

## **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS: SERVICE PROVIDERS**

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1. Is the fact that there are multiple service providers a concern? Why or why not?
2. If water and sewer were instead provided by the Regional District, what advantages or concerns would there be with that approach?
3. If irrigation districts consolidated (expanded to encompass additional water systems), what advantages or concerns would there be with that approach?

### **Okanagan Falls (March 2)**

- too many service providers – coordination between agencies
- public don't know what goes on behind the scenes
- poor communication
- 6 or 7 water districts is a problem
- costs could be rising
- a water authority could be a viable solution to share costs like engineers
- what recourse do those with a private water utility have?
- perhaps need one person to direct "traffic" (enquiries)
- lack of networking amongst groups
- too complicated to accomplish goals
- Argo is hard to deal with (transportation)
- Policing is convoluted (6 members for Area D)
- Improvement districts – volunteers run them and young people don't want to get involved, aging infrastructure
- Different bylaws for each improvement district. No economies of scale
- Difficult to amalgamate all the systems?
- Transportation – cross walk/no pedestrian controlled intersections on Highway 97
- No answers or incomplete answers to questions – public safety, policing
- Too many jurisdictions; extremely frustrating
- Difficult for unincorporated areas to enforce bylaws
- Community safety officer needed for OK Falls
- Privately owned water company at heritage hills – still good value
- Carmi – 1979 subdivision with no water. Why did the Ministry of Transportation approve the subdivision?
- Unsightly premises – garbage and clutter on properties – bylaw enforcement issue
- Carmi – no ambulance or fire protection
- how to get funding for improvement districts

### **Kaleden (March 3)**

- roads – Argo poor maintenance. Ditch/road ROW maintenance (fire hazard)

- RD – seems afraid to take on agriculture industry (farm related battles). Noise bylaws and Ministry of Agriculture guidelines are openly flaunted. Does noise bylaw apply to farms?
- Multiple authorities/jurisdictions leads to uncertainty regarding who to contact regarding issues (except water – know who to contact locally)
- Twin lakes – struggle for aquifer protection – whose mandate?
- The boundaries for effective watershed protection and water governance need to be broad and take in entire watersheds. Need watershed plan and greater coordination on this issue. Who is going to monitor? How to ensure future development doesn't impact (pump test to prove availability of water insufficient)?
- Trust issues among various stakeholders (Twin Lakes)
- Lack of access to grant money for improvement and irrigation districts
- Problems regarding small water systems, aging caretakers (volunteers) and infrastructure may dictate need for amalgamation
- Irrigation districts know their own area, and are local. Need to find a balance between local knowledge and autonomy and joint authority to capture economies of scale and efficiencies
- potential for a greater water authority to oversee the various systems and irrigation districts (economies of scale)
- Concern if the RD took over – trust, and concern regarding costs of water (referenced problems with West Bench Irrigation District lawsuit and issues prior to its dissolution)
- Recognition that KID is voluntary labour, and loss of local control if RD looks after water. Might need to give up some local control and trust to gain some efficiencies.
- Operator qualifications are increasing
- Maybe have a local advisory group that oversees or provides input to RD or water authority