

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 23, 2024

LATE CORRESPONDENCE

Agenda Item 9.6

Outdoor Potable Water Usage Amendment Bylaw
(Irrigation Definitions, Stages and Schedules) No.
2428, 2024 File No. 3009.

To: Mayor and Council,

Thank you for hearing my questions and concerns at the last council meeting. I welcome that some discussion and questions were possible.

Some serious concerns remain, and I hope you consider this in your discussions and decisions. We cannot leave it be. There are too many unintended consequences that affect us all negatively. We can do more. We can do better.

I realize it may be too late to include in this week's package but had to deal with my own business during busy season start up.

Please consider attached file.

I'm using Adobe Acrobat.

Here's the [water - RMOW Q + notes 2024-04-23.pdf](#) for you to review.

Thank you.

Best Regards,

Heike.

Heike Stippler · Heike Designs Inc · (604) 902-1891 ● RSE Landsc.Hort., Dip.Eng.Arch., CNLA
BOD-B.C. Representative, BCLNA BOD-Past President

#1 - 1100 Millar Creek Road · Whistler · BC · **V8E 0S9** · www.heikedesigns.com

Please email us at: Info@heikedesigns.com

Re: Outdoor Potable Water Usage Amendment Bylaw

It's not over yet – I remain truly concerned about our environment and community!
This is not just made up and not just me. Landscapers, clients – industry and community are concerned!

- 1. Following up on the timing: With watering restrictions automatically taking effect on May 1st - No matter the actual water level in the reservoirs and no water shortage – Can we water for repairs or do we need a permit for each and every lawn e.g.?**

We only start landscaping now and lawn (seeds) can only grow in May/June. Any lawn repairs, plantings etc. would not be possible or require a permit...

Other really dry areas manage. Why can't we?!? This needs to be done right and locally specific, considering Whistler's unique setting, timing, climate.

- 2. Have you considered the unintended consequences and negative effects – watering every other day will in many cases result in dry soil and dry plants – Do you know what this does?**

Have you considered that the water used in landscapes goes back to the water table? – and also that watered plants 'breathe' oxygen AND water vapour!

Water evaporates and creates more moist and cooler air, all helping with effects of changing climate!?!'

Dry and stressed plants don't do this! Making it worse – drier and hotter!

Dry plants now become a fire hazard and fire can START from the community, let alone be more of a risk when wildfires do approach!

Pollinators and many beneficial insects and microbes will be affected as well. We already have issues and biodiversity is threatened.

We simply cannot afford to lose any more ! Not now, not later and a trial run this summer may be making it too late for many. Once they die they die...!

The note that established lawn need only a couple of inches of water/ week are true and right for established lawns to survive. That doesn't mean they thrive...!

Reiterate – We MUST water, but water properly! WE NEED THIS. We NEED plants!

Restrict other real wasteful users!
What's the priority here?

3. Do you know that we need MORE water by VOLUME if soil or plants dry out too much?!?

So, here we are back to exemptions?!?

4. Have you considered allowing watering in the critical home ignition zone, identified by FireSmart?

Aligning efforts with other goals makes it all stronger, makes more sense.
Healthy watered (yes, firesmart) plants near houses HELP reduce the risk of fire.
Plants being watered near the forest will actually seep water into the forest area and HELP trees and REDUCE risk of fire.

5. Have you considered incentives?!? Instead of arbitrary restrictions that have proven to not work?

-Exemptions for water-smart irrigation systems?

-Mandating rain sensors?

-Exempt systems that save 50% of water when using sprinkler heads that use less water, valves that stop water from running out of the system etc. etc.

-Mandate water-smart building practices, appliances, and systems in new builds?!

e.g. Grey-water use, cisterns, dual water systems/ pipes that are hard to retrofit but new builds need to be so green, why not add water-smart?!?

The industry has made great advances and additional to irrigation technology, we are promoting horticulture practices that help reduce water use already. Why not support this and ask us how we can help?

There are many stakeholders involved and water is important enough to have a second look. We can help to manage water resources for the future of our whole community, not just RESTRICT them.

6. Have you considered other, real water wasting users?

If efforts have not seen dramatic results, maybe there is some other bigger issues out there?!?

What do we really want? Make this easy or truly reduce? Goal to conserve water, save, reduce VOLUME, not restrict times!!

Automatic irrigation systems, if installed and maintained properly, already water efficiently – where needed, when needed, with the minimum amount needed. Hand-watering (allowed) actually wastes water as applied during the day and water evaporates and often loses drops on the way, leaky hoses etc. I applaud repairing the infrastructure -water main repairs approved by council - that was leaking thousands of gallons and probably still does in other places. Stop the through-water cooling! Stop washing driveways, stop washing cars weekly, stop dripping water taps etc.

And why was Water not even mentioned in the new Environment Committee?!?! Or in the new development in Functions Junction?!? – We NEED grey water systems, cisterns and new construction can actually easily include this.

Yet, somehow it's not important enough to actually invite stakeholders. Other topics get that. But Water, whatever... No word of water conservation in the new developments.... Just more parking lots.... How about large water cisterns... water conservation measures? None of this. Let's just turn off the tap to what we all need: Oxygen, cooling, clean air.

Anyway, we have so many ideas and ways we could help, and it's still being ignored.

There is so much more...

-Do you know how much Carbon Sequestration plants and soils do? How many KM driving is offset? How many cubic meters of air get filtered? How much temperature difference healthy plants provide on a hot day? How many people are impacted?



Heike Designs Inc.
Landscape Design and Beyond

Heike Stippler, Dip. Eng., Arch.
#1-1100 Millar Creek Road
Whistler, B.C. V8E 0S9

604•902•1891
info@heikedesigns.com

I do have some numbers and facts. This is a global issue and so much is being done elsewhere. Look to other places that are successful!

A Carbon calculator is on the way where we can actually see numbers and it can help to offset CO2 emissions. There is so much good out there. We can use it and we can help the climate change issues still. But we need healthy plants for the future.

I am happy to pass on more and host you all to see what we already do and can do!
This is an invitation to join us for landscape – irrigation day!

There is the Green Cities Foundation. BC and CNLA water and drought efforts. The industry is doing so much already. Let's work together. Click on the Plants Love you...



On behalf of the Horticulture Industry, many clients, and Whistler's environment,
Yours concerned,

Heike Stippler · Heike Designs Inc · (604) 902-1891 ● RSE Landsc.Hort., Dip.Eng.Arch., CNLA
BOD-B.C. Representative, BCLNA BOD-past president

#1 - 1100 Millar Creek Road · Whistler · BC · **V8E 0S9** · www.heikedesigns.com

Please email us at: Info@heikedesigns.com



Heike Designs Inc. is fully insured and WCB covered. Our educated and truly caring staff is trained, certified, and we are fully licensed. We always do what we can to ensure we are here for the long run, and our work includes what is required for a professional job. Rates are based on labour, gas and equipment cost. Heike Designs Inc. works according to the latest edition of the Canadian Landscape Standard (CLS). We are happy to provide any additional information so you can make the best decision for all your landscaping needs.

I am writing to express my disagreement with the Irrigation restrictions that were passed and will come into effect on May 1st.

We hire Whistler Irrigation Services to ensure that our yard and gardens have the right amount of water required while we are away in the summer. They are professionals who have been in business for 25 years and understand how weather and environmental factors impact the landscape. They regularly inspect our irrigation system to ensure peak efficiency.

Our property backs onto Lost Lake Park. If a fire started in the woods behind our house, dry grass and bushes on our property would help the fire spread right up to our house.

Please consider exempting Whistler Irrigation regarding this regulation.

Thank you

Liz and Dan Whelan
7176 Spruce Grove Circle