

Minutes of the meeting of the Comox Valley Sewage Management Advisory Committee held on Thursday, February 1, 2024 via Zoom commencing at 9:02 am

PRESENT:

K. Shaw, Director of Public Works	City of Courtenay
A. Langenmaier, Director of Financial Services	City of Courtenay
C. Perry, Engineering Manager	Town of Comox
M. Eum, Captain	DND
M. Rutten, General Manager of Engineering Services	CVRD
K. La Rose, Senior Manager of Water/Wastewater Services	CVRD
C. Makinson, Manager of Capital Projects	CVRD
M. Herschmiller, Manager of Water Services	CVRD
R. Sellentin, Manager of Wastewater Services	CVRD
Z. Berkey, Senior Engineering Analyst	CVRD
Z. Norcross-Nu'u, Watershed Protection Coordinator	CVRD
K. Broughton, Senior Accounting Technician – Financial Planning and Analysis	CVRD
M. Briggs, Branch Assistant – Engineering Services	CVRD

ITEMS:

Management Report

The committee reviewed the January 2024 Comox Valley Sewage Management Advisory Committee management report.

Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes of the December 21, 2023 Sewage Management Advisory Committee meeting and no errors or omissions were noted.

Draft Staff Report: Apportionment of 2024 Sewer Municipal Levy

Z. Berkey gave a summary of the staff report.

M. Herschmiller joined the meeting at 9:03 am.

Advisory comments:

City of Courtenay staff noted inflow and infiltration (I&I) has biggest impact over wet seasons, with the City's flows reaching nearly 2.1 peaking factor, and the Town of Comox and DND peaking higher. City estimates that it is paying upwards of \$1 million in treatment cost per annual in response to I&I flow. Future infrastructure improvements are required to address I&I, and such improvements could potentially reduce or prolong infrastructure improvements at the treatment facilities, thus reducing long range capital need. Should look into mandating flows or including drivers as part of Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) process.

Starting in 2024 the flows/consumption reports will show peaking factor to highlight the effect of I&I. The province requested more on I&I in response to the Stage 2 LWMP, so will include as part of scope of Stage 3 LWMP and look into models pursued across country for innovative ways to fund I&I improvements.

2024-2028 CVSS Financial Plan Presentation

K. La Rose and R. Sellentin presented on the 2024-2028 Comox Valley Sewerage Services (CVSS) financial plan. Gave a summary of projects completed and goals accomplished during 2023, and detailed the work planned for 2024. Noted challenges with I&I (especially with high rainfall), supply chain issues and increasing costs. Strategic priorities identified by the board include the Sewer Conveyance Project, LWMP for CVSS and south region, and the Corporate Energy and Emissions Plan. Human resources have seen a reduction due to shift of staff to project management office, but does include new engineering analyst for 2024 and wastewater operator for 2025 to help operate new/upgraded infrastructure. Gave an overview of proposed and projected expenses and revenue for 2024. Provided an update on asset management, with the wastewater department to implement CityWorks in 2025. Summarized the 2024-2028 capital plan and 2029-2033 long-term capital plan, which is mostly focused on the Sewer Conveyance Project with Comox Valley Water Pollution Control Centre (CVWPCC) Phase 1 upgrades following afterwards. Gave an overview of the reserves, which will be brought to minimal levels over the next few years to fund the Sewer Conveyance Project and phase 4 CVWPCC upgrades. Presentation and detailed budget information are also available on CVRD website.

Z. Norcross-Nu'u joined the meeting at 9:11 am.

Advisory comments:

There were no comments or questions from the advisory committee.

Comox Valley Sewerage System Flows Reports

The committee reviewed the December 2023 Comox Valley Sewerage System flows reports. R. Sellentin noted that the January 2024 flows report will better show the impact of I&I, which is expected to be a high-flow month. More exceedances of permit in 2023 due to dryer year in 2022.

City staff asked if the CVRD has done any bypasses on any systems or is still doing full treatment at the CVWPCC. Is bypassing considered an acceptable process under current regulations? Any consideration for tertiary treatment or re-use of water?

Staff noted that the LWMP determined the CVRD should not utilize bypass. Is acceptable under current regulations, but capacity in place to avoid using bypass. Staff are looking at developing polymer addition for secondary clarifiers to dose during emergency situation. There was pressure to consider tertiary treatment during LWMP process, but settled on continued secondary treatment with disinfection without bypass. Also investigated tertiary with fabric filters and water re-use, but concluded that demand for re-used water didn't exist at this point. May in the future, so committed to revisit at next review of LWMP.

Municipal Service/Project Updates

No updates were provided.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

GENERAL:

The next Sewage Management Advisory Committee meeting will be held on February 15, 2024 commencing at 9:00 am via Zoom, but may be cancelled due to a lack of agenda items.

TERMINATION:

The meeting terminated at 9:34 am.

Recorded by:

M. Briggs

Michael Briggs
Branch Assistant – Engineering
Services

Certified correct:

M. Rutten

Marc Rutten, P.Eng.
General Manager of Engineering
Services