



South East Kelowna Irrigation District

PUBLIC HEALTH

Boil Water Notice in effect

The South East Kelowna Irrigation District has issued a Precautionary Boil Water Notice (BWN) for users on the surface water system. The order was placed April 4, 2013 and remains in effect until further notice.

Residents in the Hall Road area receiving well water are cautioned that, while the BWN does not apply directly to that area, any event leading to surface water being supplied to the area will result in a BWN. These events would include a power failure, the use of fire hydrants or local mainline breaks.

Why has this notice been issued?

The Boil Water Notice is required due to increased turbidity in source water from Hydraulic Creek (see story page 2). The melting snow at the lower elevations has increased flow at the district intake causing the turbidity to

Notice of Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Landowners of the South East Kelowna Irrigation District will be held on Thursday May 16, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the boardroom of the South East Kelowna Irrigation District, 3235 Gullely Road, Kelowna, B.C.

Items to be presented and approved at this meeting include:

- Minutes of the Annual Meeting of May 17, 2012
- Trustees' Annual Report
- Manager's Annual Report
- Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2012
- 2013 Budget
- 2013 Trustee's Honorarium
- New Business

Copies of the financial statements will be mailed on request or may be picked up at the district office after April 30, 2013.

There are two Trustees positions available in 2013, each for a three year term. Nominations for the election of two Trustees will be accepted up to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 17, 2013.

If more than two nominations are received to fill the vacant positions, an election will be required. **The date of the election will be Thursday, June 6, 2013, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.** An advance poll will be Thursday, May 30, 2013 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Darlene McKnight
Secretary/Treasurer

increase above an average of 5 NTUs for the past 24 hour period.

What should the public do?

During a boil water notice, tap water used for drinking, brushing teeth, or rinsing ready-to-eat-foods should be brought to a rolling boil for one minute.

“Owners of all public facilities must post Boil Water Notices at all sinks or drinking water fountains accessible to the public (alternatively, public fountains and taps may be turned off). As opportunities arise, they must also advise their clientele verbally of the Boil Water Order.”

Interior Health has been consulted and is fully involved in this notification. The South East Kelowna Irrigation District apologizes for any inconvenience this notification might cause our customers and appreciate your cooperation and patience during this time.

The length of time the Boil Water Notice will be in effect is unknown at this time, but turbidity will likely trend lower towards the middle of May. The public will be notified when conditions allow the Boil Water Notice to be rescinded to a Water Quality Advisory.

Kelowna residents unsure of who their water supplier is can get this information by going to www.kjwc.org

WATER QUALITY

Spring Runoff

Spring runoff is just underway after a late winter surge of cool weather. Each year the district has turbidity problems (cloudy water) associated with spring runoff. The problem is caused by high flows in Hydraulic Creek (where our intake is located) caused by the melting of snow below our reservoir. The melting snow causes the creek to rise and wash tiny particles of clay, silt, organic and inorganic matter, plankton and other microscopic organisms into the district's intake. The smaller particles pass through our screens and are disinfected with chlorine

before entering the distribution system.

The district has no control over the lower elevation runoff and this year it looks like those flows will likely peak in early May, a week or two later than normal. There is also a fair amount of snow at the lower levels and this could melt quickly if temperatures return to seasonal values. Of course, how quickly the runoff melts will affect the turbidity levels in our surface water supply.

It is important to understand that turbidity is not the only factor that needs to be assessed to measure the health risk of a water supply. Other considerations include the presence of pathogens in the watershed and the effectiveness of the disinfection process in rendering pathogens harmless. Turbidity is an important parameter in drinking water because bacteria, viruses and parasites (pathogens) can attach themselves to the suspended particles and this can interfere with disinfection by shielding contaminants from the disinfectant.

As always, our water system operators have increased chlorine dosages ahead of rising turbidity to maintain adequate chlorine residual throughout the distribution system. Our customers are reminded that the Provincial Health Officer recommends that anyone with a compromised immune system should avoid drinking surface water that has not been filtered and this is particularly sound advice during this time of year. The current Precautionary Boil

Water Notice (see previous story) requires all residents to boil water before consumption.

WATER USE EFFICIENCY

2013 Irrigation Allotments

All landowners in the district with metered irrigation services were mailed their annual allotment for the 2013 irrigation season in mid-April.

All metered irrigation services have a maximum water use allotment of 2.25 acre-feet (733,162 U.S. gallons) per acre of Grade A or B water rights.

Allotment notices also provided the maximum rate of flow allowed for the property. Please note that some flow rates provided in the allotment notices were incorrect.

The district will be monitoring water use over the season and issuing water use reports over the summer with information about water use and the balance of the allotment remaining. The correct flow rates will be included in these reports.

Any water use in excess of the annual allotment for a property is subject to a metered rate penalty. The board also maintains the discretion to shut off the irrigation service to any property that has exceeded its annual allotment.

Wondering how to determine how much water you have

used? It is simple – just read the water meter before you start irrigation and then again at the end of irrigation. Subtract the start reading from the end reading to determine how much water was used.

For more information on the metered rate and irrigation regulations, including a more detailed explanation of how to read your meter, please contact the district office or visit our web site at www.sekid.ca and go to “conservation/agricultural metering program.”

UPDATE

Water Quality Improvement Plan

As many SEKID residents are aware, the district’s current surface water supply does not meet regulatory standards for public health. To address these requirements, the district has developed a comprehensive Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP). The WQIP proposes to develop a separate water supply using groundwater. This source will provide a higher quality of water for all residential, commercial and institutional use, while the surface water supply will continue to be used by the agricultural community.

Basic information on the district’s Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) is

available in the Fall/Winter 2012 edition of the district newsletter. This can be downloaded or viewed on the district web site at www.sekid.ca, News & Reports/Newsletters.

The cost of the WQIP is substantial and the community indicated clearly last fall that it was not willing to proceed with the project without government funding assistance. While some progress has been made in this regard (see story p. 4), health authorities have clearly indicated they want to see the project move forward with or without government grant funding.

To that end, the district has commissioned a consultant to provide a detailed rate review and financial analysis of the

- Agriculturalists - Share your thoughts about water use:

Agricultural Water in BC: What is important to you?

A little over a week ago you were asked to participate in an agricultural water study in collaboration with Simon Fraser University to find out more about how our agricultural customers value water and to help inform water policies and management strategies in the coming years. **Your response is very important.**



If you have already completed the survey, thank you very much. If not, you can do so today by visiting the web address shown at the bottom of this card. We are especially grateful for your help because it is only through the help of people like you that we can get a better understanding of the issues that are important to our water utility customers.

Thank you very much for taking time to give your input and if you have any questions about the survey, please contact the Simon Fraser University Research team at (604) 649-6746 or ok-watersurvey@sfu.ca.

www.watersurvey.rem.sfu.ca

district’s long term revenue requirements. This study will include a review of revenue responsibility among user classes to ensure each user class is carrying its fair share of district costs. The report will provide a financial model that can be used as an analytical tool to assess revenue and expense requirements under a variety of conditions. This will be invaluable in determining the best options for moving forward with the project given changing funding availability and project implementation scenarios.

The district has also made a number of land transactions over the past year. These have provided both space for future infrastructure requirements and revenue to help pay for it.

We have also recently established a groundwater monitoring well. This well is strategically located to provide critical information on groundwater quality and quantity. This information will be invaluable in assisting our ability to protect our water quality and monitor long term water supply availability. The monitoring well was made possible under the Okanagan Basin Water Board's Okanagan Groundwater Monitoring Program which provided \$31,500 of the total cost of \$38,000 needed to establish the well.

WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

Grant funding possible

A significant milestone has been reached with the completion of a city-wide report on the five major water utilities serving the City of Kelowna. The Kelowna Integrated Water Supply Plan (KIWSP) has been accepted by the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development (MCSCD), the Honourable Bill Bennett, for meeting the funding eligibility criteria set out for the major water utilities serving Kelowna.

An implementation agreement between Kelowna's five major water utilities has now been signed. This agreement will insure important aspects of the KIWSP, such as prioritizing provincial grant funding for

capital projects, will be properly carried out.

Phase 1 of SEKID's WQIP is one of the highest priority projects listed in the KIWSP and has been supported by resolution of all five Kelowna water suppliers as the highest priority water project in the City of Kelowna. It is, therefore, first in line for any funding assistance programs that may become available. While MCSCD ministry officials advise no funding programs are currently available, we are optimistic the \$47 billion (over ten years) federal infrastructure program announced in March budget will be picked up by British Columbia. If this is the case, new funding programs should be ready to go in 2014.

While there are no guarantees the district will get grant funding, we anticipate it is more likely we will be able to get community support for a borrowing bylaw to finance the district's contribution if funding assistance becomes available. We heard consistently throughout the consultation process last fall that community support was contingent on

obtaining federal and provincial funding assistance.

We need to be aware, however, that with two thirds funding (the maximum federal/provincial grant contribution) and a ten year implementation plan, we would still need community support to borrow in the neighborhood of \$5 or \$6 million. A preliminary review shows rates would be expected to increase steadily over the ten year project construction period and peak at around the \$90 per month range before leveling off or declining.

Given the scope of the project, particularly constructing the domestic distribution system in the rural areas, a ten year implementation plan is likely the most realistic approach even with grant funding.



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