

CHAIRS REPORT- AGM 2011

- thank board and members –away from MIIWSS business during a prolonged election period
- brief recap as we are long on updating by e-mail---as you all know
- membership stands at 109 (+ today's) singles, 33 water systems, + businesses. Dropped membership fees for sister societies.
- new web address – miiwss.com. Now using Steve Deroussie. New look. Updating---need boards to send in their changes. Only heard from Surfside and Bakerview. We also are asking –again—for some pictures. Only Herbie sent us their fancy new pumphouse pic
- Feb operator to operator workshop huge success. Well owners attending. Will do same format next February

There is so much knowledge within our community operators, it is a waste to not make it available to the single well owner. We had about 40 in attendance. The topics are practical and the Q&A is pretty free wheeling. If you own a well, these workshops are a must! We will be holding one in February 2012, and will start to plan a fall workshop for October 2012, so if you have any suggestions, now is the time to speak up.

In Feb, we will have Trevor Hutton from North Salt Spring Waterworks with his power point showing the aerators going into St Mary's Lake. We also hope to have Hach Instruments attend one of these workshops.

- to our list of 10 toilets & 2 urinals for the school, we can add 2 ADAs at the church house and 1 in the public area of the health center
- the offer of discount on Caromas is still available to MIIWSS members
- Fall Fair: 2 tents. fall fair consultants Craig Nowakowski, VIHA , Dave Mellis EDS Pumps on filters and pumps, and John Richardson, tanks. Maybe fair discount. Handouts will be toilet testing tabs, well owner brochure and septic plot and recording sticker

- website to have on list: viha.ca/water and look for the island name scrolling down on the left. Look for 'current boil water notices' in the first para. From there you can check on the status of all the water systems, results and dates of latest tests, and the food handling businesses. Will be adding access to this site from our website

- I attended a Coastal Water Suppliers seminar last weekend. The problems are the same---infrastructure funding, lack of government support but more work, the EOCP and CEUs complaints occupied a fair bit of time, new trustees trying to get their footing, and a good deal of frustration.

All water is now under the Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations with John Baldwin the head bureaucrat. The Ministry of Environment is out of the picture. The new legislation, Water Act Modernization is still hanging out there with still no requirements for groundwater licensing-----BUT we were assured that it is coming, in the same manner as surface water licenses, licensing of the gallonage permitted each licensee annually.

By the way, for the Ministry, 5 connections makes you a water system. For VIHA it is 2. We recommended that they they should talk to one another!

- I brought up Letter Patent reviews with Rob Rounds. He stated that they should be reviewed annually, the same as all bylaws.
- BC is losing 5 to 7 Improvement District each year and the decision is to eradicate Ids by attrition. We all know that the choice of where to go is limited – CRD- the costs are high—and control, is lost. One lobbying effort should be made to get a better deal from the CRD.
- Rob also reminded us that an ID chair is not a super power. He/she is only a trustee and all Trustees are equal.
- CWSA appears to be having some financial difficulties and reduced membership, making them smaller than MIWSS----and we are rated as “very small” by Bill Hyslop of the EOCP. CWSA is system based only and while we could make some suggestions, we may make them delicately and privately.
- Article in Vancouver Sun. Note the reference to EPCOR and privatized water delivery. As our small systems slowly go over to the CRD, my biggest fear is that we will eventually see the Ids sucked into the CRD, who will, a few years down the road, decide that it is more feasible financially and less trouble if they turn the water

systems over to private interests for management. The CRD doesn't listen to the ground level rumblings. It has no controlling factors and its decisions are made by bureaucrats in Victoria and we pay the bills.

- **Testing:** we start this month. Bill Warning and Richard Jarco will form 1 team and Ev and or Di need a team member. We hope to cover all areas of the island this spring plus revisit some of the more critical areas from last fall and 2006. If you have offered your well and have not yet given us back tests and well logs, it would help if you could hunt them up for us. Also we would like your permission to use your well data to form an across the island plot so we can determine the areas that are at risk.

- This has great benefits for the single well owner. You are able to note small incremental shifts and changes in the well output or water quality. If you know what you may be facing, you have the opportunity to make alternate plans such as rainwater collection for gardening, piping rainwater into your house for toilet flushing, greywater re-use, and limiting shower lengths in peak drought and guest periods---which always seem to come at the same time!

As for MIWSS, we need to know where you would like us to go in the future. We are more into testing and tech workshops than in the past.

What does the single well owner feel is of benefit ? Do we need to do more public education? How---without crying wolf?

Again thank you all for your support over these past years