



Making a difference...together



wastewater treatment + resource recovery

APRIL 29, 2015 – EASTSIDE WASTEWATER DIALOGUE PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

OVERVIEW

This document is a summary of ideas and themes that emerged during an evening public dialogue and briefing on April 29, 2015 from 7-9:30pm at the Royal BC Museum. There were 120 registered citizens in attendance as well as another 30 elected officials, CRD staff, suppliers and a team of 15 facilitators to support the conversation. We also asked participants to fill out Harvest forms to ensure we were able to capture precise comments from participants. We received approximately 40 of these forms including two submitted via email.

Session Summary: The dialogue featured an invitation and briefing by Eastside Select Committee Chair, Lisa Helps. There was an open question and answer session, following by a summary of the process delivered by public consultation consultant, Amanda Gibbs. The entire opening was captured on video, and is viewable on the CRD website.

The briefing and open question session was followed by a dialogue, with a team of facilitators working in small groups to discuss two key questions:

1. What is your vision for a successful outcome on sewage treatment?
2. What are your specific criteria and priorities?

The following represents a high-level summary of the core themes that emerged with a high level of agreement from participants. The transcribed statements from the forms are available in full. Photos of each flip chart are available. We will conduct a thematic analysis of all qualitative findings from the sessions, which will be available once all the initial dialogue sessions are complete in several weeks.

WHAT WERE THE BIG EMERGENT FINDINGS?

1. *SITING*

- A focus on sites that communities can get behind, that respect local identity and allow municipalities to take responsibility for their liquid waste.
- Communities have a say in where infrastructure goes.

2. *COST*

- A multi-pronged emphasis on cost optimization for taxpayers, better and more transparent costing of all solutions – in terms of infrastructure and life cycle costs.
- A number of respondents worried about increased taxes, especially for those on a fixed income.

3. *ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT*

- A broadly held principle of do no harm, and desire to prevent harmful materials from entering land and sea.
- A questioning of science related to environmental impacts of current sewage management in the region.
- A plan that recognizes and meets challenges posed by climate change

4. *RESOURCE RECOVERY/ TECHNOLOGY*

- A range of opinions with support for adopting the most leading edge resource recovery to adoption of secondary treatment in order to retain funding and move quickly.
- Across the board interest in a clearer process for surfacing technical options, clearer reporting on viable technology and a general mistrust of project expertise to date.

5. *ADAPTABILITY/ RESILIENCE*

- A focus on solutions that can adapt to changes in demand, technology and challenges posed by climate change – avoiding getting locked into expensive and too quickly outdated approaches. Modular approaches were suggested.
- An interest in seeing solutions that ensure the safety of residents.
- A solution that can withstand and is not vulnerable to seismic activity.



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6. *PROCESS/ INFORMATION PROVISION AND TRANSPARENCY*

- Participants expressed concern about the pace of the current process, many said it was too fast, others wanted more action and to “get it done”.
- There was a concern that a high level of technical information be made available to the public and decision makers as soon as possible.
- There was a concern that there was not enough focus on resource recovery and forms of treatment versus a focus on sites.
- There was a desire to see the openness of the initial session preserved and improved throughout the public consultation phase.
- There was a desire for more information about decision-making and who would be implementing the plan.