

## **S.E.I.D Chairman's Report 2022**

2022 was a difficult year for SEID. A lightning strike in spring led to a string of mechanical failures that ultimately compromised our water quality. This resulted in a boil water notice for most of the summer. In response to this, Interior Health (IH) has mandated:

- that SEID hire a certified water operator;
- that our water system be upgraded to include secondary disinfection.

All small water systems in the province must eventually meet these guidelines.

In response, we hired South Okanagan Waterworks (SOW) to maintain and upgrade our system. They have 15 years of waterworks experience, with both licensed plumbers and a certified water operator on staff.

Additional accomplishments in 2022 include:

- upgraded the pump houses with new plumbing and electrical to meet current codes.
- replaced aging chlorine lines and pumps that were failing.
- engaged engineers to evaluate our intake pipe and our complete system as we prepare for secondary disinfection.
- updated map to include detailed locations of water valves and shut-offs;

On going upgrades for 2023 include the installation of automated chlorine and turbidity monitors, 2 new testing stations in the upper district and roof repairs.

These upgrades will eventually cost a lot of money, potentially more than we have in reserves. That will leave us with 2 options, borrow money or approach the RDOS to take over our operation. Some people argue that costs would go up under the RDOS, others argue that costs would be reduced because the RDOS has access to gov't grants that improvement districts don't. When we have some cost estimates from the engineers, we plan to explain them at a future meeting and ask which direction the residents of SEID want to go.

A concern to many is the ownership of the private lakefront park that we enjoy. If SEID is taken over by the RDOS, all assets of our water system including the park would be turned over as well. **Under different ownership we would no longer have control over what that land could be used for.**

As a potential solution to this, we have found that we may be able to form a non-profit society (nps) to hold ownership of the park. If the residents of SEID are interested in retaining ownership of the park, we need a small group of people to volunteer to explore this opportunity.

If you are interested in volunteering to help get this society up and running, please attend our meeting on April 24 or contact Ron Desilets.

Regards

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