

Minutes of the meeting of the Comox Valley Sewage Management Advisory Committee held on May 2, 2019 in the Comox Valley Regional District boardroom located at 550B Comox Road, Courtenay, BC, commencing at 9:06 am

PRESENT:	T. Kushner, Director of Public Works Services	City of Courtenay
	R. O’Grady, Director of Engineering	City of Courtenay
	C. Davidson, Manager of Engineering Projects	City of Courtenay
	R. Kanigan, Chief Administrative Officer	Town of Comox
	C. Perry, Public Works Superintendent	Town of Comox
	S. Ashfield, Municipal Engineer	Town of Comox
	R. Dyson, Chief Administrative Officer	CVRD
	M. Rutten, General Manager of Engineering Services	CVRD
	K. La Rose, Manager of Water/Wastewater Services	CVRD
	M. Herschmiller, Manager of Water Services	CVRD
	M. Imrie, Manager of Wastewater Services	CVRD
	C. Gore, Manager of Capital Projects	CVRD
	Z. Berkey, Engineering Analyst	CVRD
	Z. Norcross Nu’u, Engineering Analyst	CVRD
	J. Warren, General Manager of Corporate Services	CVRD
	C. Wile, Manager of External Relations	CVRD
	A. Baldwin, Legislative Services Assistant & Recording Secretary	CVRD

ITEMS:

Management report

The committee reviewed the May 2019 Comox Valley Sewage Management Advisory Committee management report.

R. Kanigan joined the meeting at 9:09 am.

Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes of the April 10, 2019 Sewage Management Advisory Committee meeting and no errors or omissions were noted.

Draft Staff Report: Village of Cumberland Biosolids Request

Z. Berkey provided an overview of the above-noted report. Discussion was around the potential impacts of processing the additional biosolids. CVRD staff confirmed that it would have very little impact on capacity. However, the impact on infrastructure and future capital expenditure should be considered. The committee further discussed the best process to follow with regard to the request from the Village.

R. Dyson joined the meeting at 9:19 am.

The committee agreed that the Village of Cumberland’s request should be addressed directly to the Sewage Commission and R. Dyson will follow up with the Village.

Draft Staff Report: Hudson Sewer Trunk Main Connection Agreement

C. Gore provided an overview of the above-noted report. It was confirmed that service Y's and stubs had been designed and installed on the Hudson Trunk within the Town of Comox portion during construction to accommodate the properties. However service Y's or stubs had not been designed or installed on the Hudson Trunk fronting CVRD properties. The staff report will go forward to the May 14th Sewage Commission with a recommendation to enter into an agreement with the Town of Comox with regard to future connections to the Hudson Trunk sewer main.

Draft Staff Report Developing a Holding Tank Waste Disposal User Rate

Marc Rutten provided an overview of the above-noted report and invited feedback from the committee. Discussion centred on the following:

- A suggestion was made that the holding tanks should meet acceptable fire and seismic ratings;
- The Comox Lake Land Corporation has been advised that the reduced septage disposal rate would only apply to holding tanks that require regular emptying as opposed to holding tanks with outhouses on top, which have an approximate 20 year capacity (as proposed in their letter);
- A question arose whether a reduced holding tank disposal rate would discourage cabin owners from putting their properties up for sale and reduce future opportunities for the regional district to acquire lands adjacent to the lake to protect the watershed;
- It was agreed that cabin owners should be required to demonstrate proper maintenance of the holding tanks and ensure the tanks are regularly pumped out to qualify for the reduced rate. The committee discussed how these requirements could be implemented and monitored. CVRD staff to undertake further analysis in this regard and to report back to the advisory committee with draft requirements.

Discussion Surrounding Requests and Concerns Made by Curtis Road Residents Association Delegation on April 16, 2019

Kris La Rose provided an overview of the above-noted staff report. The committee discussed the following:

- The revegetation of the berms round the equalization (EQ) basin to resolve concerns regarding visual impacts, especially from Curtis Road, arising from clearing associated with the project. It was noted that a conservative approach was taken with regard to tree clearing (i.e. only those trees absolutely necessary were removed);
- Odour issues should be alleviated for some residents along Curtis Rd by filling existing gullies between the sand dunes located between the CVWPCC and Curtis Road, which currently act as funnels for air from the CVWPCC towards Curtis Rd;
- The location of the EQ basin is not expected to negatively impact odour as it will only be utilized a few times per years and only in the winter, and it has been determined to be the best location in terms operational needs, constructions costs and future expansions;
- This project is time-sensitive and further reviews for the location of the EQ basin will result in a delay of the project and another winter without additional buffer capacity.

The report will go forward to the May 14th Sewage Commission meeting with the recommendations contained in the above-noted staff report.

Confidential Item

Minutes from the April 10, 2019 in-camera Sewage Management Advisory Committee

The committee reviewed the in-camera minutes of the April 10, 2019 Sewage Management Advisory Committee meeting and no errors or omissions were noted.

Draft Staff Report: Utilities Governance Update

J. Warren provided an overview of the above-noted staff report. Proposed updates to the staff report include the following:

- Simplifying the report to focus on the utility governance report and work, and will not incorporate the Area A governance work, which is still ongoing; and
- Highlight ongoing pressure for further representation on the Sewage Commission with respect to Area B participation as well as consideration of K'ómoks First Nation's (KFN) partnership in water supply and treatment decision-making as expressed in the Mutual Benefit Agreement with KFN.

The committee discussed complexities around the utilities governance process and ongoing pressures related to the service. It was acknowledged that interests and knowledge associated with water and sewer utilities are distinct and separate – and one recommendation that may be forthcoming would be to address each utility on its own, rather than pursuing any kind of unified utility governance model.

Municipal Service/Project Updates

No municipal service project updates were provided.

GENERAL

The next Sewage Management Advisory Committee meeting will be held on May 30, 2019 commencing at 9:00 am in the Comox Valley Regional District boardroom.

TERMINATION:

The meeting terminated at 10:09 am.

Recorded by:

Certified correct:

A. Baldwin
Legislative Services Assistant

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