

Scott Point Waterworks District

Annual General Meeting 2022

Report of the Chair

Overview

It is nice to see a somewhat return to normal after Provincial Health Orders required that the 2019 and 2020 Annual General Meeting be pushed into summer and held outdoors.

It was a busy year in terms of getting work done, but there were no incidents that caused disruptions to service or more than minor inconveniences to residents.

I would like to thank my two other trustees for their hard work and time as we navigated these waters, including retiring trustee Nigel Smyrl. 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.

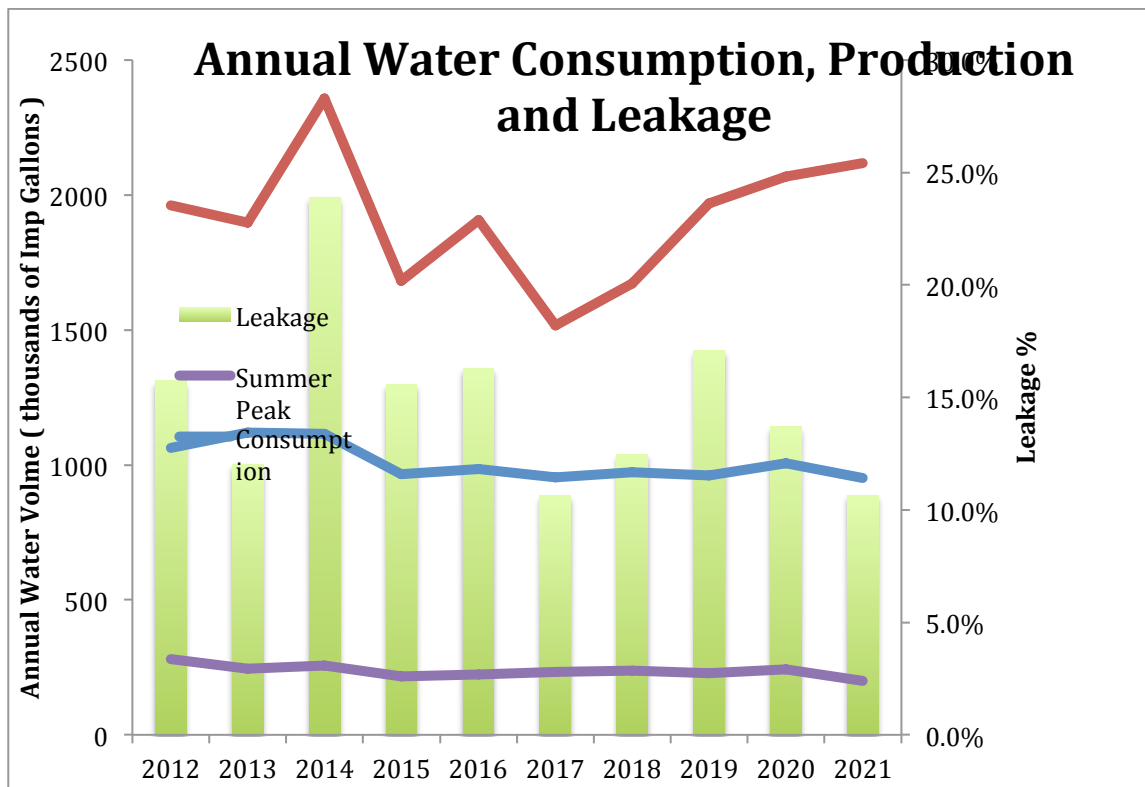
Water Consumption and Leakage

The total water consumed at properties in 2020 was 1,950,595 gallons, 50,000 gallons less than 2020, and 94% of the 10-year rolling average. This is better performance than 2020 reflecting both fewer leaks at premises and lower average consumption. The July/August peak period consumption of 199,940 gallons was quite a bit below 2020 and the 10-year average. Daily water use per full time household averaged 61 gallons for 2021. While this is higher than 2020, it still reflects the conservative consumers on Scott Point; and only 2 or 3 premises have above average consumption.

There were a few leaks at premises, and all were all found using the monthly meter readings, proving the worth of regularly looking at data for anomalies. These leaks were almost all a result of aging infrastructure at premises and continue to be a concern as the original housing stock passes 40 years of age and we simply do not have enough water resource to sustain big leaks. Residents are reminded that damaged lines to the house, old toilets, old brass fittings and automatic irrigation systems have an increased probability of being the source of leakage.

Total groundwater extracted was 2.12 million gallons in 2021, up 50,000 gallons from 2020. While residential consumption was down, groundwater production continued an upward trend. This was a result of problems with the Well 1 RO membranes which meant that more water was used during processing and from problems with the Well 4 pump which forced more reliance on Well 1.

The leakage rate in 2020 was 10.7%, an improvement over 2019 and 2020, and slightly above the 10-year average of 10.2%. This indicates that the water main continues to have service life, although replacement needs to be considered in the medium term.



Quality

The District is required to publish an annual Water Quality Report for residents. The report for 2021 is posted to the website, along with bacteria and water chemistry test results. All testing indicated that product water after treatment fully met Environment Canada Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality.

The Water Quality Report discusses the historical issue of disinfectant by-products (DBP), particularly tri-halomethanes (THM) in the water. The results of THM testing have improved significantly since the completion of Project Blend and the District has lifted the permanent advisory.

In 2021, the District adopted a water management plan that follows the federal Multi-Barrier Approach for Ensuring Water Safety. The details District's approach is posted on the website under Water Quality.

Some residents have commented on the impact of water hardness on scale formation on glass surfaces and heating elements. The District has decided that to reduce this effect and to lower the amount of groundwater used during processing, it would be prudent to improve the efficiency of the current RO and then re-process Well 4 water (which is mostly the source of hard water) through the Well 1 RO plant. We are currently waiting for the technician to install the necessary parts.

Maintenance

The big item in 2021 operations was the replacement of the RO membranes. This was a costly and unbudgeted amount of work. While the plan includes replacement every 5 years, these membranes were only 3 years old and fouled with manganese. To keep the manganese from getting past primary filtration in future, alterations were made to how we use Potassium Permanganate to remove manganese and iron from the water prior to the RO. Since these alterations, pre-RO paper cartridge life has been significantly extended and RO efficiency has improved.

There were no leaks or repairs to the water main.

In 2020, we started a program to pro-actively replace old service lines, connections, and eventually meters. In 2021, two meters sitting perpetually underwater were extended above the water table. One thing that will become evident when meter replacement begins is that volumes will start appearing in metric units; this will require education for residents and trustees.

As part of our routine maintenance program, the well pump at Well 4 was pulled for inspection. The pump was replaced rather than serviced, as new was the same cost as repairs and using a smaller capacity pump will reduce the impact on the groundwater table.

Prior to pulling it, issues with the Well 4 pump caused a malfunction of an electrical protection device that then smoldered until it disconnected. While a fire did not result, it was disconcerting. The District is examining the feasibility of installing fire sensors that could alert trustees using our remote monitoring capability.

Other Items

A number of fences, other encroachments, and work over the water main has occurred over the years without the District's permission. To supplement protections for the District in the event that homeowner work impacts the distribution system, revisions to Bylaw 117 Water Use Regulations were approved to protect the District from the costs of damage to the system caused by work, and the cost of removing encroachments should maintenance activities require it.

The CRD, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and North Salt Spring Waterworks District commissioned a study to look at how improvement districts on Salt Spring were governed and investigate alternative arrangements that might allow access to federal and provincial infrastructure grants. At this time, it does not appear that NSSWD and CRD agree on how to proceed with action on the findings.

Enterprise Risk Planning

The trustees reviewed the requirements of the various Acts and Regulations which apply to the District and concluded that the District operations are in compliance with all relevant requirements.

As part of the budget process for 2022, the trustees reviewed and revised the risk assessment and strategic plan. The resulting priorities guided the re-examination and update of the 10 Year Plan for capital spending and finances was. The revised 10-year plan and strategic plan are available on the website under the Governance tab.

2022 Capital and Non-Routine Work

The replacement of the RO membranes required an adjustment in 2021 capital spending and the refurbishment of equipment at our Well 3 located along Long Harbour Road was pushed into 2022. Work includes replacement of 40 year old filter media, reconfiguration of the piping to remove old brass fittings, and installation of additional filtration to remove fine sediments.