

Based on the sources and our conversation history, the attempt by Directors **Gerald Whalley, Robyn Mawhinney, and Mark Vonesch** to block the **Area D water meter reimbursements** occurred in **August 2023**, with the primary board-level confrontation taking place on **August 16, 2023**.

Chronology of the "Phase 1" Obstruction

The sources categorize this incident as "**Phase 1**" of a multi-year strategy of **targeted administrative friction** or "hostage-taking" politics.

- **The Catalyst (June 28, 2023):** The board voted to explore expanding participation in the **Strathcona Gardens** recreation service, a move led by you and Director Dahl 6-8.
- **The Grant (July 12, 2023):** The province announced a **\$2.8 million grant** to install universal water meters for 1,100 unmetered connections in Northern Area D.
- **The Initial Block (July 19, 2023):** During the **Electoral Areas Services Committee (EASC)** meeting on **July 19, 2023** (motions **EASC 213/23 and 214/23**), the rural block initially tried to prevent the reimbursement business from moving forward as political leverage.
- **The Board Confrontation (August 16, 2023):** The matter reached the Regional Board under motions **SRD 753/23 and 754/23** 1, 2. Despite being a routine, staff-supported effort to restore equity for 119 "early adopter" families who had paid a **\$1,500 fee** out of pocket, the rural block attempted to stall the program to protest the recreation study.

Strategic Impact and Governance Failure

The sources identify this refusal as a significant failure of **Leadership and Collaboration** under **Bylaw No. 513 Code of Conduct**.

- **Weaponizing Utility Relief:** The rural block was willing to withhold direct financial relief from working families in Area D to settle an unrelated regional dispute.
- **Electoral Significance:** This record serves as evidence that the EA Directors' willingness to subvert due process began long before the 2026 "hot mic" scandal, establishing a consistent pattern of using **local residents as "political pawns"**.

In summary, while the motions were eventually carried, the recorded attempt to "stall" or "block" the water meter refunds occurred on **August 16, 2023**, following the initial committee-level resistance on **July 19, 2023**.