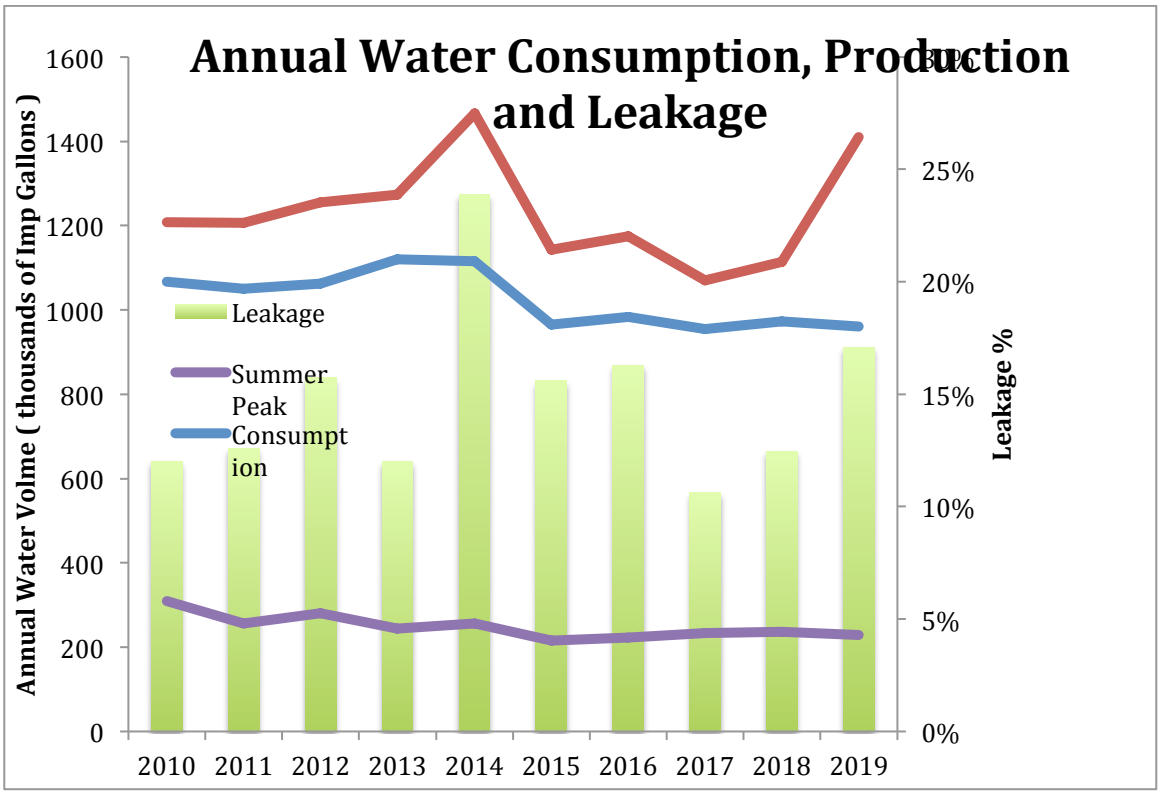
The aging cedar shake roofs on two of the pumphouses were replaced, both to extend life of the building and to add a measure of fire resistance.

The water treatment piping and electrical at Wells 1 (Reservoir) and 4 (RVYC) were re-vitalized during the work on Project Blend. In 2020 it is our intention to examine the treatment at Well 3 (Welbury) to ensure processing remains appropriate and to renew the now 30-year-old infrastructure.

Water Consumption and Leakage

The total water consumed at properties was 960,570 gallons, a small decrease from 2018, and below the 5 year rolling average. The July/August peak period consumption of 228,860 gallons, also below previous year and the 5 year average. Compared to most standards, Scott Point residents are very frugal users with daily water use per household averaging 43 gallons for 2018, compared to guidelines that indicate households are considered to be conservative users at 130 gallons per day.

While residential water consumption was down, total water production and groundwater use was up significantly in 2019 as a result of leaks mentioned above and an increase in water used during processing. The leakage rate was 17.1%, compared to 5-year average of 11.5%. The District is increasing its focus on water used in processing and looking for ways to balance the total groundwater used against the goal of improving overall water aesthetics.



Backflow Cross Connections

A potential for non-District water to backflow into the system was discovered at a residence in 2018 and the resident was required to install a certified backflow preventer. In 2019, a survey was sent out to residents known to have the potential for cross-connections. All of the respondents confirmed that there were no unprotected connections between private wells or systems and the District. The District requests that all residents with pressure booster systems, private wells unknown to the District, or pressurized rainwater capture systems contact the District. If desired, the District can inspect the system to determine whether a cross-contamination potential exists.

10-Year Plan

During budget planning for 2020, the 10 Year Plan for capital spending and finances was re-examined and updated. The revised 10 Year Plan is available on the website under the Governance tab.

Policy Manual

The Trustees drafted and approved a Policy Manual to formalize many common operating and billing practices. These policies are published on the website under the Admin tab.