

March 22, 2019

Hello everyone,

On February 21, 2019, the FVRD hosted a public meeting to share information about the status of the Hatzic Prairie Water System. Approximately 100 people attended, and many of you have reached out to me since then, sharing your views and concerns, and for that I'm grateful.

I have asked staff to complete construction of the new well and water main extension. This work must be completed by March 31, 2020 in order to fulfill FVRD's obligations under the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund.

This is not an easy decision for me. Over the last 18 months, I have, along with many of you, learned much about how the FVRD and funding sources like the CWWF interact in expanding and funding water infrastructure, and how the province regulates groundwater. And I have found it troubling, but understandable, how little is known about the aquifers we rely on.

If we knew, with certainty, how much water was coming out of our aquifers, how our aquifers replenish, and what kind of impact climate change will have, it would be easier to make informed decisions, but today we don't have that knowledge.

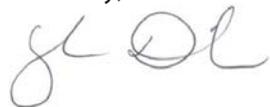
Nonetheless, time and circumstance are forcing a decision now. While I would greatly prefer delaying construction until such time as we could resolve these unknowns, it would not be possible to do so without losing the CWWF grant. The FVRD would need to recover approximately \$500,000 in monies spent to date from HPWS property owners, at a cost of over \$3,500 per property.

I do not think it would be fair or responsible to ask those property owners to pay, and in return, receive nothing.

I appreciate that this decision will only increase concerns for many people relying on the McConnell aquifer, and I share those concerns. But I feel these concerns arise from the unknowns surrounding our aquifers, and that the best course forward is to increase our knowledge and diminish the unknown.

I am committed to finding more answers as to how to best understand and protect our aquifers. It's also my goal to create greater transparency, ensure more timely communication, and initiate more opportunities for engagement on issues that matter to us as a community. I am available to meet with you to hear your concerns or suggestions for ways to improve our community, so feel free to reach out to me at [hdavidson@fvrd.ca](mailto:h davidson@fvrd.ca), or call me at 604-768-5320. If you'd like your name added to my email distribution list for FVRD news and topics of interest to this community, just let me know.

Sincerely,



Hugh Davidson
Director, Electoral Area F (Hatzic Prairie – McConnell Creek)