

District of Barriere
REPORT TO COMMITTEE

Date: May 10, 2021	File: 530.20/Rpts
To: Council	From: CAO
Re: Water Restrictions - Discussion	

Background: The District of Barriere is currently on level 2 Water Restrictions. This permits hand-watering only for gardens, flowers, trees and shrubs etc. but NOT lawns and only during their prescribed watering times of 7-9am and 7-9pm during their assigned odd/even days.

At the April 19th Committee of the Whole, Council debated the possibility of reverting back to Stage 1 or Stage 1 with conditions in order to test the system's ability to handle residential irrigation this spring and summer season.

Discussion: As previously reported, 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. The attached graph as Schedule 'A' refers to the water production and demand that Council requested from staff.

At the May 3rd Council Meeting, it was reported that community residents have been increasing the inquiries as to the possibility of watering if not normally, but at least minimally to mitigate potential fire hazards.

The District's Water Bylaw No. 189 states the following:

"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."

In taking account as to what concerns are being heard from the community, from Council and from the utility department, staff are suggesting that Stage 2 Water Restrictions be upheld, however, with temporary permission to permit hand-watering of lawns during prescribed times with clear communication to residents that the goal is to not over stress the system. Should the

system show signs of stress, that this would be removed and the community would revert back to full Stage 2 Water Restrictions.

Recommendations: THAT the District remain on Stage 2 Water Restrictions with the added exception to temporarily permit hand-watering of lawns during the prescribed Stage 1 watering days/hours with the understanding that should the water system show signs of stress, that this exception will be removed immediately under the direction of the CAO as per Bylaw No. 189.

Prepared by: B. Payette, CAO

Schedule 'A'

