



building communities together

2024 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

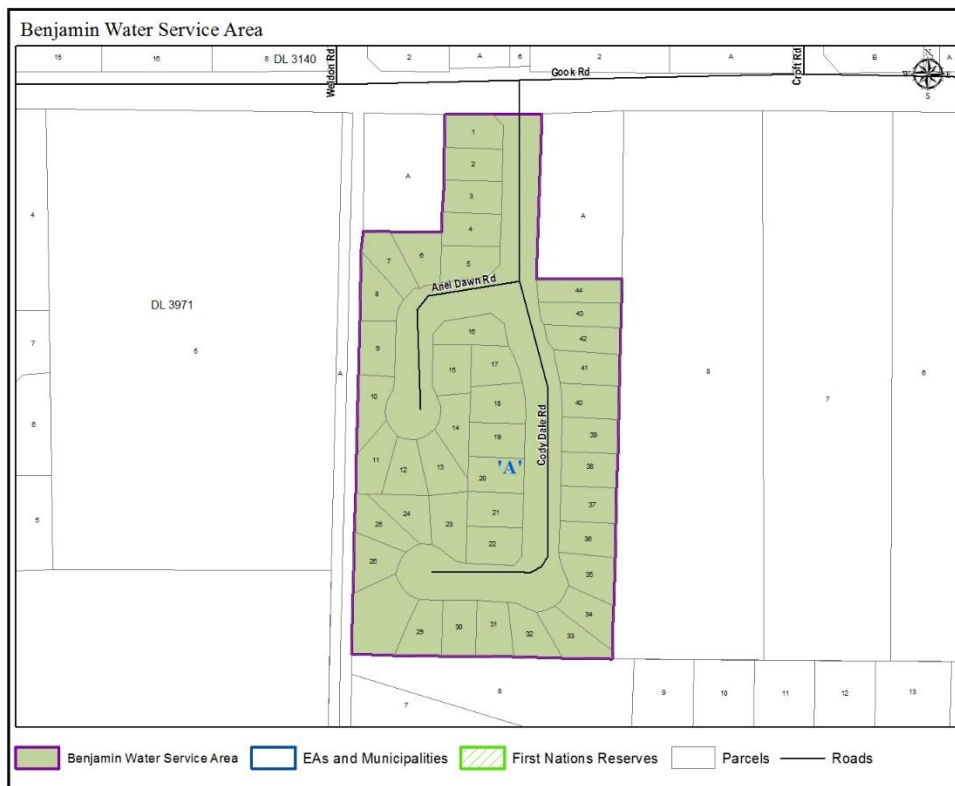
- The Cariboo Regional District acquired the Benjamin water system effective January 1, 2019.
- The system is comprised of a groundwater well, a pump house, associated pumps, reservoir and distribution piping that services 43 parcels.
- The system meets domestic needs only and does not provide water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

Operations

The water quantity and quality are 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 \$362 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

Northern 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 NHA; however, it is anticipated that the following will be recommended:

- 1) Increased monitoring frequency
- 2) Chlorination and on-line chlorine monitoring.
- 3) Treatment for removal of manganese that exceeds drinking water standards.

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 to the Clean BC Climate Action Plan (formerly the Province of BC/UBCM Climate Action Charter) and has committed to continuing work towards carbon neutrality in respect of corporate operations.

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;
Strategy: Complete required improvements.
- 2. Goal:** Continue SCADA upgrade.
Rationale: Improve work productivity.
Strategy: Upgrade (SCADA) Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition.
- 3. Goal:** Add Chlorination and on-line chlorine monitoring to the system.
Rationale: Improve Water Quality.
Strategy: Add chlorination and monitoring inside the existing pumphouse.
- 4. Goal:** Design and installation of a backup generator.
Rationale: The system does not have an elevated reservoir. When the power is disrupted, the residents do not have access to water.
Strategy: Investigate costs to install a backup generator.
- 5. Goal:** Manganese Treatment
Rationale: The water contains manganese that exceeds drinking water standards.
Strategy: Investigate costs for manganese treatment system.

Overall Financial Impact

The projected capital reserve as of December 2023 is \$9,029.

Taxation is collected by way of a parcel tax of \$165 per year and has remained unchanged since 2019.

The current residential user fee is \$362 per year and may need to increase in 2024 to meet the needs of the system and inflation.