



Engineering and Public Works
Memorandum

File Category: ADM.BYL.PRO
File Folder: Water Bylaw

To: Chief Administrative Officer
From: Manager of Environmental Services
Date: April 7, 2011
Subject: Water Bylaw Amendments for Sprinkling Restrictions

Recommendation

1. That the Water Bylaw 2196-1990 be amended by deleting Section 5.1(b) in its entirety and replacing with the following:

b. Stage 2

No person shall carry out sprinkling of lawns, flower gardens, shrubs or vegetable gardens using hose connected sprinklers, soaker hoses or automatic in-ground sprinklers except in accordance with the following restrictions:

- i. Twice-weekly sprinkling permitted from May 1 to September 30 in any given year for even numbered addresses on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 6:00am – 8:00am and for odd numbered addresses on Thursdays and Sundays from 6:00am – 8:00am. The Engineer may authorize different sprinkling times for large individual properties where automatic in-ground sprinkling systems are unable to complete the sprinkling within the above noted times;*
- ii. All hoses must be equipped with spring-loaded shut-off devices;*
- iii. Watering of flower gardens, shrubs and vegetable gardens and car washing may be carried out using a hand-held wand or a hose equipped with a spring-loaded shut-off device; and*
- iv. Where lawn is newly seeded or sodded and provided Stage 2 restrictions are in place, a person may obtain a Sprinkling Permit from the Engineering Department of the District of Mission to carry out sprinkling of the new lawn between the hours of 6:00am and 8:00am daily for a two week period between May 1 and September 30 upon payment of the applicable fees as prescribed in Schedule "A".*

2. That the Water Bylaw 2196-1990 be amended by deleting Section 5.1(c) in its entirety and replacing with the following:

c. Stage 3

In any given year, The Engineer is authorized to issue an order prohibiting all lawn sprinkling and imposing additional and other restrictions on water where:

- i. The Dickson Lake Drought Management Plan Criteria is not met; or*

ii. Maclure reservoir recharge not achieving 3.75m by 5:00 a.m. on two consecutive days;

And the Engineer considers that the forecasted weather conditions make it necessary to do so.

Where the Engineer issues an order under Stage 3, every Person must comply with all water use restrictions specified in the Engineer's order for the time period specified in the order and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the following water use restrictions shall apply:

- i. Lawn sprinkling of any kind is prohibited (sprinkling of shrubs, vegetable gardens and flower gardens allowed as per Stage 2 days and times);
- ii. Hosing of outdoor surfaces is prohibited except for washing of driveways and exterior of houses that is being done to prepare the surface for further work;
- iii. Hoses must be equipped with spring-loaded shut-off devices;
- iv. Use of non-re-circulating fountains must be discontinued;
- v. Hydrant use permits will be issued at the Engineer's discretion;
- vi. Permits for sprinkling newly seeded or sodded lawns will not be issued;
- vii. Wading pools filled only when required;
- viii. Use of sprinklers for cooling and "Slip and Slides" are not permitted; and
- ix. Curtail street flushing.

An exception to the ban may be considered by the Engineer for community sand base fields and/or where there is a high risk of significant and costly damage to the field if watering is stopped. The Engineer will work closely with internal staff and Mission Public Schools to ensure watering of the fields is kept to a minimum to keep the grass from dying.

3. That Schedule A be amended by deleting the following Sprinkling Permit Fee section

<i>Sprinkling Permit Fee</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>
<i>May 1 to June 30, 2010 and September 1 to September 30, 2010 (Daily water permitted from 6:00am to 8:00am for a two week period)</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>	<i>---</i>
<i>July and August 2010 – No permits to be issued watering ban in effect</i>		

and adding:

<i>Sprinkling Permit Fee</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>
<i>May 1 to June 30 and September 1 to September 30: Daily sprinkling permitted from 6:00am to 8:00am for a two week period during Stage 2 only.</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
<i>July 1 to August 31: Daily sprinkling permitted from 6:00am to 8:00am for a two week period during Stage 2 only.</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>

Background

The District's Water Bylaw 2196-1990 details 4 stages of sprinkling restrictions for the purposes of water conservation which comprise the minimum annual water conservation strategy for specific times during the year. Beyond the minimum conservation requirements, the strategy authorizes the Engineer to adopt other water conservation measures through orders if warranted but a notice must be published in a local paper advertising the order.

The Abbotsford Mission Water and Sewer Commission recommended to the City of Abbotsford and the District of Mission adopt Stage 2 twice weekly sprinkling restrictions starting May 1, 2011. This recommendation was adopted by the City of Abbotsford on April 4, 2011. Although this is the default condition for this time of year under Mission's bylaw, the bylaw needs amending by Council as the 2010 year was explicitly stated in the bylaw last year. The amendment removes specifically stating the year which will prevent the need for amendments in future years.

Staff has reviewed the Water Bylaw 2196-1990 in relation to the questions and issues that were raised by residents and businesses in 2010 regarding the wording of the bylaw and is recommending amendments for this year.

Currently, the stage 2 restrictions are:

b. Stage 2

Twice-Weekly Sprinkling

May 1, 2010 to June 30, 2010 and September 1, 2010 to September 30, 2010.

Even numbered addresses: Wednesday and Saturday, 6:00am – 8:00am

Odd numbered addresses: Thursday and Sunday, 6:00am – 8:00am

No person shall carry out sprinkling of lawns using hose connected sprinklers, soaker hoses or automatic in-ground sprinklers except in the accordance with the following restrictions:

- i. Twice-weekly sprinkling as per above;*
- ii. All hoses must be equipped with spring-loaded shut-off devices;*
- iii. Garden irrigation, watering of flowers, shrubs and vegetables and car washing on grass or gravel areas may be carried out using a hand-held wand or a hose equipped with a spring-loaded shut-off device; and*
- iv. Where lawn is newly seeded or sodded, a person may obtain a Sprinkling Permit from the Engineering Department of the District of Mission to carry out sprinkling of the new lawn between the hours of 6:00am and 8:00am daily for a two week period during the*

months of May, June and September 2010, upon payment of the applicable fees as prescribed in Schedule "A".

In order to avoid annual amendments to the bylaw and to improve the clarity for the public, staff recommends that Section 5.1(b) be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following.

b. Stage 2

No person shall carry out sprinkling of lawns, flower gardens, shrubs or vegetable gardens using hose connected sprinklers, soaker hoses or automatic in-ground sprinklers except in accordance with the following restrictions:

- i. Twice-weekly sprinkling permitted from May 1 to September 30 in any given year for even numbered addresses on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 6:00am – 8:00am and for odd numbered addresses on Thursdays and Sundays from 6:00am – 8:00am. The Engineer may authorize different sprinkling times for large individual properties where automatic in-ground sprinkling systems are unable to complete the sprinkling within the above noted times;*
- ii. All hoses must be equipped with spring-loaded shut-off devices;*
- iii. Watering of flower gardens, shrubs and vegetable gardens and car washing may be carried out using a hand-held wand or a hose equipped with a spring-loaded shut-off device; and*
- iv. Where lawn is newly seeded or sodded and provided Stage 2 restrictions are in place, a person may obtain a Sprinkling Permit from the Engineering Department of the District of Mission to carry out sprinkling of the new lawn between the hours of 6:00am and 8:00am daily for a two week period between May 1 and September 30 upon payment of the applicable fees as prescribed in Schedule "A".*

The amendment makes the bylaw easier to understand and removes the requirement to wash cars on grass or gravel areas which is consistent with Abbotsford's approach. While washing a car on grass or gravel at any time is preferable, not all people have access to those areas. The preference to wash cars over grass and gravel will be made clear in the "frequently asked questions" on the District's website.

The 2010 ban on lawn sprinkling for July and August is not being considered at this time given the progression of the water conservation program and the extra capacity that is anticipated from the Bevan, Farmer and McConnell wells.

Stage 3 restrictions are currently defined as:

c. Stage 3

Total Lawn Sprinkling Ban

July 1 to August 31, 2010

And May, June and September as triggered by Dickson Lake level or Maclure reservoir recharge.

The Engineer is authorized to issue an order prohibiting all lawn sprinkling during the months of July 1 to August 31, 2010 and imposing additional and other restrictions on water where:

- i. The Dickson Lake Drought Management Plan Criteria are not met; or*
- ii. Maclure reservoir recharge not achieving 3.75m by 5:00 a.m. on two consecutive days;*

And the Engineer considers that the forecasted weather conditions make it necessary to do so.

Where the Engineer issues an order under stage 3, every Person must comply with all water use restrictions specified in the Engineer's order for the time period specified in the order and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the following water use restrictions shall apply:

- i. Lawn sprinkling of any kind is prohibited (vegetables and flower sprinkling allowed);*
- ii. Hosing of outdoor surfaces is prohibited;*
- iii. Hoses must be equipped with spring-loaded shut-off devices;*
- iv. Use of non re-circulating fountains must be discontinued;*
- v. Hydrant use permits will not be issued;*
- vi. Permits for sprinkling newly seeded or sodded lawns will not be issued;*
- vii. Wading pools filled only when required; and*
- viii. Curtail street flushing.*

An exception to the ban may be considered by the Engineer for community sand base fields and/or where there is a high risk of significant and costly damage to the field if watering is stopped. The Engineer will work closely with internal staff and Mission Public Schools to ensure watering of the fields is kept to a minimum to keep the grass from dying.

In order to avoid annual amendments to the bylaw and to improve the clarity for the public, staff recommends that Section 5.1(c) be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

c. Stage 3

In any given year, The Engineer is authorized to issue an order prohibiting all lawn sprinkling and imposing additional and other restrictions on water where:

- i. The Dickson Lake Drought Management Plan Criteria is not met; or*
- ii. Maclure reservoir recharge not achieving 3.75m by 5:00 a.m. on two consecutive days;*

And the Engineer considers that the forecasted weather conditions make it necessary to do so.

Where the Engineer issues an order under Stage 3, every Person must comply with all water use restrictions specified in the Engineer's order for the time period specified in the order and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the following water use restrictions shall apply:

- i. Lawn sprinkling of any kind is prohibited (sprinkling of shrubs, vegetable gardens and flower gardens allowed as per Stage 2 days and times);*
- ii. Hosing of outdoor surfaces is prohibited except for washing of driveways and exterior of houses that is being done to prepare the surface for further work;*
- iii. Hoses must be equipped with spring-loaded shut-off devices;*
- iv. Use of non-re-circulating fountains must be discontinued;*
- v. Hydrant use permits will be issued at the Engineer's discretion;*
- vi. Permits for sprinkling newly seeded or sodded lawns will not be issued;*
- vii. Wading pools filled only when required;*
- viii. Use of sprinklers for cooling and "Slip and Slides" are not permitted; and*

ix. *Curtail street flushing.*

An exception to the ban may be considered by the Engineer for community sand base fields and/or where there is a high risk of significant and costly damage to the field if watering is stopped. The Engineer will work closely with internal staff and Mission Public Schools to ensure watering of the fields is kept to a minimum to keep the grass from dying.

The amendment removes the requirement to update the Bylaw every year. It also clarifies that sprinkling of gardens, other than lawns remains acceptable but only during stage 2 days and times. The amendment also clarifies that cleaning of outside surfaces is permitted provided it is required for surface preparation and also that the use of sprinklers and Slip and Slides by children shall not permitted.

Amendments to Schedule A are also being proposed to update fees for sprinkling permits for new lawns.



Michael Younie
Manager of Environmental Services

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CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION

Statement

- a. that information regarding a closed agenda should not have been shared publicly;
- b. that the decision was not reconsidered in closed;
- c. that there was never any intention to do so;
- d. that any decision to reconsider could only be made publicly; and
- e. that no further discussion of the P3 proposal is on this evening's agenda.