

Meeting Minutes

Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission

Thursday, April 2, 2026

9:35 AM

Town of Sidney Municipal Hall - Arbutus Room
2440 Sidney Ave., Sidney, BC

PRESENT

R. Novek (Chair), D. Halldorson (Vice Chair), E. Diller, M. Doehnel, J. Martin (EP), C. McNeil-Smith (EP)

STAFF: A. Fraser, General Manager, Infrastructure and Water Services; G. Harris, Senior Manager, Environmental Protection (EP); R. Tooke, Senior Manager, Environmental Innovation; P. Enright, Manager, Climate Action; P. Kickham, Manager, Environmental Regulations; C. Lowe, Supervisor, Environmental Monitoring; K. Hardy, Corporate Energy Specialist; D. Pagani, Administrative Coordinator, Infrastructure and Water Services (EP); M. Miklea, Deputy Corporate Officer/Manager, Legislative Services; M. MacDonald, Legislative Services Coordinator (Recorder)

EP - Electronic Participation

Regrets: Commissioners Graham, Jones, Shrivastava and Windsor

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 am.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Novek provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

**MOVED by Commissioner Halldorson, SECONDED by Commissioner Diller,
That the agenda for the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission meeting of
April 2, 2026 be approved.
CARRIED**

3. Adoption of Minutes

3.1. [26-0387](#) Minutes of the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission Meeting of February 5, 2026

**MOVED by Commissioner Diller, SECONDED by Commissioner Doehnel,
That the minutes of the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission meeting of
February 5, 2026 be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED**

4. Chair's Remarks

There were no remarks.

5. Presentations/Delegations

There were no presentations or delegations.

6. Commission Business

6.1. [26-0383](#) General Manager's Verbal Update - April

A. Fraser noted that she would reserve her comments owing to the full agenda of commission business.

There is no recommendation. This verbal update is for information only.

6.2. [26-0370](#) District Energy System Efficiencies, Operations, and Potential for Future Expansion

R. Tooke spoke to Item 6.2.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the distance over which thermal energy can generally be transferred, providing thermal energy to a single or institutional customer is ideal
- condition assessment and potential capital renewal investments must be considered first before expansion or revenue discussion
- heat of effluent entering the district energy loop and water injected into the Panorama Recreation Centre pool via onsite heat pump and requiring no chemical input
- the cost of the energy sold to the Panorama Recreation Centre is currently matched with previous year natural gas costs
- the current rate structure does not allow for revenue generation
- currently using approximately 400 kilowatts of 1800 kilowatt capacity of District Energy System
- heat loss due largely to variability of effluent temperature
- capital cost of investment and permitting to produce biofuel is intensive and cost prohibitive

**MOVED by Commissioner Diller, SECONDED by Commissioner Doehnel,
That the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission direct staff to:**

1. undertake a condition assessment of the District Energy System (DES) to identify capital renewal requirements and update the Capital Plan to reallocate \$100,000 from the decarbonization improvements project to support this work.
2. undertake a root-cause analysis of the DES winter shutdowns, with recommended mitigation measures.
3. report back on changes to the heating demand of the Panorama Recreation Centre following commissioning of the internal heat recovery project and the implications to the DES; and
4. report back on expansion options for the DES following engineering assessments of condition and capacity.

CARRIED

6.3. [26-0308](#) 2025 Annual Compliance Report for the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Treatment Plant

P. Kickham spoke to Item 6.3. for information.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the cause of a recent accidental discharge of a large quantity of effluent into the Saanich Peninsula wastewater system
- a valve system malfunction at BC Ferries was identified and additional controls implemented
- the fee schedule for permitted facilities that discharge into the wastewater system
- cost recovery from fees fund the Regional Source Control Program
- confirmation that the boat used for water sampling is a Regional Parks asset
- the February spike in carbonaceous biological oxygen demand was below the provincial limit

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

6.4. [26-0340](#) Saanich Peninsula Liquid Waste Management Plan - Technical Advisory Committee and Review Update

P. Kickham spoke to Item 6.4.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- three main stages for developing a liquid waste management plan under provincial requirements and each stage requires significant public input and First Nations engagement
- liquid waste management on the Saanich Peninsula is in good shape from a regulatory perspective
- the system is robust enough that overflows are very rare and in alignment with regulatory allowances during extreme weather events
- Provincial Liquid Waste Management Plan secures commitments from local and regional governments to improve liquid waste management
- stormwater is of primary importance to the regulators when it comes to managing liquid waste, with more stringent requirements likely forthcoming
- liquid waste management planning is a mechanism to bring all levels of government and diverse viewpoints together
- process will include both technical and public advisory committees

MOVED by Commissioner Martin, SECONDED by Commissioner Halldorson, The Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That staff defer review and renewal of the Saanich Peninsula Liquid Waste Management Plan pending completion of provincial, regional and municipal planning documents.

CARRIED

Opposed: Doehnel

7. Notice(s) of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Adjournment

**MOVED by Commissioner Doehnel, SECONDED by Commissioner Diller,
That the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission meeting of April 2, 2026 be
adjourned at 10:29 am.
CARRIED**

Chair

Recorder