

# Lower Nipit Improvement District

INCORPORATED IN 1965

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Meeting with RDOS – July 8, 2010

Good afternoon to the RDOS board of Directors

My name is George Windsor and I am the chair of the Lower Nipit Improvement District. I am here today to speak on behalf of ALL of the residents in the Twin Lakes valley.

I wish to thank-you for the opportunity to speak to you, the RDOS Directors, about our concerns at Twin Lakes. We are looking for your support in ensuring that there will be water in our Aquifer into the foreseeable future.

First, let me state that we are not opposed to development in our area; that is not the issue I am here to speak about our concern of water supply for all users in the area.

## **Purpose**

Our purpose today is to present a proposal that would see the removal of the Twin Lakes area from the Secondary Growth area of the Regional Growth Strategy and return the area to a Rural designation. Recently, we, along with the RDOS, have had a Twin Lakes Aquifer Capacity Study completed by Summit Environmental Consultants Inc. I would like to publicly thank the RDOS for their participation in this import study about the Aquifer at Twin Lakes.

The study states water supply here is not sustainable and has already been over allocated. Twin Lake has been losing approx. 20 inches of water each year since 2007. This spring, Twin Lake is at a water level nearing the lowest water level ever recorded. Today there are more and more wells around the lake which are NOT currently licensed by the Provincial Government Ministry.

Please, consider the Twin Lake area environmentally sensitive. This area which needs protecting and removal of the Twin Lakes area from the Secondary Growth designation contains many different animal and bird species which are at risk; it is also a migratory bird flyway.

## **Historical Information**

See the attached word document showing history by year

## **Summit Report**

### 2.1 Climate

The Twin Lakes area is affected by the rain shadow of the Cascade Mountains located to the SouthWest; therefore, precipitation in the area is below average for the interior of BC.

### Slides

- 1 – Horn Lake – Turtle pond – Twin Lake
- 2 – Aquifer – graphic drawing
- 3 – Aquifer – actual aerial photograph
- 4 – Aquifer – North portion
- 5 – Aquifer – South portion
- 6 – Lake level history
- 7 – Lake level history showing 40 year cycle

## 8 – Aquifer Cross Section

### **Concerns**

Reports: available upon request  
Bothem Report of February 1973

Garth Van der Kamp - 1981

With the drought conditions affecting the Okanagan Valley, we are concerned that the Aquifer system is being over taxed, especially during long periods of drought.

The Summit report that the LNID and RDOS together commissioned states in their Executive Summary that additional water demand from development may not be achievable in the long term.

Recent purchase by a Japanese consortium on ranch land on Horn Lake will have a huge affect on the amount of water that will be available to the Aquifer if development is permitted to happen without having a plan in place to ensure that there is a minimal affect on the Aquifer.

### **ACTION**

We are requesting the Directors of RDOS to change the designation of this area from Secondary Growth to Rural.

There need to be more studies on the current usage of water and whether the area is overusing the existing supply.

I would recommend that a 3 year study be conducted to determine the capacity of our existing Aquifer to assist the RDOS in making the correct decision for the Twin Lakes area.

On behalf of the LNID, I would like to thank you, the directors, for your time and future efforts to ensure that everyone who is connected to this Aquifer will have water far into the future. We believe that over-use would result, in time, in the lake turning into a mud hole without any useable water not only for Twin Lakes property owners but also for the proposed developments. A three year study such as we have proposed would enable the RDOS to ensure the accuracy of its information before it is too late to revise any decisions that have been made.

George Windsor  
Chair – Lower Nipit Improvement District