

Qualicum Bay Horne Lake Water District  
AGM held April 20, 2022  
Chairpersons Report

Welcome to the 54 Annual QBHWD AGM.

I would like to acknowledge that we are holding this meeting on the traditional lands of  
of  
The Qualicum First Nation.

2021 and moving into 2022 has been challenging for everyone in Canada. It is no different in our district.

Thanks to our Administrator keeping on top of all the protocol that needs to be followed we managed to get this far with very few disruptions and minimal cost increases and in some areas cost reductions.

Our trustees, administrator and our maintenance team work together very well, and it is impressive their ability to bring forward their ideas and opinions yet also to be able to find neutral ground and respect for each other's opinions. It has made my role as the current chair a very positive experience.

\*A little history

Currently we have 3 wells, which can pump 450 gallons a minute into 2 large glass infused holding tanks and that has supplied clean drinking water through 17.5 kms of waterline serving over 500 connections in our district.

Our water system was established in 1968 and some of it is getting older. We are working with our engineer team to come up with a plan to continue with updates in a responsible manner.

\*Projects recently completely and underway...

Our engineering company has suggested that a good place to start our waterline upgrade is on Charlton Road as it is the oldest part of our system.

Our trustees are discussing this recommendation and if approved we will be getting quotes on this important project very soon.

We are also working through the process of a updated agreement with the Qualicum First Nations bringing the language of the current agreement up to date for 2022 and beyond.

We also have been able to hold the quarterly water rates at \$64.10 per quarter for 2022 but likely there will have to be increases to parcel taxes at some point as we go forward with upgrades to our aging system as we are not exempt from rising costs. We are strictly a ratepayer funded system with no outside financial aid or grants from government.

We have done a few smaller projects since our last AGM in September 2021, including a waterline/road fix on Cochrane Road, and replacing a water line to the QFN Campground. Both these were emergency situations and Don our maintenance contractor, Leigh our Administrator and the board of trustees all came together and handled both issues quickly and efficiently and it appeared nearly seamless to our ratepayers.

The water district is in good financial shape as the financial report will show and that is due to the continued good stewardship of your current trustees and your administrator.

We are a “great team” and with the input and guidance from our Administrator and our Maintenance Team we expect to continue to be a strong and responsible water district.

We have 3 positions as trustees open and are pleased to say that through applications received, we are going to have an election.

This report is just a general overview. If anyone would like a more in-depth discussion on any issues relating to the operation of the district, please feel free to submit a presentation to our Administrator and attend one of our monthly meetings.

I look forward to working with you all on projects for 2022....

Thank you everyone in advance for your desire to support your community

Respectfully yours

Jeff Cain  
Chairperson  
Qualicum Bay Horne Lake Water District (QHLWD)  
2021 - 2022

Manganese Treatment Update April 2022

The water district is committed to providing drinking water to our ratepayers that is safe and far below the acceptable MAC levels of 120ug/L (micro grams per litre)

Don Buchner our maintenance operator has always been on top of all necessary testing.

The board along with our maintenance team earlier in the year discussed the possibility of testing the system for Manganese more frequently as the MAC standards have been reduced by the government and Don though discussion with Island Health has implemented a mutually agreed upon plan to make this happen.

This continued communication between QHLWD and its board, Don Buchner and Island Health puts us way ahead of any questions that could arise about the manganese levels in our water system.

#### **Cost and Priority of Manganese Treatment**

Historically our water district has always had a level of manganese in our drinking water but is far below the MAC standard of 120ug/L as established by government. Manganese is not harmful in lower concentrations although it can be frustrating for homeowners as it has been known to discolour clothes in the wash and in some cases can build up on facets and in toilet bowls. Our maintenance team flushes our water system regularly throughout the year to help minimize these issues.

\*\*\*It is important to run outside facets after flushing to clear your lines of manganese that the flushing process has broken off in the pipes.

A few years ago the water district looked at manganese treatment systems. The most recent cost estimate for a manganese treatment system was over \$1 Million dollars plus a 20 year maintenance expectation in excess of \$2 Million dollars. The water district is putting this idea further down on our priority list of upgrades as without government funding we feel that the installation of a manganese treatment system at this time to be cost prohibitive to our ratepayers.

We do have a very aging water system that is requiring continual in ground water pipe replacement and those upgrades are our number one priority currently although a Manganese Treatment System is not off the table.

Our water district and most other water districts are NOT currently able to qualify for government funding or grants of any kind.