



Making a difference...together

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission, held Thursday, July 18, 2024 at 9:30 a.m., Sidney Community Safety Building (Fire Hall), 2245 Oakville Ave, Sidney BC

PRESENT: Commissioners: D. Kelbert (Chair); M. Doehnel (Vice Chair); S. Duncan; D. Halldorson; C. McNeil-Smith; P. Jones
Staff: A. Fraser, General Manager, Integrated Water Services; J. Marr, Senior Manager, Infrastructure Engineering; G. Harris, Senior Manager, Environmental Protection; J. Dales, Senior Manager, Wastewater Infrastructure Operations; J. Kelly, Manager, Capital Projects; J. McAloon, Engineer, Infrastructure Engineering; D. Green, Sr Supervisor Regional Source Control Environmental Protection; D. Dionne, Administrative Coordinator, Integrated Water Services (Recorder)
REGRETS: S. Shrivastava; R. Windsor; Z. King; C. Pinches

EP = Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 9:55 am.

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

An Acknowledgement was provided in the preceding meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Commissioner Halldorson, **SECONDED** by Commissioner McNeil-Smith,
That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by Commissioner Halldorson, **SECONDED** by Commissioner McNeil-Smith,
That the minutes of the May 16, 2024 Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

4. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair made no remarks.

5. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

6. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

7. COMMISSION BUSINESS

7.1. Septage Reception at Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Treatment Plant

G. Harris presented the report.

Discussion ensued and staff responded to questions regarding:

- The contract with GFL, it's length, value and options for possible other providers. Staff noted that it is a four-year contract and that there is no preclusion to other providers, though there were no other providers interested at the time.
- Due to upgrades to the facility in Chemainus, the screened septage and materials that would normally go to that facility are being delivered to Harland.
- Transportation of septage. The Capital Regional District (CRD) is mandated to provide the service and GFL has control of how they manage the material.

Discussion ensued and Commissioners stated their opinions of how septage is being managed. Commissioners discussed their understanding of what GFL does with the septage. Staff advised that there is good Source Control information available on the website. Commissioners requested a presentation from the septage provider to understand how the material is being managed.

MOVED by Commissioner Duncan, **SECONDED** by Commissioner McNeil-Smith, The Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission continues to support the existing private model for delivery of septage treatment services.

CARRIED
Opposed: Doehnel

7.2. Saanich Peninsula Liquid Waste Management Plan – Programs Summary and Update

G. Harris presented the staff report.

Discussion ensued and staff responded to questions regarding:

- Discussions with the Provincial Government. Staff advised that they are working with the Province and the Federal Government, noting that if all the stressors are under control there is opportunity to open access to the clam beds.
- Seabed floor data reports related to contamination would be available publicly.
- Biological species testing – a mixture of wild animals, agricultural sources and human sources.
- Staff advised that Local Governments have done a great job trying to reduce contamination. The Federal policy is a blanket policy, staff are working to get them to change their policy to allow for opening up the clam beds for harvesting.
- Responsibility of the CRD and the municipalities to work together to determine contamination sources.
- Timeline for repairing the Residuals Treatment Facility - hoping to know in the next few weeks.
- CRD's Environmental Monitoring programs staff are working with the First Nations regarding reclamation of clam beds around Coles Bay.

The report was received for information.

7.3. Saanich Peninsula Inflow & Infiltration Update

J. Marr presented the report.

Discussion ensued and staff responded to questions regarding:

- Inflow & Infiltration update schedule. Staff advised updates are provided every 5-years, unless there is something happening in the system to report on.
- CRD is actively upgrading its SCADA systems and staff have communicated to municipal staff that updating some of their systems every year would help. Saanich Peninsula systems are in the CRD's 5-year capital plan.
- Staff will communicate with the municipalities about the five key recommendations, and also provide a copy of the report.

The report was received for information.

7.4. Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Service 2024 Mid-Year Capital Projects and Operations Update

Staff provided an overview of report.

The report was received for information.

8. NOTICE(S) OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

9. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1. Correspondence [Sent]: To District of North Saanich: CRD Bylaw 4596 (Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Services Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1, 2024)

A. Fraser provided some background information on the correspondence. She stated that the wastewater service needs a new loan authorization bylaw and that the last one was in 1996 for the construction of the facility. That loan was fully repaid in 2016, and the service has since been using requisition for maintenance and improvements.

In the last seven years there have been \$8 million in investments in the system. At the last Commission meeting staff provided an asset management presentation. In April staff brought a loan authorization bylaw forward for municipal approval. Unfortunately, the request erroneously noted that two thirds municipal approval was needed to proceed, however 100% municipal approval is required. Staff have submitted the letter to the District of North Saanich in hopes that they will reconsider their decision to not support the loan authorization bylaw. If not, staff will need to review how to proceed with degrading infrastructure upgrades.

Discussion ensued regarding the risk of not being able to fund required upgrades to prevent system failure. The correspondence will be going forward to the District of North Saanich Council on August 12.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Commissioner McNeil-Smith, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Duncan,
That the July 18, 2024 Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission meeting be adjourned at
10:50 am.

CARRIED

CHAIR

SECRETARY