

Appendix D:

Public Information Meeting Question and Answer Session Outline



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LWMP Amendment Public Meetings Question and Answer Session

Public Wastewater Systems Program

Background:

This program supports the Official Community Plans for the potential provision of community sewer systems. This means that, sewer services can only be considered for communities within the Growth Containment Area of an Official Community Plan, or for properties adjacent to sewer with a failing onsite system.

Sewer is a user paid service which means that new sewer services must be paid for by the residents in the new service area.

Questions:

- 1) For unsewered areas, is sewer generally desired?
- 2) What is a reasonable cost per household for the provision of sewer where it does not currently exist? (collection system and connection to private property)

Private Onsite Systems Program

Background:

Currently, the RDN has no jurisdiction in the management of onsite systems. Ministry of Health, Island Health (formerly Vancouver Island Health Authority) and “Authorized Persons” under the Sewerage System Regulation are responsible for the management of onsite systems. The role played by the RDN is strictly educational through the provision of SepticSmart.

Questions:

- 1) Are you aware that the RDN offers a free workshop to promote the proper care of private onsite systems?
- 2) Have you ever attended a SepticSmart workshop?
- 3) Do you have any concerns about how well your, or your neighbour’s, onsite system works or the quality of treatment it provides?
- 4) Are there any issues you regarding onsite systems which would like the RDN to address?

Source Control Program

Background:

Source control is essentially pollution prevention. By limiting what pollutants get put down the drain, we improve the quality of wastewater entering the system, and subsequently improve the quality of effluent and biosolids produced after treatment.

The Regional Liquid Waste Advisory Committee decided that the RDN should continue the Source Control Program and promote it through more partnerships (RDN departments, municipalities, non-government jurisdictions).

Questions:

- 1) Can you recommend any community groups who may like to partner with the RDN to promote source control and what type of contaminant they would target?
- 2) What other source control initiatives would assist homeowners?

Rainwater Management Program

Background:

The Ministry of Environment requires that the RDN prepare a Rainwater Management Plan in the upcoming years. This plan will establish a regional strategy to use rain as a resource, promote the maintenance of hydrologic function and protect the quality of water.

Question:

- 1) Are there any specific rainwater management, stormwater management, drinking water protection or watershed protection topics in your community that you would like the RDN to consider when developing the Rainwater Management Plan?

Odour Control Program

Background:

The RDN manages a number of wastewater manholes, pump stations, and treatment facilities and RDN takes odour control seriously.

Questions:

- 1) Do wastewater-related odours affect you (at home, on your commute, where you recreate)?
- 2) What is an acceptable level of odours? (frequency / duration / proximity)?

Volume Reduction Program

Background:

Volume reduction is important because the more water we use, the more wastewater we create. As well, higher volumes require that infrastructure be expanded sooner. By conserving water, we prevent pollution and can postpone costly expansion projects.

Questions:

- 1) Are you aware that the RDN offers free water conservation workshops? (e.g. Rainwater Harvesting, Gardening Tips, Lawn Alternatives, Xeriscaping, Irrigation Tips)
- 2) Are there other workshop topics you are interested in?

Inflow and Infiltration Program

Background:

Inflow and infiltration (I&I) are terms for relatively clean water that enters the sanitary sewer system, mainly as a result of a rainfall event or snow melt. A certain amount of I&I is unavoidable and is accounted for in routine sewer design. However, when I&I exceeds design allowances, sewer capacity is consumed there is the risk of sewer overflows. Reduction of I&I in the system lowers the risk of sanitary sewer overflows and can decrease the costs of conveying and treating wastewater.

As much as 70% of the I&I can come from private property.

Question:

1) What should the RDN do, if anything, to promote the reduction of I&I on private property?

Pollution Control Centres Program

Part 1: GNPCC

Background:

The RDN's original 1997 LWMP anticipated that secondary treatment would be in place at Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre by 2015. However, the outfall which discharges treated wastewater to the Strait of Georgia must be replaced by 2015. A 2015 completion date for both projects requires a high tax burden. As well, there are technical feasibility concerns with completing both the outfall and secondary upgrade projects by 2015.

The LWMP amendment is requesting an alternative timeline for the secondary treatment upgrade. Three completion dates are proposed (2016, 2018, and 2019); each with technical, social, environmental, and economic implications.

The outfall project will cost an estimated \$18 million. Secondary treatment upgrades will cost an estimated \$61.8 million.

Potential Average Sewer Tax Increase for GNPCC Secondary Treatment Upgrade by 2016, 2018, or 2019, with Three Cost Sharing Scenarios.

Cost sharing scenario	2013 Tax (average)	Potential tax increase phased in from 2014-2022					
		Option 1. 2016		Option 2. 2018		Option 3. 2019	
		Average Annual Increase	Tax in 2022	Average Annual Increase	Tax in 2022	Average Annual Increase	Tax in 2022
No Grant	\$104	\$18	\$268	\$15	\$238	\$13	\$224
1/3 Grant		\$12	\$213	\$10	\$194	\$9	\$185
2/3 Grant		\$8	\$179	\$7	\$167	\$6	\$161

Question:

Based on the technical, social, environmental, and economic implications, which option do you prefer? 2016, 2018, or 2019?

Part 2: NBPCC

Background:

The RDN’s original LWMP anticipated that secondary treatment would be in place at Nanoose Bay Pollution Control Centre by 2010. However, funding for the upgrade was based on projected growth and service area expansion which did not occur. For that reason, the LWMP amendment is requesting an alternative timeline. Three completion dates are proposed; each with technical, social, environmental, and economic implications. This project will cost an estimated \$4.1 million.

Potential Average Annual Sewer Tax Increase for Residents in the Nanoose Bay Service Area, Based on Three Timing Options and Three Cost Sharing Scenarios

Cost sharing scenario	2013 Tax (average)	Potential tax increase phased in from 2014-2031					
		Option 1. 2020		Option 2. 2025		Option 3. 2030	
		Average Annual Increase	Tax in 2031	Average Annual Increase	Tax in 2031	Average Annual Increase	Tax in 2031
No Grant	\$622	\$27	\$1,115	\$20	\$983	\$19	\$966
1/3 Grant		\$20	\$982	\$16	\$916	\$15	\$885
2/3 Grant		\$14	\$863	\$13	\$852	\$12	\$833

Question:

Based on the technical, social, environmental, and economic implications, which option do you prefer? 2020, 2025, or 2030?

Part 3: FCPCC

Background:

The original 1997 LWMP and LWMP amendment make commitments to expand FCPCC to meet the demands of a growing population. The LWMP amendment estimates that the expansion will be necessary between 2018 and 2025, at a cost of \$32 million.

Potential Average Sewer Tax Increase for FCPCC Infrastructure Replacement and Expansion

Grant Funding	2013 Tax (average)	Potential tax increase phased in incrementally from 2014-2022		
		Average Annual Increase	Total 9-year Increase	Tax in 2022
Not applicable	\$246	\$11-14	\$99-126	\$345-372

Question:

Do you have any comment for the RDN regarding the expansion of FCPCC?

Biosolids Program

Background:

Biosolids are a useful resource with a compost-like texture. The RDN, in partnership with Vancouver Island University and SYLVIS Environmental, produces, stores and applies biosolids that conform to standards set by the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation.

Question:

Do you have any comments regarding biosolids management in the RDN?

Resource Recovery Program

Background:

The RDN considers resource recovery options at the planning and design phase for all upgrades and expansions. Current Resource Recovery in the RDN is summarized below.

By-Product	Recovered Resource	GNPCC	FCPCC	NBPCC	DPPCC
Sludge	Biosolids	✓	✓	✓	✓
Methane, CO ₂ (biogas)	Heat	✓	–	–	–
Methane, CO ₂ (biogas)	Electricity (cogeneration)	✓	–	–	–
Effluent	Reclaimed Water	✓	✓	–	–
Effluent	District Heating	Potential	–	–	–

Question:

What opportunities for resource recovery in the RDN would you like to see explored?