

Subject: Comox Valley Water Committee Dispute Resolution	
Branch: Engineering Services	
Department: Public	Policy Reference: 0540-20/CV Water

Purpose

To establish a policy that guides the dispute resolution process for the Comox Valley Water Committee.

Scope

This policy provides a framework for the communication and dispute resolution process between the Comox Valley Water Committee participants, the Comox Valley Water Supply System Advisory Committee and if necessary, an independent mediator or arbitrator.

Guiding Principle

The dispute resolution policy framework for the Comox Valley Water Committee:

1. Provides for open, transparent governance.
2. Encourages collaboration among committee members.
3. Expedites problem solving resolutions.
4. Utilizes the technical expertise of the Comox Valley Water Management Advisory Committee.
5. Aligns with principles in Provincial legislation associated with regional district service reviews such that all committee members may have disputes acknowledged.

Policy Statement

It is recognized that disputes may arise among participants in the Comox Valley water supply system.

1. Disputes can only be raised by a Comox Valley Water Committee member, must relate to the mandate and authority of the Comox Valley Water Committee and be raised as a dispute in a timely manner including all relevant background facts and information by presenting the dispute to the Committee chair.
2. Disputes will first be presented to the Comox Valley Water Committee for review, consideration and resolution. Disputes may be settled by the Water Committee.
3. Disputes that cannot be resolved at the Comox Valley Water Committee level may be referred first to a mediator to work towards a consensus-based solution; and then if required to an independent arbitrator, who will make a final, binding decision. The costs for this mediation and arbitration will be a cost of the service.

Approval History

Policy adopted:	December 11, 2012
Policy amended:	June 13, 2017