



building communities together

2021 Business Plan Benjamin Water (1887)

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Working in partnership with communities large and small to offer local, sub-regional, and regional services to ensure that the Cariboo Chilcotin is a socially, economically, and environmentally desirable region.

Department Services

- The Cariboo Regional District (CRD) owns and operates the Benjamin Community Water System.

Background Information

- The Cariboo Regional District acquired the Benjamin water system effective January 1, 2019.
- The system is comprised of a groundwater well, a pump house, associated pumps, reservoir and distribution piping that services 43 parcels.
- The system meets domestic needs only and does not provide water for community fire protection.

Operations

The water quantity and quality is tested on a regular basis and adjustments to the system are made as required. Regular inspection and maintenance to the system components is undertaken to ensure continuous operations. Connection changes, such as a new connection, are provided to residents as requested.

Operational costs are collected by way of a user fee set at \$350 per year. Taxation will be collected by way of an annual parcel tax of \$165, to begin in 2019. The Benjamin Water Service Establishment Bylaw No. 5127 and Benjamin Water Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 5128 provide function authority.

As Electoral Area A is the only stakeholder, and the *Local Government Act* requires more than one vote, the entire Board is responsible for the governance of this service.



Significant Issues & Trends

WorkSafe BC has a recent mandate targeting municipalities and regional districts focusing on confined space entry plans, policies and procedures as well as general occupational health and safety requirements. In response to inspections by WorkSafe, hazard assessments were completed for all utilities owned by the Cariboo Regional District to identify all confined space locations and subsequently procedures were developed for each. In order to strictly meet WorkSafe requirements, some of the procedures recommended cannot be implemented with existing infrastructure layout. Staff are currently investigating how other jurisdictions are approaching these requirements and looking for alternative procedures acceptable to WorkSafe.

Interior Health Authority conducted inspections of CRD water systems and made recommendations to achieve compliance with the Drinking Water Protection Act and Regulation. Recommendations for the Benjamin water system have not yet been provided by IHA; however, it is anticipated that:

- 1) Increased monitoring frequency

- 2) Residual chlorine monitoring pending results of additional water quality sampling.

The Public Sector Accounting Board now requires local governments to report and record tangible capital assets. At some time in the future local governments may be required to amortize these assets over their useful life.

The Cariboo Regional District is a signatory on the Province of BC/UBCM Climate Action Charter and has committed to continuing work towards carbon neutrality in respect of corporate operations.

Moving Forward, Upgrades to Ben Bell water system:

1. Seal cracks on reservoir lid.
2. New roof on the building and stairs to the door.
3. Flow meter and pressure relief valve.
4. Replacement of distribution lines from water main to utility shut off valves.

Business Plan Goals, Objectives & Strategies

1. **Goal:** Completion of required system improvements
Rationale: Several small improvements are required for upkeep of the Reservoir and pumphouse; see list above.
Strategy: Complete required improvements in 2021.
2. **Goal:** Update GUDI/GARP assessment.
NB: Ground water under direct influence of surface water (GUDI)
Groundwater at Risk of Containing Pathogens (GARP)
Rationale: Update GUDI/GARP assessment to meet IHA recommendations.
Strategy: Retain consultant to update the assessment.

Overall Financial Impact

The annual user fee of \$350 per year is projected to be sufficient for the current five-year plan; however, the operating budget will need to be reviewed following operation of the system for the first year. The projected capital reserve as of December 2020 is \$1,002. An annual reserve contribution of \$500 is anticipated.