

Meeting with Dr. James Lunney, MP regarding Arrowsmith Water Service Progress

PARKSVILLE BC: On August 23, 2011 Joe Stanhope, Regional District of Nanaimo Chair, Chris Burger, A/Mayor, Robert Harary, Director of Engineering and Operations and Mike Squire, AWS Program Manager met with Dr. James Lunney, MP and provided him with an update on the new Englishman River Water Service/Arrowsmith Water Service governance model and water infrastructure expansion program, stressing the importance of a federal funding component to supplement local, regional and provincial funding.

Details were provided to Dr. Lunney regarding the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR), where, if determined to be viable, surface water would be extracted from the Englishman River during the rainy season, stored in an underground aquifer and pumped out for treatment and use during dry seasons, essentially offering a third source of water to the region at substantially lower costs than conventional water storage. Preliminary assessment needs to be carried out to determine if the 27 square kilometre Nanoose Creek aquifer, which stretches 13 kilometres from Nanoose Harbour to Parksville Bay, would be a suitable site for this type of system - it would be the first such system in British Columbia and one of only two in Canada. An application has been submitted for Gas Tax Strategic Priority Funding to carry out such an assessment as the project meets the criteria for Innovative Funding.

A/Mayor Chris Burger said, "Moving forward with the Arrowsmith Water Service will require a strong partnership with all three levels of government. We had a very positive meeting with Dr. Lunney and we will continue to work very closely with him."

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