

DATE: September 13, 2022

FILE: 5330-20/CVSS LWMP

TO: Chair and Members
Sewage Commission

FROM: James Warren
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Supported by James Warren
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

J. Warren

RE: Stage 1 and 2 Liquid Waste Management Plan

Purpose

To present the Stage 1 and 2 Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) report for approval by the Sewage Commission.

Recommendation from the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer:

THAT the Stage 1 and 2 Liquid Waste Management Plan be approved in the form that is substantially compliant with Appendix A of the staff report dated September 13, 2022.

Executive Summary

- The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) began conducting a LWMP process in June 2018 to:
 - Develop a conveyance solution to resolve an at-risk portion of the conveyance piping currently located along Balmoral Beach below the Willemar Bluffs and find the optimal long-term solution for managing sewer flows from Courtenay, Comox, the K'ómoks First Nation and CFB Comox to the Comox Valley Water Pollution Control Centre (CVWPCC);
 - Select the desired level of treatment at the CVWPCC; and
 - Explore further opportunities for resource recovery from Comox Valley Sewerage Service (CVSS) operations.
- The LWMP process included establishment of a technical and public advisory committee (TACPAC) to help guide the planning process, as well as assess in detail the various components of treatment, resource recovery and conveyance, along with consultations with the K'ómoks First Nation and public consultation meetings.
- The multi-year process involved setting goals, developing a long list of possible conveyance solutions, using the goals to evaluate first the long list and then subsequent shortlist of options, and considering public feedback from surveys and open houses. Following that, preferred options for conveyance, treatment and resource recovery were recommended by the TACPAC and subsequently approved by the Comox Valley Sewage Commission, these being:
 - Secondary treatment with disinfection of all wastewater flows at the CVWPCC, incorporating into the design the ability for future implementation of filtration if and when required.
 - No further opportunities for resource recovery were identified, with the exception of increased reclaimed water use at the CVWPCC, which will be further studied through a subsequent master planning process for that facility.
 - An overland conveyance solution with tunnelling through Lazo Hill.

- Given the urgency to resolve the environmental risk along Willemar Bluffs, the Sewer System Conveyance Project was subsequently separated from the LWMP and borrowing was authorized by an Alternative Approval Process (AAP) rather than waiting for the authorization provided by the approved LWMP
- Attached as Appendix A to this report is the draft Stage 1 and 2 LWMP report. The report summarizes in detail the various options that were reviewed and considered, the consultation process and the evaluation to select the preferred solution.
- The report is currently being reviewed by both the K’ómok First Nation and the TACPAC. Staff are recommending that the Sewage Commission approve the report, attached as Appendix A to this staff report. Minor changes may be required depending on the outcome of the review by K’ómoks and the TACPAC, but no substantial changes are anticipated. If any key aspects are changed or not approved by K’ómoks, CVRD staff will update the Sewage Commission at a subsequent meeting.
- In parallel, the CVRD is working with K’ómoks First Nation on updates to the Community Benefit Agreement that would allow for earlier payment to K’ómoks and eliminate perceived capital liabilities for the CVRD. The revisions would ensure payment for K’ómoks upon receipt of a letter of support for the LWMP, instead of waiting for final provincial approval of the plan, which could take until 2025.
- Following approval of the report from K’ómoks and receipt of the letter of support the LWMP will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy for review.

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Government and Community Interests Distribution (Upon Agenda Publication)

City of Courtenay	✓
Town of Comox	✓
K’ómoks First Nation	✓
Department of National Defence	✓
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy	✓
LWMP Technical and Public Advisory Committee Members	✓

Attachments: Appendix A – Draft Stage 1 & 2 LWMP