

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2016
COMMITTEE ROOM**

MINUTES

Present:

Bob Rogers	Chair, Director Electoral Area E	John Elliot	City of Nanaimo
Alec McPherson	Director Electoral Area A	Blake Medlar	Business Community (District 68)
Bob Weir	Town of Qualicum Beach	Ted Malyk	Business Community (District 69)
Vaughn Figueira	City of Parksville	Fred Spears	District of Lantzville
Juanita Rogers	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Frank Van Eynde	Public (District 69)
Daniel Hooper	Public (District 68)		

Also in Attendance:

Randy Alexander	GM, Regional and Community Utilities, RDN
Rebecca Graves	Recording Secretary, RDN
Sean De Pol	Manager Wastewater Services, RDN
Shelley Norum	Wastewater Program Coordinator, RDN
Jolene Jackson	Special Projects Coordinator, RDN

Regrets:

Doug Muir	Snuneymuxw First Nation	Ian Thorpe	Director (Nanaimo)
Glenn Gibson	Island Health	Marc Lefebvre	Director (Parksville)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson B. Rogers called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

DELEGATES

MINUTES

MOVED F. Van Eynde, SECONDED A. McPherson, that the minutes from the Liquid Waste Management Plan Monitoring Committee meeting held on October 16, 2016, be adopted.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

During the October 16, 2015 meeting, B. Medlar asked if the secondary treatment upgrades at GNPCC would open up any shellfish harvesting areas. S. Norum provided further information to this query after having a brief discussion with Tim Wenman at Environment Canada. Environment Canada indicated that after secondary treatment is in place, they could potentially perform a detailed assessment on the collection system, treatment system and outfall as well as influences from local non-point source discharges. Depending on the results of the assessment, they may be able to alter the boundaries of [Sanitary closure 17.41](#).

J. Rogers added that many other jurisdictions are hoping to do the same thing. She further explained that, after a potential Environment Canada assessment, closure 17.41 would likely remain because of non-point sources of pollution in the area. However, the boundaries could shrink because of improvements to effluent quality.

The RDN committed to retain this topic (add to Intelex database) for future discussion with Environment Canada once secondary upgrades are complete.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

REPORTS

Report on W3C Activities (S. Norum)

Wastewater and Water Collaborative (W3C) meetings of RDN and member municipality staff occur twice a year to discuss LWMP implementation and other initiatives. The next W3C is scheduled for March 4, 2016. No W3C meetings occurred since the last LWMP MC meeting in October 2015. However, a number of subcommittee meetings occurred in the meantime.

- Inflow and Infiltration Management subcommittee meetings took place on November 10, 2015 and February 2, 2016
- A Rainwater Management subcommittee meeting took place on November 26, 2016. This group is scheduled to meet again on February 15, 2016.

SepticSmart Update (S. Norum)

S. Norum updated the Committee with information on the SepticSmart program. She mentioned that 2015 was the second of a two-year partnership with the Western Canada Onsite Wastewater Management Association of BC (WCOWMA-BC). Over 2014 and 2015, WCOWMA-BC contributed \$17,000 to boost the SepticSmart public education program. As a result, the RDN was able to expand public participation in the SepticSmart program and launch a successful rebate program. To date, the rebate program has provided over \$50,000 to help RDN residents maintain their septic systems. While WCOWMA-BC is not contributing funds in 2016, the RDN will continue to offer the Septic Maintenance Rebate and four SepticSmart workshops this year.

The Septic Maintenance Rebate is available starting in March, until the end of the year or until funds are exhausted. This year there are changes to the Maintenance Assessment category and a new \$100 rebate "bonus" for workshop participants for an added incentive to attend. The rebate and spring workshops were advertised in a newsletter that went out to 15,000 residents last week. Two more workshops will be planned for fall 2016.

B. Medlar asked if the RDN tracks septic system pump-outs occurring in the region. S. Norum replied that the RDN does not track pump-outs but is able to collect some information at the trucked waste (septage) receiving stations. S. De Pol added that an automated meter will be installed at the FCPCC receiving station this year. RDN staff will look into the potential to use the system for tracking and report back to the committee.

B. Rogers questioned which committee meeting could a discussion on rainwater collection rebates occur. R. Alexander replied that a discussion could happen at the LWMPMC meeting if the DWWP Coordinator was present. Discussion could also take place at the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Technical Advisory Committee. A. McPherson responded that a discussion could also be held at the Sustainability Select Committee meetings.

GNPCC Outfall Update (S. De Pol)

S. De Pol gave an update on the progress of the GNPCC outfall project. The contractor is using the winter fisheries window (December 15 to February 15) to complete an eelgrass salvage, dredging and blasting. They will be requesting a week extension to the winter work window to complete blasting. The outfall pipe will be assembled in Nanoose and installed in the summer fisheries window (June 1 to September 1). Staff will give the committee advance notice of the scheduled installation dates.

GNPCC Secondary Treatment Update (S. De Pol)

S. De Pol provided an update on the secondary treatment upgrade project. Geotechnical investigations, some site preparation works, and 60% engineering design are complete for the GNPCC Secondary Treatment Project. At this milestone, our engineers have provided an updated project schedule and cost estimate.

The revised schedule anticipates project completion in 2019. The schedule change is largely a result of the geotechnical investigations that identified liquefiable soils in the secondary treatment project area. As a result, up to six months of ground improvements (pile driving) are necessary.

Our engineers' revised cost estimate is greater than the \$62 million (Class C cost estimate) estimated in the 2014 LWMP Amendment. The increase is due to several factors including inflation, a decrease in value of the Canadian dollar, costs of the additional ground improvements, and scope refinements.

The RDN recently met with the MOE to ask if an LWMP amendment would be necessary to address the revised schedule and cost estimate. The MOE recommended that the RDN write a letter, providing updated cost and schedule information, and requesting a determination as to whether or not a minor amendment would be required. The MOE further advised that a minor amendment, if recommended, would require notification of the public and First Nations.

Receiving Environment Monitoring (S. Norum)

The RDN recently awarded the contract to define the scope of a receiving environment monitoring (REM) program to GreatPacific Engineering and Environment. The REM program will be based on the outline described in the Five Fingers Outfall Replacement Environmental Impact Study. The RDN intends to engage with First Nations and the LWMP Monitoring Committee to refine the scope of this project.

Bowser Village Wastewater Servicing Study and DPPCC Cost Capacity Review / Cedar Sewer Servicing (J. Jackson)

J. Jackson provided an update on the "Rural Village Centre Sewer Servicing Studies". In 2014, the RDN received \$350,000 Federal Gas Tax grant funding to complete sewer servicing studies in Bowser and Cedar.

The Bowser Village Wastewater Servicing Study was allocated \$300,000 of the Federal Gas Tax grant funds. This project will provide the engineering design and cost estimates for a potential community sewer system in Bowser. The study will provide detailed design and cost estimates for the tertiary treatment and collection systems, as well as preliminary engineering design and cost estimates for both marine and ground treated effluent disposal options. It was noted that this is not a design-build project – it is more of a "design-consult" project. There are many interests and stakeholders in the region, and the results from this study will be used to inform discussions with First Nations, commercial stakeholders, residents, and regulators. A webpage for this project was

posted in December 2015 (www.rdn.bc.ca/bowser). Consultation events will be held at both preliminary and detailed design stages (expected for Spring and Summer 2016).

The Duke Point Pollution Control Centre Capacity Review / Cedar Sewer Servicing Study was allocated \$50,000 of the Federal Gas Tax grant funds. The first stage of this project involves completing an engineering cost and capacity review of the Duke Point plant. The review is near completion, and staff will present the results in more detail to Director McPherson in coming weeks. The existing agreements between the RDN and the City of Nanaimo are the key limiting factors to allowing connections from Cedar. Once the engineering review is complete, RDN staff will look to work with City of Nanaimo staff on amending or otherwise changing the agreements – and eventually taking the agreements to the Board and Nanaimo Council. If and when these agreements can be re-negotiated, staff will be able to take amended bylaws to the Board to allow new sewer connections in Cedar.

Future Meetings of the LWMPMC (S. Norum)

Future LWMPMC meetings are tentatively scheduled for:

- April 1, 2016 [the date is now March 29, 2016, due to a request made after the meeting]
- May 10, 2016
- September 9, 2016
- November/December, 2016

There may be more meetings if an LWMP Amendment is required.

If committee members cannot attend, they are welcome to send their alternates if they have one.

S. Norum asked the committee members if the current meeting notification methods (primarily MS Outlook invites, emails and Board Calendar) were sufficient or if any members had recommendations to improve communication. Members were in general agreement that the current methods worked well.

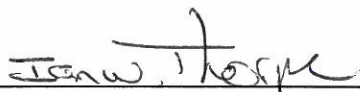
ADDENDUM

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED A. McPherson, SECONDED T. Malyk that this meeting be adjourned.

TIME: 2:08 PM



CHAIRPERSON