



Making a difference...together

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission, held Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 9:30 am, Meeting Room, 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; S. Shrivastava (EP); R. Windsor (EP)

**Staff:** A. Fraser, General Manager, Integrated Water Services; J. Marr, Senior Manager, Infrastructure Engineering; J. Dales, Senior Manager, Wastewater Infrastructure Operations; P. Kickham; M. Cowley; D. Dionne, Administrative Coordinator, Integrated Water Services (Recorder); M. Risvold, Administrative and Committee Clerk, Integrated Water Services

**REGRETS:** P. Jones; Z. King; C. Pinches

EP = Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 am.

**1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Chair provided the Territorial Acknowledgement.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**CARRIED**

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**MOVED** by Commissioner Halldorson, **SECONDED** by Commissioner McNeil-Smith, That the minutes of the March 21, 2024 Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission meeting be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**4. CHAIR'S REMARKS**

The Chair thanked everyone for their participation and dedication and reminded everyone to be mindful of the amount of work done in the background.

**5. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS**

There were no presentations or delegations.

**6. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

A. Fraser introduced staff in the room.

- Peter Kickham who will be attending regularly on Glenn Harris' behalf and will be providing an update on the Biosolids plan today.
- Malcolm Cowley who works directly with the wastewater system and is here in support of the Treatment Plant Capacity report on the agenda.

She advised that the response to the Commission's request to review moving Saanich Peninsula septage to the treatment plant will be coming to the next commission meeting.

## **7. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

### **7.1. Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity Update**

J. Marr introduced the staff report.

Discussion ensued and staff responded to questions from the Commission regarding:

- Airport Authority peak flow and whether there are plans to reduce on their end.
- Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) versus sewage flow - can we determine what that factor would be.
- Individual municipalities I&I.

Staff advised that these questions can be addressed in the I&I staff report scheduled to be presented to the Commission in July.

This item was received for information.

### **7.2. Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Asset Management Update**

J. Marr introduced the staff report.

Discussion ensued and staff responded to questions from the Commission and the following further details were noted:

- The next update of the Asset Management Plan would be 2027, updated every five years with the last one completed in 2022.
- Turgoose Pump Station upgrades completion were prior to 2021.

This item was received for information.

### **7.3. Biosolids Plan Update [Verbal]**

P. Kickham provided a verbal update noting the following:

- Short-term beneficial use was incineration at Lafarge in Richmond, BC with a contingency plan of using as engineered cover systems at Hartland Landfill.
- Due to longer than expected periods when Lafarge was not able to receive biosolids in 2022 and 2023, the majority were landfilled at Hartland.
- The province requires the long-term biosolids management plan to be submitted by June 18, 2024 and implemented by January 1, 2025.
- Public and First Nation engagement on all biosolids management options is required.
- A technical consultant was hired to prepare an options analysis and propose a draft long-term beneficial use strategy.
- A three-tiered long-term strategy was presented to the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board on May 8, 2024:
  - Tier 1 – sets the preferred option as advanced thermal (gasification of pyrolysis) treatment of biosolids. The CRD is currently procuring a 15-month

- on-site pilot project to prove the technology prior to making a final decision on a long term advanced thermal facility.
- Tier 2 – Out of region compliance options – Land application options out of region to ensure regulatory compliance while the Tier 1 option is being investigated and implemented.
  - Tier 3 – In region contingency options The CRD would implement Tier 3 options on a contingency basis, only when options within the Tier 2 portfolio are unavailable.
- Staff continue to explore biosolids beneficial use opportunities with any First Nation that express interest.
  - Next steps are public comment period on the long-term strategy and to refer back to the Technical and Community Advisory Committee for review and comment.
  - Staff will compile final comments for the CRD Board's June 12 meeting, for submission to the Province by June 18.

Discussion ensued and staff responded to questions from the Commission regarding:

- Potential risks related to public not having a full understanding of the actual risks involved and how to balance any misguided feedback.
- Clarification about the out of region options. The only out of region is mine-application. The Board's preference is industrial, forestry, composting, staff not to pursue agriculture.
- The biosolids are being mixed with sand and stockpiled the Cassidy site.
- The updates to the plan are posted on the website and are available for comment, this Commission, as an interested party, could provide comment.
- Staff are hoping that the Residuals Treatment Facility (RTF) can receive other municipal solid waste within the next couple of months.

## 8. NOTICE(S) OF MOTION

There were none.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

**MOVED** by Commissioner McNeil-Smith, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Halldorson,  
That the May 16, 2024 meeting be adjourned at 10:13.

**CARRIED**

---

**CHAIR**

---

**SECRETARY**