

## **APPENDIX B: Early Newspaper Articles (Revelstoke Herald) and City of Revelstoke Council Minutes (1909 – 1911)**

**August 28, 1909. Mr. McNicoll Meets Board of Trade – Vice-President of C.P.R. Hears  
Address and Discusses Matters of Interest to Revelstoke – Amicable Meeting**

*The city of Revelstoke is the largest and most important town on the main line of the C.P.R. in British Columbia, and the progress and prosperity of this city are intimately linked with that of the Railway Company which you represent.*

**September 1, 1909. Canadian Forestry – Visit of Superintendent Campbell**

*On Saturday, Mr. R.H. Campbell, superintendent of the Forestry branch of the Department of the Interior, visited Revelstoke and was the guest of Mr. R.J. Watson [Watson is the Inspector of the Department of the Interior]. Mr. Campbell, although a young man, is recognized as one of the ablest officials of the government. He has reorganized the Forestry branch and is determined that the policy of Forest Conservation shall take its proper place in the administration in Ottawa.*

**September 1, 1909. Big Bend Developing**

*The timber areas of that country, continued Mr. Taylor, are unsurpassed anywhere, and stretch for 50 or 60 miles to the north of Revelstoke. The timber is all under licence and some is being cut. The Big Eddy Lumber Company has several camps throughout that district, the farthest north of which is that at the junction of Downie creek and the Columbia river. They are taking out a good quantity of timber which is being brought down the Columbia river to their mill at Revelstoke.*

**September 1, 1909.**

*With the growth of Revelstoke the water supply of the future is a matter for serious consideration. There are two sources from which the present supply could be augmented. These are Eight-Mile Creek and Greely Creek. Both are fed by glaciers, making the supply assured in the heat of the summer, when it is most required. The city have a water record on Eight Mile Creek and we suggest they also get one on Greely Creek, as we believe, all things considered, the latter will probably prove the most feasible scheme, the cost of laying pipe line and flume construction being much less along the valley of the Illecillewaet than along the steep slope of the Columbia Valley. A head of 300 feet can be got between the city and Greely Creek.*

**September 1, 1909. The Forestry Commission – Sits at Revelstoke on 10<sup>th</sup> inst. – Evidence Invited**

*The appointment of the Forestry Commission furnishes an opportunity for all who wish to give their views on the questions of title to timber licenses and forest conservation. The commission will sit at Revelstoke on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at the court house, and they will be glad to hear the views of all interested in the important problems with which they are called upon to deal. The Commissioners are Messrs. A.C. Flumerfelt, Hon. F.J. Fulton, Minister of Lands, and A.S. Goodeve, M.P. for Kootenay. As future legislation will be based on their report any person having information of value on the subject should not hesitate to lay it before the commission.*

**September 8, 1909. Improved Water Supply**

*The improvement of the Revelstoke water supply is a matter that should have the urgent attention of the city council. While the supply has been good up till this summer the growth of the city is making*

*demands on the water supply which it is no longer capable of meeting. An increased supply is required. As noted in a recent issue there are two sources of supply known to be available, and there may be others. At all events the dry season is the time to investigate. The city has already a very complete report on the cost of bringing in a supply from Eight Mile Creek, and this survey having already been made there is no necessity of further expense in connection therewith at present. Greely Creek provides another source of supply that has not been investigated, and the chief advantage of which would be the reduced cost of utilizing this supply. There is another stream which flows north-east from the glacier on Mt Clachnacooden which might be considered. Still another alternative is the construction of a large reservoir in the valley of Bridge Creek, which provides the present supply. This creek drains a catchment basin which, with proper reservoir accommodation, could furnish ample water for a city ten times the size of Revelstoke. The cost of a reservoir to collect and hold a six week's supply in reserve might therefore be considered, and then compared with that of utilizing the other sources. A reliable supply of water is one of the most necessary adjuncts of a city whether considered from the sanitary necessities of the people or as a matter of fire protection. Revelstoke has been exceptionally fortunate so far in that its water supply has cost little compared with other cities. The time has now come however, when the improvement of the service is necessary and the cost has to be faced.*

October 9, 1909. **The Water Supply**

February 15, 1910. **Revelstoke City Minutes. Report on New Water Supply**

*The report of Messrs. Smith, Kerry & Chace upon a new water supply for Revelstoke was then brought up and the matter discussed generally. Mr Haffner giving full particulars and stating that the report was considered by Messrs. Smith, Kerry & Chace to be preliminary and not complete and that no charge would be made for same. Ald. Cowan, Chairman Fire, Water & Light, was of opinion that a stream that would give a permanent water supply to Revelstoke should be sought and that he considered Jordan Creek was the stream that should receive serious consideration and that its possibilities as a source of water supply for Revelstoke should be thoroughly investigated in the near future.*

February 19, 1910.

*Alderman Cowan said when they were going in for a water supply they could not go to an unreliable stream that took its rise in a timbered country. He had visited the stream referred to by Mr. Haffner, some years ago, and at that time found Brewery Creek, right at the City contained more water than Three Mile Creek, but since the timber had been taken off the source of supply in that creek had fallen off. He would like to have Jordan River investigated, as they would then have a first class supply for all time. It would be folly to adopt the creek referred to as a supply for the city. He was also satisfied that water could not be brought in for the amount mentioned. They knew they would have to cut out the present supply from Bridge Creek.*

*Mr. Haffner: That is on account of contamination from campers?*

*Ald. Cowan: Yes. We have Government records showing that contamination has been brought about by camps forty miles off, and this city has got to be very careful in bringing in its water supply.*

*Mr. Smith: Then you should have every available source thoroughly investigated.*

*Ald. Abrahamson: How could you bring the water from the Jordan across the Columbia river?*

*Mr. Smith: By sinking the bed of the pipe line under the river. It might be necessary to dredge a channel across the width of the river, in which the pipes could be laid.*

*Ald. Abrahamson: It is a strong current and shifting channel.*

*Ald. Cowan: The Columbia river has not changed a foot in 25 years at the Jordan.*

*Ald. Abrahamson: If it could be laid across the river I would like to see it brought from there.*

*Ald Bews: Was it not proposed to bring in a supply from Eight Mile Creek?*

*Ald. Cowan considered Eight Mile Creek out of the question.*

*Mr. Haffner considered Greely Creek the most accessible means of securing an abundant supply.*

*Mr. Smith: How long can the city wait for a water supply?*

*The Mayor: We require it right now.*

*Ald. Cowan: I think you should be paid up for what you have done and any further work we require we shall make a fresh arrangement about it.*

*Mr. Haffner said there would be no charge for what they had done so far. He considered 100 inches of water would last them for 100 years, and there was three times that amount of water at Greely Creek. He would look into the Jordan proposition.*

*The meeting then adjourned.*

February 26, 1910.

*The writer has traveled over practically the whole of British Columbia and it is his firm belief that nowhere in the province can a site be found that for all the purposes of a university will surpass what is known, especially to old-timers, as the "Adair Ranch." The view from this position is unrivalled. There is abundance of level land for all building and recreation purposes, the disposal of sewage could here be most easily arranged, and, last but not least important the proximity of large mountain streams assures abundant supply of the purest water.*

April 20, 1910.

*In the face of these increases in debt and taxation there is yet no provision made for improved water supply. This is one of the first things the city requires and must have and the city council should now have engineers engaged on the work so as to have the added supply available by the time the dry weather sets in. This water supply is just as important to the public interest as education, and must be provided for. Of course if the Three-Mile Creek system is adopted it is not such a big undertaking, as it is stated it can be carried out for \$25,000. if investigation confirms a sufficient quantity of water available the city has the proposal of the C.P.R. to contribute \$2,500 a year for these ...*

April 23, 1910. **Canada and Her Forests**

*Washington cannot presume that a Canadian commonwealth has not the right to protect its natural resources in its public lands and to turn its raw materials into sources of employment for its own people. The governments of Quebec and Ontario were not prompted to prohibit the export of pulp wood from Crown lands solely because they desired to force United States mills and employees into this country.*

*There was a broader reason, and that was to establish for all time control over vast forest resources, so that they could not be subjected to the depreciation of private and alien interests. The people of the United States, with their depleted forests, are just as much interested today in the conservation of Canadian pulp forests as we are ourselves. Some day their great newspapers and binderies must depend on Canada for their supply of paper. If Canadians protect and conserve their resources, as the people of the United States clearly have not done, a generation will rise to thank the public men of the country for what they are doing today.*

May 13, 1910. **Revelstoke City Council Minutes**

*City Clerk was instructed to get particulars of the lands over which the pipe line is to go and write to the Dominion Government asking them not to issue more homestead rights which would affect the pipe line and also asking them to reserve the head waters of Revelstoke Creek.*

June 1, 1910. **City Council – New Water Supply Scheme Takes Shape. The regular meeting of the city council was held last Friday night, the full board being present.**

### **New Water Supply**

*R. Smith, P.L.S., reported that the new Sixth street school could be drained into the central sewer section. It would cost about \$4000 to put in a sewer to the school without extras. Mr. Smith also reported on the practicability of an additional water supply to the city from Revelstoke or Three Mile creek, north of the city. It would require 4 ½ miles of 12 inch pipe to bring the water into the city, the estimated cost including laying and filling being about \$21,000. There wasn't much rock cutting to do. The supply would be good as the water shed was very large. By adopting this system it would be possible to eventually tap Greely creek through the same pipe line. The council favored the scheme and will take up the matter of co-operation with the C.P.R. in the work.*

June 8, 1910. **Scientific Forestry**

*Important work in the Dominion railway belt between Revelstoke and Kamloops will be undertaken this summer by the forestry branch of the interior department. It will include a report on the suitability of that region for general agriculture and of fruitgrowing, as well as the collection of data as to the best points for making forest reserves in order to conserve the timber and water supply.*

*The work will be in charge of Mr. G.A. Cronie of the forestry service. He will be assisted by three forestry students of the University of Toronto. Mr. Cronie will begin his labors at Revelstoke. He is a graduate of the forestry department of Yale University. Mr. Cronie leaves for Revelstoke this week.*

June 11, 1910. **City Council – New Water Supply System to be Commenced**

*A special meeting of the city council was held on Thursday night with acting Mayor Trimble and full board present, except Ald. McKinnon.*

### **Water System Commenced**

*Ald. Cowan stated that he had submitted the proposition of co-operation in the new water scheme to the C.P.R. at Vancouver, but had not reply. The following report on the new water works scheme of taking water from Revelstoke and Greely creeks by R. Smith, P.L.S., was read:*

*“I have examined the following sources of supply, viz.: The Revelstoke creek which descends from the eastern slope of Mt. Victoria and reaching the Illecillewaet river about three miles above the Revelstoke city power dam, Greely creek and a tributary of the Jordan river. The river source of supply cannot be considered as it is not any closer than the others and the dangers of breaks in the section crossing the Columbia river is too serious a faction affecting the continuity of the supply.*

*The supply in Revelstoke creek has been estimated at 100 miners inches or 1,350,000 gallons per day. This supply will be sufficient for 13,000 inhabitants of the city and when added to the present supply will give ample water for 14,000 people and also for flushing sewers and watering lawns. If the city attains more than this population the supply can be augmented to meet the requirements of a population of 40,000 by extending the mains to Greely creek. This extension will be two miles (approx) which would be a very small expenditure for a city of 14,000 and upward. In view of the considerations afore mentioned it is advisable, in order to provide for the ultimate requirements of the city, that a main should be laid from the line of least cost up the valley of the Illecillewaet river from Revelstoke creek to provide sufficient supply for ten years and consequently providing for an economic extension to Greely creek for the ultimate supply. As the supply of water from Revelstoke will prove inadequate in future years, it is advisable to proceed as follows: Construct a main from the present dam 20,000 feet in length up the valley of the Illecillewaet river 12 inches in diameter,*

thence turn to the left 4,300 feet to tap Revelstoke creek for water supply for the immediate future. This branch would be 10 inches in diameter and will carry all the water in the creek which will provide water for 14,000 population. When this supply proves inadequate, the extension can be made from the end of the 12 inch main to Greely creek at a cost of approximately \$12,000, thus obtaining a supply sufficient for 40,000 people. The present dam on Bridge creek should be replaced by a concrete structure as the present wooden structure is costing more for repairs than the sum required to provide interest and sinking fund on a permanent dam. It will be necessary to construct a branch line below the dam on Bridge creek, which can be used to waste the water from the proposed 12 inch main whenever it is necessary to close the main at the lower end. This will necessitate about 30 feet more pipe and two valves. The cost of the proposed changes will be as follows:

20400 ft of 12 in. pipe - \$19,176.00

4,300 ft. of 10 in. pipe - 3,354.00

Cost of dam - 1,000.00

Coast of roads - 1,000.00

Cost of clearing right way - 500.00

Bylaw, surveying, etc. - 1,000.00

Total cost - \$26,030.00

The Mayor said that this was a very important matter and should be proceeded with at once and the C.P.R. will probably co-operate. It was finally decided to receive the report and adopt it, and the city solicitor was instructed to prepare the by-law to place before the people to raise the money. The city clerk was also instructed to take steps to obtain a Dominion government grant for pipe line right of way and to get a reserve put on the head waters on the creek, and prevent any homesteads being taken up there.

#### **Extend Water System - \$27,000 to be Raised for the Work**

The By-law for the borrowing of \$27,000 on debentures for the improving, augmenting and extending of the water supply for the city of Revelstoke was introduced last night at the City Council meeting and passed three readings. Voting on the By-law will take place on Saturday, June 25. The debentures will run for 50 years at the rate of 5 per cent. and must not be sold for less than 95. The sinking fund per year on the borrowed amount will be \$239.38 and interest per year, \$1350.00 Ald Cowan stated that it was very probable that the C.P.R. would co-operate with the city and take at least 150,000 gallons a day at a rate of 4 cents per 1,000 gallons which is an income of \$5 a day. The new water supply scheme has been passed with the unanimous consent of the Council who have recognized the importance it is to the city.

If passed by the people the By-law will come into force on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **June 22, 1910. Improved Water Supply - Voting on By-law to Raise \$27,000 Takes Place Saturday**

In another column will be found the by-law for the raising by debenture of \$27,000 for the augmenting, extending and improving the city water supply. The need of a better supply of water for Revelstoke in the midst of summer when the supply runs short, is recognized by every citizen, and an abundance of water is now more necessary than ever, since the sewers have been installed. It is to be hoped that the ratepayers will realize fully the importance of the proposal now before them and support the passage of the money by-law required to carry out this work. The voting takes place on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. By raising the necessary money the ratepayers will bring upon themselves no additional taxation, as the increased revenue obtained from the C.P.R. alone and other sources will more than cover the interest and sinking fund to provide for the debentures which will extend over 50 years.

*Revelstoke is steadily growing, and as the city increases in population the necessity of an adequate water supply will be more keenly felt and when it is considered that the supply can be secured without any cost to the ratepayers, the citizens as a whole should roll up at the polls on Saturday next and vote for the by-law to ensure its being passed and the water supply of the city thereby improved.*

**July 8, 1910. Revelstoke City Council Minutes**

*Ald. Cowan stated that it would be wise that plans of the Water Shed adjacent to Revelstoke be prepared with a view to future reservations of same. On motion of Ald. McKinnon, Sec. Ald. McCarty this matter was referred to the Fire, Water and Light Committee. Carried.*

**August 20, 1910. Influence of Trees**

*Forests are found to attract rain – they cool the atmosphere, their surface offering a warmth-radiating area, so that the vapors readily condense and descend in frequent showers. Ruined forests mean flooded rivers, periodic droughts, eroded soil and dried up springs.*

*Mercenary destruction means denuded mountain slopes, the loss of historic forests and “nature revenge” in the near future. The reckless and wanton destruction of forests has ruined some of the richest countries on earth.*

*Many bodies have control of large tracts of land, such as water boards, are now planting their catchment areas with trees with advantage and profit; for it is found that the presence of trees adds to the retention of water falling as rain as well as that produced by radiation and cooling the adjacent atmosphere; it prevents floods, regulates and purifies the supply, for water from wooded areas is generally purer than that falling on bare land.*

*Thus we can see that trees not only attract rain, but are an all-around source of monetary gain; in addition to the esthetic improvement of the locality, refreshing our eyes and brains, as well as purifying the air, and covering with verdure the waste and barren lands.*

*The beneficial influence on our general health exercised by the afforestation of neglected acres is beyond dispute. The consumption of carbonic acid gas alone by trees is an apparent gain to all who dwell in their vicinity.*

*Trees and rivers are inter-dependent upon each other. Even in the midst of a prairie the course of a river is shown by a double line of trees. Is there not some connection between them? Is the river due to the forest of the forest due to the river? Experience goes to prove that springs are conserved in a well wooded country, and that they dry up if a great clearance is made.*

*Not only do forests affect the rainfall, they greatly influence the climate of a country.*

*The influence of trees on the atmosphere is also apparent. A considerable portion of the rain falling upon forest trees is at once taken up by the leaves with moisture, which evaporates from them, and so adds to the humidity of the atmosphere.*

*Local rains are often due to large areas of woodland. Forests cause precipitation from clouds that have passed over the plains and still withheld the grateful showers.*

*Mountains and rocks are imposing, and cataracts force themselves on our attention by their deafening noise; but in the absence of a setting of green, or clumps of trees, they are lifeless.*

*It is the earth, 'with verdure clad,' which appeals to the mind, and which does so much to promote the higher civilization.*

**August 23, 1910. Fire, Water & Light Committee report**

*4. The conservation of the water sheds of Bridge Creek, Revelstoke & Greely Creeks has been taken up with City Engineer Smith, plans will be submitted to you as soon as possible. We would recommend that a reserve be got on the waters of Greely Creek if possible. Plans are also being prepared showing the Right of Way of pipe Line through the unoccupied lands between Bridge & Revelstoke Creeks for the purpose of obtaining a title for same from the Government.*

**August 31, 1910. City Water Supply**

*One of the most important questions ever taken up by the Board of Trade, and one which effects the city and its welfare most, is that of the conservation of the water supply for the city's public use. For some long time the Board has had the matter in hand, but as yet nothing definite has been done, although it is practically certain that an arrangement will be made whereby the whole of the area of land comprising the water shed for this valley, and situated in the mountains to the northward will be preserved. It is mainly the rainfall and snowfall on these wooded areas that Revelstoke has to depend for her water supply, and the object of the Board is to secure a reserve for a large number of square miles which surrounds the headwaters of the many streams and creeks that supply water to the city. The thicker the forest timber in these areas, the better and more constant will our water supply be and in a growing city like Revelstoke too much care cannot be exercised to provide an adequate supply of water for the present needs as well as for the future. The matter is of vital importance and it is expedient that the Dominion government and the city come to some practical agreement to secure these areas for the city and thereby preserve an unfailing supply of water for all time to come.*

September 10, 1910.

*Nothing further was reported as to conservation of the water supply for the city and the reserving of the land and timber round the head waters of the supply.*

**October 5, 1910. Pure City Water**

*A number of people have been laying the blame of the few recent cases of sickness in the city at the door of the new water system, claiming that it has been the cause of no inconsiderable bodily ailments. We have it on the authority of the medical men and those who are at the head of city affairs, that the new water is absolutely pure and free from all organic matter that is deleterious to the body. The new and old supply are practically from the same source and Revelstoke water has always had a very high reputation and on no occasion have the people suffered any evil effects from it. Before blaming the water they drink the people should look to themselves and their own constitutions, if they are sick and see if the remedy is not in their own hands. Climatic changes will often upset the human system and many other conditions, but to blame it on to the city water is unjust and is likely to damage the city's splendid reputation in this respect.*

**October 14, 1910. City of Revelstoke Minutes**

*Communications: - Board of Trade, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1910, asking if anything has been done in the way of Water conservation for the City. City Clerk was instructed to reply stating that the City Engineer will attend to this matter as soon as possible.*

October 14, 1910. **Water, Light & Fire Committee report**

*7. Unfinished Business. The conservation of the water sheds of Bridge, Revelstoke and Greely Creeks.*

October 19, 1910. **City Council**

*A meeting of the city council was held on Friday night last. Among the principal matters taken up was a request from the Board of Trade, in regard to the conservation of the city water supply and asking if anything had been done. The city clerk was instructed to reply that the city engineer would attend to it at once.*

November 11, 1910. **Revelstoke City Council Minutes**

*R. Smith, City Engineer, waited upon the Council and presented plans showing the conservation of the water supply for Revelstoke. After a general discussion of the matter, it was moved by Ald. McKinnon, seconded by Ald. McCarty that the Fire, Water and Light Committee take up the matter of the conservation of water supply with the Board of Trade.*

November 25, 1910. **Fire, Water & Light Committee report**

*6. We now have a Map prepared by Engineer Smith, showing the lands we would like to have brought under conservation for the purpose of keeping pure the water of the various streams which the City is now using for domestic purposes, and those that may in the future be required. If plans are accepted by your Council they better be forwarded to the Board of Trade together with a resolution, they will presume take this matter up with the department at Ottawa or their representative here.*

November 25, 1910. **Revelstoke City Council Minutes**

*Robert Smith, City Engineer, presented to the Council the maps covering the conservation of the water supply for Revelstoke District, and the City Clerk was instructed to forward them with a letter to the Board of Trade.*

November 26, 1910. **City Council Conserve City Water**

*Plans for the conservation of the sources of the city water supply were approved by the council, and the matter will be taken up with the Board of Trade.*

December 3, 1910. **Board of Trade**

**Water Conservation**

*The matter of the reservation of certain areas north of the city for the conservation of the city's water supply was taken up and the letter which the city council had written to the Dominion government asking for the reservation and water records was endorsed.*

January 21, 1911. **Board of Trade on Important Matters**

*At the annual meeting of the Board of Trade on Tuesday evening, President W.H. Pratt presented his annual report, which appears herewith, and a number of important matters were dealt with, including the drastic legislation regarding the detimbering of lands in the proximity of Revelstoke. Referring to this G.S. McCarter pointed out that the enforcement of the directions to the Dominion*

*government would work a lot of permanent injury to this city, and urged the board to petition the government to withdraw such legislation or extend the time for the cutting of this timber.*

*Water Supply Conservation – in this connection the Department of the Interior has been asked to make a reserve of the Water Sheds of Bridge, Hamilton and Greely creeks.*

## Appendix C - B.C. Tap Water Alliance Press Release (March 21, 2013)

# B. C. TAP WATER ALLIANCE

**Caring for, Monitoring, and Protecting  
British Columbia's Community Water  
Supply Sources**

P.O. Box #39154, 3695 West 10<sup>th</sup> Ave.,  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. V6R-1G0

*Email* – info@bctwa.org

*Website* – www.bctwa.org



March 21, 2013

*For Immediate Release*

## **BC LIBERALS CAUGHT DEMOTING PROTECTED STATUS OF COMMUNITY DRINKING WATER SOURCES**

*Vancouver* – In February 2013, the BC Tap Water Alliance began investigating logging proposals by B.C. Timber Sales in South Pender Harbour's water supply, McNeill Lake, now under the authority of the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD). The Alliance was shocked to discover that the B.C. Liberals altered the status of the McNeill Watershed Reserve four years ago in March, 2009. It had been demoted to a Section 17 *Land Act* Reserve status that now gives the Ministry of Environment discretionary power to permit resource uses such as timber sales.

As summarized in the Alliance's February 27<sup>th</sup> four page letter of complaint to Doug Konkin, the Deputy Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (see backgrounder web link), the small community watershed was protected by way of powerful Crown land legislation since at least 1974. Designation as a Section 16 Watershed Reserve under the *Land Act* prohibits Crown land dispositions, such as timber sales. The Alliance asked that Konkin intervene by preventing the proposed timber sales, and has yet to receive a reply from the Deputy Minister. Although the timber sale agreement was recently awarded, it has not yet been signed.

Upon further inquiries, the Alliance was astounded to discover that just two months before the last provincial election in 2009, the BC Liberals had actually altered ALL the Section 16 Community Watershed Reserves within the administrative boundary of the Ministry of Environment's Lower Mainland or Region, including Chapman and Gray Creeks, the SCR D's main source of water supply, where "thinning" was recently permitted in Chapman Creek with no prior notice to the SCR D. Apparently, the demotions were done without formally notifying dozens of water purveyors to whom the Reserves, and the water supplied, were dedicated.

These completely unpublicized, wholesale demotions appear to have been in response to allegations contained in our book, *From Wisdom to Tyranny*, the history of BC's community Watershed Reserves, sent to three Liberal Party Ministers, Forests Minister Rich Coleman, Environment Minister Barry Penner, and Lands Minister Pat Bell (see backgrounder). The book strongly recommended that government conduct a provincial inquiry into the administrative history and mismanagement of the Community Watershed Reserves. A year later on July 23, 2007, during the SCR D's Board of Health Hearings on logging in Chapman Creek, which received wide media

attention, the Alliance presented detailed information about the SCR D's Chapman Creek Watershed Reserve (see backgrounder). In July 2007, when SCR D residents filed a Court Injunction against Western Forest Products logging in the Chapman Reserve, the Alliance's book was entered into Court evidence.

The BC Liberal government's initial response was to repeal *Health Act* legislation in May 2008 (*Bill 23, The Public Health Act*) in order to prevent third order governments from convening any further Board of Health Inquiries (see backgrounder). In March 2009, the government also quietly removed the protection afforded by the Section and 16 *Land Act* Watershed Reserves, following nearly two decades of successive governments publicly denying their existence and intent.

"The public has no idea what this government secretly did four years ago. It is absolutely disgraceful," notes Will Koop, B.C. Tap Water Alliance Coordinator. "No other administration over the last forty years has dared to do what the BC Liberals have done."

"This government should immediately reinstate all of BC's affected Community Watershed Reserves as Section 16 Reserves under the *Land Act* and delete all industrial tenures as intended, including Community Forests, BC Timber Sales and other forest tenures that have been wrongfully permitted within them. Then the Reserves should be designated as Section 15 Order-in-Council Reserves in favour of water purveyors and the communities they serve. It is only fair that the "other" 40 percent of British Columbians have what Greater Victoria and Metro Vancouver citizens reclaimed and now enjoy – protected watersheds that reliably produce clean water. That's BC's protection legacy."

-30-

For Press Release Backgrounders: <http://www.bctwa.org/PrRel-Mar21-2013-Backgrounder>

**APPENDIX D: WEST COAST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION'S  
LETTER TO STAN HAGAN REGARDING BILL 21**

(The following are 2 pages from the 5 page submission)

May 1, 2002

Hon. Stan Hagen  
Minister of Sustainable Resource Management  
East Annex  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC  
V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Hagen,

**RE: Bill 21 Agricultural Land Commission Act**

We are writing to provide input regarding Bill 21. We are not aware that there was any public consultation on this new legislation prior to its introduction in the Legislature, despite the important issues of public policy it contains. We are nevertheless writing at this late stage in the hope that you are open to changes and will receive this as constructive to the legislative process.

As a general comment, although we recognize that the government is maintaining the essential elements of the agricultural land reserve protection regime, we believe the government is putting those protections at risk by authorizing delegated approval of subdivision and non-farm use without appropriate checks and balances. We are also very disappointed that you are repealing the key features of the forest land reserve without any public process.

Bill 22 introduces positive changes that improve the Agricultural Land Commission's enforcement capabilities, but it also raises the following important issues that we would like to bring to your attention.

**1. Section 26. Concern with Overly Broad Delegation of Commission Powers**

We understand that you may be introducing an amendment to this section to remove the possibility of delegation of commission authority to "any person". We would support that amendment and your responsiveness to input received on that point. However, we have other concerns that arise with this section.

Delegation of commission decision-making authority to agents of the government, public bodies, or local governments, inevitably raises the possibility of conflicts of mandate. The mandates of these authorities are inevitably more broad than that of the commission regarding agricultural land, as set out in section 6. Some of these conflicts can be avoided perhaps through the terms of a delegation agreement, but there are no provisions in the draft legislation to provide legislative assurance. There are also no provisions to cancel delegation agreements if the purposes of the legislation are not being satisfactorily met.

As an example, we understand that one delegation authority under consideration by the commission is to the Oil and Gas Commission. The mandate of that commission in facilitating oil and gas development <sup>359</sup> is potentially in conflict with the purposes of the Agriculture Land Commission as set out in section 6. A similar situation could arise with local governments which do not have the same mandate as the commission. Any delegation of this nature is potentially fraught with risk that the purposes of the legislation will not be achieved.

One of the reasons that this concern arises is that the delegation powers are very broad. Delegating the authority to approve non-farm use or subdivision of agricultural land goes to the very purposes of the legislation. There is little comfort in the suggestion that the integrity of the agricultural land reserve will be maintained just because the commission cannot delegate its inclusion and exclusion decisions. That is a moot point when a delegated authority can decide to approve any non-farm uses or subdivision within the reserve and potentially defeat the purpose of the reserve.

Maybe the efficiencies achieved by moving to regionally based panels will diminish the need for delegation agreements. But it appears from the amendments that more are anticipated rather than fewer. We submit that at the very least the legislation should be amended to accomplish the following:

- More narrowly circumscribe the terms under which the commission may delegate its authority;
- More narrowly limit the types of powers that the commission may delegate to exclude decisions in which conflicting mandates may arise;
- Specifically address the potential for conflicting mandates by establishing a clear test for the exercise of the delegated authority that is consistent with section 6;
- Provide for the cancellation of delegation agreements where the purposes of the Act are not being satisfactorily met.

---

<sup>359</sup> The purposes of the Oil and Gas Commission are set out in section 3 of the Oil and Gas Commission Act as follows:

3. The purposes of the commission are to
- (a) regulate oil and gas activities and pipelines in British Columbia in a manner that
    - (i) provides for the sound development of the oil and gas sector, by fostering a healthy environment, a sound economy and social well being,
    - (ii) (ii) conserves oil and gas resources in British Columbia,
    - (iii) (iii) ensures safe and efficient practices, and
    - (iv) (iv) assists owners of oil and gas resources to participate equitably in the production of shared pools of oil and gas;
  - (b) provide for effective and efficient processes for the review of applications related to oil and gas activities or pipelines, and to ensure that applications that are approved are in the public interest having regard to environmental, economic and social effects;
  - (c) encourage the participation of First Nations and aboriginal peoples in processes affecting them,
  - (d) participate in planning processes; and
  - (e) undertake programs of education and communication in order to advance safe and efficient practices and the other purposes of the commission.

**Appendix E - Letter to Revelstoke City Regarding Greeley Creek Watershed Reserve, June 4, 2013, and Revelstoke City Letter, June 3, 2013**

## **B. C. TAP WATER ALLIANCE**

**Caring for, Monitoring, and Protecting  
British Columbia's Community Water  
Supply Sources**

P.O. Box #39154, 3695 West 10<sup>th</sup> Ave.,  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. V6R-1G0  
*Email* – info@bctwa.org  
*Website* – www.bctwa.org



June 4, 2013

Mayor and Council,  
Revelstoke City

### **Re: Watershed Reserve Tenure Status of Greeley Creek**

Dear Mayor and Council,

In recent concerns raised with the provincial government on the protection status of BC's drinking watershed sources in southwest BC, (<http://www.bctwa.org/PrRel-Mar21-2013-DemotingReserves.pdf>) we subsequently began conducting a background check on all of BC's drinking watersheds. We thereby discovered that the Watershed Reserve tenure status that protected Greeley Creek, by way of a Section 16 Map Reserve under the *Land Act*, is no longer status registered as such with the Ministry of Lands in its data system (Front Counter, Cranbrook Region). Without such a registered reserve tenure status, Greeley Creek is unprotected, and is therefore vulnerable to inadvertent dispositions, such as the current "adventure tourism" tenure application within portions of the lower Greeley community watershed (Application File No. 4405329).

We are familiar with the general protection history file of Greeley Creek. A contextualized narrative on this history is about to be published in our upcoming report on the history of the Big Eddy Waterworks District. (<http://www.bctwa.org/BigEddyPreview-WatershSent.pdf>) The following is an outline of the protection history of Greeley Creek:

- Following entreaties by the Revelstoke Board of Trade and the City in 1909-1910, the federal government protected Greeley Creek with a statutory Departmental Reserve in 1917 from logging, access and commercial uses, fourteen years before Greeley was tapped as a water source. That Reserve was created when Revelstoke City was situated in the Railway Belt lands, also referred to as the Forty Mile Limit.
- In 1930, when the Railway Belt lands were reverted to the provincial government, the status of Greeley Creek remained as a protected Reserve.
- In 1946, when a Timber Sale proposal was forwarded to the BC Forest Service, and after letters of referral about the proposal were sent by the Kamloops District Forest Manager to

both the City and the City's Health Officer for consideration and comment, the Forest Service rejected the said Timber Sale because of Greeley Creek's status as a Watershed Reserve.

- In 1969, when the City of Revelstoke was confronted with a tenure proposal for "horse riding trails" in the Greeley drainage, the City asked the Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources to help protect the watershed. The City stated that it could not locate its files on the protection tenure history of Greeley Creek. According to government records, the Greeley Creek Reserve file had somehow been misplaced, and another Reserve, a Section 16 Map Reserve, was re-established over Greeley Creek on August 25, 1969, which protected the watershed from the said recreation tenure application. (See attached Files)
- When the provincial Task Force on community watersheds (1972-1980) created and re-created Watershed Reserves for BC's water purveyors from 1973 following, Greeley Creek was on a June 1973 list of 63 Watershed Reserves that were established over the West Kootenays. According to the Greeley Creek Reserve file (No. 0291521), the Reserve was recognized in a memo as the one re-established as such in 1969.
- In a recent inspection of a provincial list of Watershed Reserves forwarded to the B.C. Tap Water Alliance in late 1997, both Greeley Creek and Dolan Creek (Big Eddy) were not included. Similarly, in a May 2013 list of provincial Watershed Reserves, Greeley and Dolan were also absent.

We would advise the City of Revelstoke to make immediate inquiries with both the Ministry of Lands and the Ministry of Environment about the Reserve status history of Greeley Creek, and to immediately request the government to reinstate or re-register Greeley Creek as either a Section 16 Map Reserve, or as a Section 15 Order-in-Council Reserve, over its hydrographic boundaries in order to protect your vital interests.

Sincerely,  
Will Koop,  
Coordinator.

[June 3, 2013 Revelstoke City letter below]



# City of Revelstoke

P.O. Box 170, Revelstoke, British Columbia V0E 2S0

<http://city.revelstoke.ca>

June 3, 2013

Your Referral No. 62021311-004 (Ref. 105145)

Attn: Christine Lohr, Land Officer  
Front Counter BC

Dear Ms. Lohr:

**Re: Adventure Tourism/Commercial Recreation - 10 km East of Revelstoke, BC  
Unsurveyed Crown Land in the Vicinity of Greeley Creek, Kootenay District**

Thank you for the extension to respond to the Adventure Tourism/Commercial Recreation referral by the end of May 2013. As the proposed development is located adjacent to the City's water treatment plant and community watershed, and overlaps Revelstoke Mountain Resort's Commercial Recreation Area on Mt. Mackenzie, the City must review the impacts on these important community assets in some depth.

The City's primary water source intake is on Greeley Creek, adjacent to the proposed development. The City has recently drafted the 'Greeley Creek Watershed Source Protection Plan', which recommends that development surrounding the watershed, including recreation activities, must be regulated and restrictions on activities that may impact the watershed be enforced. Note that the Greeley Creek watershed has been designated as a watershed reserve for over forty years to protect the City's water from harmful activities.

Also of concern is the one-way bridge over the Illecillewaet River on Greeley Road. This is Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, which bridge must be crossed in order to reach the Revelstoke Adventure Park, private properties and the City's Water Treatment Plant. With the type and number of vehicles expected (campers, motor homes, buses) with a successful recreational development in this location, the City is requesting that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure upgrade the bridge to two lanes and ensure a safe adequate function with the Trans Canada Highway. (The traffic numbers forecast for this resort will be significantly higher than the study required for the Big Bend Development.) This request is not based solely on traffic projections,

but due to its importance as an emergency route for CP Rail, Downie Timber, the City of Revelstoke and the Revelstoke Adventure Park.

Revelstoke City Council is requesting that the following matters be concluded prior to Front Counter's decision on the Adventure Tourism/Commercial Recreation referral:

- a. The proposed tenure area overlaps Revelstoke Mountain Resort's Commercial Recreation Area on Mt. Mackenzie. Therefore, the City requests that a meeting be held with the Mountain Resorts Branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Revelstoke Mountain Resort and the City of Revelstoke to determine when this development will be captured in the terms of the Master Development Agreement. Further, that the commitments for housing and infrastructure development be extended to this development;
- b. The City requests that confirmation be provided that the proposed tenure area does not overlap either the physical community watershed catchment or the watershed reserve established by the Province in 1973 or earlier; and
- c. Within the City's Proposal for a Boundary Extension dated December 2004 , the future extension was to consider the adjacent Greeley Creek Watershed east of Mount Mackenzie as Phase III. Funds have been budgeted in 2013 in the amount of \$25,000 to investigate the feasibility of Phase III. Therefore, the City is requesting matching funds from the Columbia Shuswap Regional District and the Province of British Columbia to complete this determination.

Overall completion of these steps will help the City determine its direction.

Thank you.

Yours truly,



David Raven  
Mayor

- cc: C. Hamilton, Chief Administrative Officer, CSRD  
T. Pratt, Senior Manager Major Projects, Mountain Resorts Branch, MoFLNR  
T. Wideski, Regional Executive Director, MoFLNR  
J. Bennetto, District Manager, Rocky Mountain District, MoTI