

Utilities Governance Update

May 2019

left.side partners inc.

NEILSON-WELCH
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October 3, 2018

Comox Valley Regional District
600 Comox Road,
Courtenay, BC
V9N 3P6

ATTENTION: JAMES WARREN, GENERAL MANAGER OF CORPORATE SERVICES

Dear James:

REFERENCE: UTILITIES GOVERNANCE OPTIONS – FINAL REPORT

The following report represents the final step in our project to assist the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) in identifying and evaluating alternative governance models for the Comox Valley water and sewage services. It is intended to be read in conjunction with the Issues Paper, and builds upon the information provided in that report. Brief presentations based on this report were made to the CVRD, City of Courtenay, and Town of Comox, and revisions made based on feedback from those presentations.

1.0 ISSUES

The Issues Paper identified issues raised through interviews with staff and elected officials from K'ómoks First Nation, Comox Valley Regional District, City of Courtenay and Town of Comox, as well as with a representative from CFB Comox. The paper acknowledged that the issues were not necessarily shared by all, but were mentioned by at least one of the partners interviewed. While this report follows from, and is intended to be read in conjunction with, the Issues Paper, the following summarizes the concerns noted within that document.

1. **Political interference** – concern that technical considerations and operational decisions are being overshadowed by political needs and views. Political perspectives were noted as impacting the long-term or big-picture view for the Comox Valley as a whole.
2. **Who is at the table** – desire to include the K'ómoks First Nation in decisions, but also to examine whether seeking representatives or input from other jurisdictions or agencies might be appropriate.

Utilities Governance

- Complex topic
- Ongoing internal and external pressures
- Needs collaborative approach

Next Steps



Corporate
Officers and
KFN Review

Water and
Sewer Advisory

- Engineers, CAOs

Decision-
makers

- Water Committee,
Sewage
Commission,
Board