



# JOINT BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

9:00 am

Kingsville Arena

## MINUTES

Members Present    Mayor MacDonald (Chair) Deputy Mayor Verbeke, Councillors  
Union Water        Abraham, Dunn, Tiessen, Wilkinson - Leamington  
Supply System     Deputy Mayor DeYong (Vice Chair); Mayor Rogers, Councillors  
                                 Gaffan, Patterson - Kingsville  
                                 Mayor Bondy - Essex

Members absent    Deputy Mayor Walstedt - Lakeshore

Also in Attendance: Rodney Bouchard, Union Water Supply System Manager  
For UWSS             Kristine Johnson, Recording Secretary

Municipal Staff     Rob Mackie - Town of Essex  
Present:             Andrew Plancke, Shaun Martinho - Town of Kingsville  
                                 Albert Dionne - Municipality of Lakeshore  
                                 Shannon Belleau - Municipality of Leamington

OCWA Staff         Dale Dillen, Ken Penney  
Present:

**Call to Order:      9:00 am**

**Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest: none**

**Adoption of Board Minutes:**

**No. UW-08-23**

Moved by:             Councillor Dunn

Seconded by:         Mayor Rogers

That the minutes of the Union Water Supply System Joint Board of Management meeting held on Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 is approved

Carried

## **Business Arising out of Minutes:**

There was none

### **Report UW/05/23 dated February 10, 2023 re: Status Update of UWSS Operations & Maintenance Activities and Capital Works from January 13<sup>th</sup> to February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

The Manager reminds members of the necessary repair of the clamp on the effluent pipe for Clarifier #3 & #4. He explains that he is expecting it to arrive this week and operations staff will be working to install this, so both clarifiers can be brought back online, in time for the higher flows of the spring season.

While Clarifier #4 was out of service operations staff completed major repairs to the sludge rake structure. The Manager also notes that the annual filter maintenance has been completed.

The Manager indicates that the Ruthven WTP had an unannounced inspection for the Lakeshore Distribution System was conducted by the MECPC on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. No report has been received at this time.

The Manager reminds members of the faulty algae probe, which has now been repaired and put back in service. This probe is now ready for the upcoming warmer weather season.

The Manager then explains that Meter Chamber #17 flow meter had failed. In consultation with staff from the Town of Kingsville and OCWA operations it was determined that due to work associated with watermain relocation as part of widening of Highway 3, it was best to remove the meter chamber and the flow meter associated with it. He notes that this flow meter is no longer used for billing purposes, as billing had previously been separated into three (3) zones: Kingsville, Gosfield South & Gosfield North, now there will just be one (1) billing zone for all of Kingsville.

The Manager explains that the engineering team working on the conceptual design for the project with UWSS and Windsor Utilities Commission (WUC) emergency redundancy will be sharing a potential solution in the coming weeks. A workshop will be held in March 2023, with a presentation ready for both boards sometime in the Summer of 2023.

The Manager explains that C3 Water is progressing with their investigation to identify solutions for the AWT storage issues. The Manager is anticipating a report sometime in March 2023.

The Manager then explains that Associate Engineering (AE) is also moving along with conceptual design on the new reservoir to be located at the WTP. The Manager then explains that further investigation is happening of an abandoned gas well located on the property. He notes that an electromagnetic study will be completed and that should assist in identifying any further issues. He will be providing a report to the board once received from AE. He notes AE is also assisting with the DAF optimization and any recommendations to make the new DAF system even more efficient.

The MECP draft inspection report has been received for the UWSS. There were no recommendations on non-compliance, except regarding chlorine residuals leaving the property. The Manager notes that as part of the 2023 capital plan a system will be put in place to assist with measuring the levels. Currently, the levels are so low, that it is difficult to find an instrument that is capable of measuring said levels.

The Manager then reviews the flows and notes how they have increased over the last year and previous four (4) year average.

The Chair asks if the testing instrumentation for the chlorine residual is an added capital cost. The Manager notes that this item was planned and is the current 2023 budget.

Councillor Patterson asks a few questions concerning the inspection, screens on our intakes and whether the highway widening should consider a conduit be put in place. The manager notes that there was no issues with the inspection; the intakes are about six (6) feet off the bottom of the lake and are currently not causing an issue; and he will discuss the conduits with operational staff and Town staff to mitigate future problems.

**No. UW-09-23**

Moved by: Councillor Patterson

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Verbeke

That report UW/05/23 dated February 10, 2023 re: Status update of the UWSS Operations & Maintenance Activities and Capital Works from January 13 to February 10, 2023

Carried (UW/05/23)

**Report UW/06/23 dated February 9, 2023 re: 2022 Annual Report under the Safe Drinking Water Act and Ontario Regulation 170/03**

The Manager reminds members of the Board that this report is prepared and provided each year. OCWA prepares the report on behalf of all of the municipalities and Union Water and identifies the size of the system, describes the water treatment process, the chemicals used, capital costs, any spills, sampling program, turbidity and other parameters used in the treatment of drinking water. This report will be sent all of the municipalities and posted on UWSS's website.

**No. UW-10-23**

Moved by: Mayor Bondy

Seconded by: Councillor Dunn

That the report UW/06/23 dated February 9, 2023 re: 2022 Annual Report under the Safe Drinking Water Act and Ontario Regulation 170/03 is received.

Carried (UW/06/23)

**Report UW/07/23 dated February 9, 2023 re: 2022 Summary Report for Municipalities under Regulation 170/03 made under the Safe Drinking Water Act**

The Manager notes that this another mandatory report prepared each year under the Safe Drinking Water Act and provided to members of the Board and their respective councils. He notes there were no AWQIs in 2022, identifies how much water was taken from Lake Erie and that UWSS was well within compliance. He does explain that later in the year the process will begin to start on UWSS's license renewal.

The Manager further explains that UWSS is skirting right around the 80% of its license requirements and explains the high demands periods. During those high demand periods more water is being taken out than can be replenished.

Councillor Dunn asks if it is possible to apply for a permit to take more water than currently being taken. The Manager indicates that an Environmental Assessment (EA) is underway and all options will be looked at, as well it will be necessary to host a public information session, and after those items are completed UWSS will better identify what the expansion will potentially look like. He also notes studies are being completed to see how much more water can be pushed through the system. He reminds members of the Board that there are limiting hydraulic issues at the WTP.

Councillor Gaffan feels that not enough is being done to plan for long term. The Manager notes that between 2015 and 2019 the water demand just simply wasn't there. He notes that industry trigger points guide expansion. He is also hoping the EA will be presented in late Spring. He also confirms that the capital plan looks ahead 10 years, and the reservoir being planned is double the current reservoir volumes.

The Manager then also reminds members of the board of the potential of a new annex WTP, which would be modular in nature, so that it can easily be added on to. There is then a brief discussion on water use within the greenhouse industry and the type of growth within the UWSS area in all areas; residential, commercial and greenhouse. He confirms that UWSS has no control over where growth happens within the municipalities, which is controlled at the municipal or provincial level.

**No. UW-11-23**

Moved by: Councillor Gaffan

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor DeYong

That the Board receive the Summary Report for 2022 which fulfils the requirements of Schedule 22 of Ontario Regulation 170/03; and

That the Summary Report be forwarded to the four (4) participating municipalities namely the Town of Essex, Town of Kingsville, Municipality of Lakeshore and the Municipality of Leamington.

Carried (UW/07/23)

### **Slide Presentation**

The Manager shows several slides showing the rise in water use over the last 5 years

Mayor Bondy leaves the meeting at 9:47 am

The Manager indicates that flows are already increasing this year and he attributes that to the shift in how greenhouses are growing their crops and also many new residential and commercial developments.

He further notes that this shift is allowing for less and less time to complete winter repairs.

This presentation then shifts over to his final report.

### **Report UW/08/23 dated February 10, 2023 re: Extension of Moratorium on Applications for UWSS Treated Water Allocation**

The Manager notes that this is not a new item but was brought before the UWSS Board back in 2020, with a year extension again in 2021. Councillor Wilkinson notes that it seems that greenhouse construction has leveled off, but there still seems to be some building.

The Manager notes that some of the greenhouses that are out there at the moment under construction are the ones that were approved prior to the moratorium and were just working their way through the permitting process. Those particular greenhouses would be have been accounted for within the model. They are just now coming online.

The Manager further notes that the UWSS needs further information as to what each greenhouse actual uses, this information could potentially assist with applications in the future. He also indicates that greenhouses seemed to have shifted their water use, actually using more in the Spring season rather than during the Summer months. Councillor Wilkinson asks whether UWSS saw this shift coming. The Manager indicates that he had seen some shift, but what is surprising is the peak days are now coming in June, rather than July.

Mayor Rogers asks the Manager why he is using the word “indefinite” in his motion. The manager explains that rather than coming back each year to extend the moratorium this would be a better way, as the moratorium is indefinite until more water can be produced. The Manager further notes that he provides water demand information each month to members of the board so they are still knowledgeable of the flows happening at the WTP. Mayor Rogers feels that it is best to provide an update at the beginning of each year in regard to this issue rather than leave it with the wording “indefinite”.

Deputy Mayor Verbeke asks for clarification on the limit within this moratorium and the manager reminds him this moratorium is for large service application and does not apply to residential. There is a brief discussion around why water systems were built, and it is noted that they were built for residential growth.

There is a brief mention regarding the use of wells for the greenhouse growers. The Manager notes that if too many wells are dug in this area the MECP will get involved. Several municipal staff chime in regarding the process at the municipal level with regard to wells, water collection and the process for the queue of greenhouse applications.

**No. UW-12-23**

Moved by: Mayor Rogers

Seconded by: Councillor Dunn

That the report UW/08/23 dated February 10, 2023 re: Extension of Moratorium on Applications for the UWSS Treated Water Allocations is received; And

That the Union Water Supply System Joint Board of Management (UWSS Board) extends the existing moratorium on new requests for treated water allocations from new or existing entities that use more than 50,000 litres per day until such time that additional water treatment capacity is realized for the Union Water Supply System; And

That the Manager provide and update to the UWSS Board during the first quarter of the following calendar year regarding the status of the moratorium.

Carried

**Special Closed Meeting of the UWSS Joint Board of Management**

**No. C-UW-04-23**

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Verbeke

Seconded by: Councillor Dunn

That the UWSS Joint Board of Management move into a Special Closed Meeting, pursuant to the Municipal Act Section 239 (2)(e)(f) for the following reason:

**Matters for Consideration:**

Verbal update Under Municipal Act Section 239 (2)(e)(f) update regarding potential litigation and advice provided by the solicitor for the Union Water Supply System Joint Board of Management.

The UWSS Board consider this verbal report in closed session pursuant to section 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001, subsection(s)(e)(f).

**Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof**

There was none.

The Manager provides a verbal update on a property issue, with legal advice provided by the UWSS Board solicitor present.

**No. C-UW-05-23**

Moved by: Councillor Patterson

Seconded by: Mayor Rogers

That the Manager and solicitor are provided direction with regard to the property issue.

Carried

**No. C-UW-06-23**

Moved by: Councillor Patterson

Seconded by: Mayor Rogers

That the UWSS Joint Board of Management move out of closed session and return to its regular meeting.

Carried

**Time in Closed session 10:24-10:36**

**Report on Closed Session**

The Manager reports on the closed session noting that an update Under Municipal Act Section 239 (2)(e)(f) update regarding potential litigation and advice provided by the solicitor for the Union Water Supply System Joint Board of Management.

The UWSS Board considered this verbal report in closed session pursuant to section 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001, subsection(s)(e)(f). Also, the Manager was provided direction under solicitor advice to form a resolution of the property issue, which is also to be reviewed by the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Union Water Supply System Joint Board of Management prior to moving forward.

**New Business:**

The recording secretary asks members of the UWSS Board their preferences for calendars this year.

There is a brief discussion surrounding a possible tour of the facilities at the Ruthven WTP for those new to the Board, plus a potential workshop to provide some historical references for new members.

There was a brief discussion surrounding the March Board meeting and it was determined to cancel it.

**Adjournment:**

**No. UW-13-23**

Moved by: Councillor Patterson

Seconded by: Mayor Rogers

**Date of Next Meeting:** April 19, 2023, at the Kingsville Arena

/kmj