

District of Barriere
REPORT TO COMMITTEE

Date: April 19, 2021	File: 530.20/Rpts
To: Committee of the Whole	From: CAO
Re: Stage 2 Water Restrictions - Update	

Background: The District of Barriere currently remains on level 2 Water Restrictions.

Discussion:

As per our Water System Bylaw No. 189:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this bylaw it shall be lawful for the Council, when in their opinion, there is, or there is likely to be, a shortage of water, by resolution, to restrict or ration the use of water for all or any purposes by determining the applicable Water Conservation Stage further outlined in Section 8 of this bylaw. Such restriction or rationing shall continue until such time as the Council shall in their discretion, decide that sufficient water is available.

In situations requiring immediate action, Council delegates the responsibility for determining, imposing and lifting the restrictions described in 5 a), to the Chief Administrative Officer.

Over the past few months, the District has been able to expand our knowledge of our source water wells and we are now in the process of final testing and development of DW3. The expected timeframe of seeing any water from DW3 is late into the fall, given the concerns involved with well conditioning and construction of the distribution pipes and connecting to the current system.

We now have more information on running PW1 and the possibility of running PW1 and DW2 in tandem. We also are under the understanding that we will be able to run DW2 during the final pump testing and condition of DW3 and potentially running both wells at the same time. This is all good news, but still we need to be patient in the development process.

In addition to the source water improvements and distribution line repairs over the past year, Council passed their new fee schedule for water rates that will assist in reducing the consumption of potable water at the consumer end of the system.

With all this new information, there may be an opportunity to revisit the current water restrictions.

Recommendations: THAT Council direct staff to proceed with preparing a feasibility report to reduce water restrictions to Stage 1, and to bring forward a recommendation at the next Council meeting.

Prepared by: B. Payette, CAO