

EASTSIDE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

wastewater treatment + resource recovery

BRIEFING AND DIALOGUE GUIDE

Public Update + Conversation

Sewage Treatment – Eastside Select Committee

April 29, 2015



Making a difference...together



WELCOME AND THANK YOU FOR JOINING US

The future of wastewater treatment in the Capital Regional District is of critical importance. It affects every citizen, each municipality, as well as those tasked with bringing technical solutions to life. But this is a complex challenge and as we know, has proved difficult to solve in our region.

With new opportunities to go forward and increased urgency to find publicly supportable solutions, Oak Bay, Saanich and Victoria are working to engage their communities to develop solutions for wastewater treatment.

The Eastside Wastewater Treatment and Resource Recovery Select Committee (Eastside Select Committee) is an official sub-committee of the Capital Regional District (CRD) made up of elected officials from Oak Bay, Saanich and Victoria.

Alongside, and potentially in collaboration with, a process from the parallel Westside Select Committee, these emerging options could form the basis for an amendment to the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan (CALWMP).

The Eastside Select Committee is launching a phase of public engagement with residents and citizens in its three municipalities. The meeting you are attending is one of a series of community briefings, workshops and feedback sessions scheduled over the coming three months.

IN THIS BRIEFING PACKAGE YOU'LL FIND THE FOLLOWING:

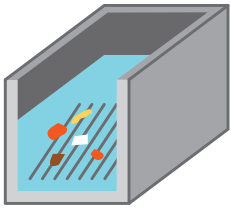
- The Basics of Wastewater Treatment
- An Overview of What Has Changed and the Decision-making Process
- A Summary of The Eastside Select Committee's Public Participation Approach
- Project Governance
- Opportunities to Participate

We're looking forward to our discussions. Thank you for being part of this conversation.

What are the Basics of Wastewater Treatment and Recovery?

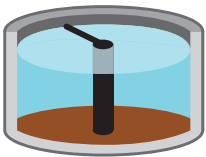
Sewage or wastewater is water that has been used in homes and businesses in ways that negatively impact its quality. It is largely made up of human waste, oils, grease, chemicals, dirt and soaps from sinks, showers and washing machines and effluent from industries, commercial businesses and institutions.

- Proper management of wastewater ensures protection of public and environmental health. Proper wastewater management includes collection, treatment and disposal.
- Wastewater flows from the sewage collection system into a treatment facility.
- Source control can reduce some harmful pollutants by keeping them out of the collection system, rather than treating them after they have been mixed with other wastes. The CRD implements an effective source control program.



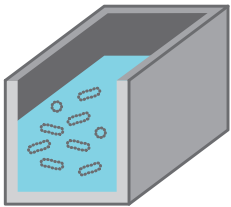
PRELIMINARY TREATMENT:

Grit (sand and gravel) and coarse solids (rocks, rags, plastics, etc.) are screened out and taken to the landfill. Preliminary Treatment protects pumps and outfall pipes and is the only treatment implemented in the CRD.



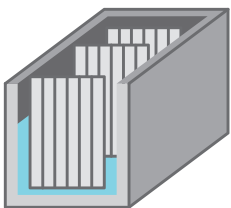
PRIMARY TREATMENT:

A mechanical process in which gravity is used to separate solids that sink or float. Typically primary treatment removes 60-65% of the waste (solids) from the sewage. Considerable amounts of waste remain in the water in a form that does not settle easily. Primary treated wastewater is discharged (disposal) on land in remote areas, where soaks into and is further treated in the soil.



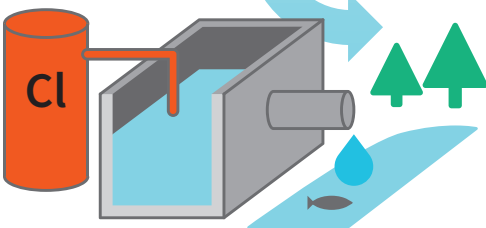
SECONDARY TREATMENT:

A biological process in which microbes break down and consume nearly all solid and dissolved pollutants remaining in the primary effluent. The solids are then removed from the wastestream (not typically filtered). When secondary treatment follows primary treatment, typically 85% of the waste is removed from the raw sewage. The secondary treated wastewater may be disposed of directly into the environment through an approved outfall, or further filtered and disinfected.



TERTIARY TREATMENT:

Chemical or mechanical processes beyond secondary treatment. Tertiary treatment may include nutrient removal, ozonation, coagulation, flocculation, filtration, among other processes. Tertiary treatment can further reduce levels of pharmaceuticals, toxins and chemicals found in wastewater. Tertiary treatment is required for certain wastewater reuses and sensitive habitat disposal.



DISINFECTION:

This process reduces pathogens or disease causing bacteria and follow secondary or tertiary treatment. Disinfection is not considered tertiary treatment.

What Happens to Solids That are Removed from the Wastewater?

Wastewater solids removed during treatment processes are typically treated to reduce pathogens and rancidity and either landfilled, applied to soil, or sent to a resource recovery centre.

RESOURCE RECOVERY

Wastewater contains certain resources that can be captured and used throughout the treatment process. Many wastewater facilities capture methane gas for use within the treatment plant for heat recovery and electrical generation.

Heat: Heat from raw sewage can be captured at the wastewater treatment plant and used to heat other facilities.

Water Reuse: Wastewater that has been treated to a tertiary level and adequately disinfected, can be used for non-drinking purposes such as watering the lawn or flushing toilets.

What is Our Approach to Resource Recovery?

While some of these Federal and Provincial funding agreements are linked to previous forms of treatment and recovery, our intention is to explore all options through this process and to bring good information in terms of costs, benefits and drawbacks to the public.





WHAT HAS CHANGED OR WHY ARE WE GOING TO THE PUBLIC?

In 2014, the CRD's proposed solutions for regional wastewater treatment did not go forward.

There has been a good deal of discussion about this situation and its causes. We believe that it is important to learn lessons and to move forward in a different way. To not change our approach, could mean that we end up with a similar outcome. We need to do better. That means developing a new process with increased transparency, bringing key considerations forward to the public sooner, asking for your input on specific options, and communicating how decisions are being made and by whom at every step of the way.

The wastewater treatment option development and public consultation processes are being led by the Eastside and Westside Select Committees. The committees have been struck to address the need to reflect sub-regional diversity. There is a commitment to collaboration between the two groups to ensure solutions will work across the region.

WHY ARE WE MOVING SO QUICKLY?

The Province of British Columbia has confirmed that the CRD is responsible to implement secondary wastewater treatment in the Core Area by the federally legislated deadline of 2020.

Provincial and Federal funding agreements that provide approximately \$500 million toward the \$788 million project are contingent on meeting these timelines.

We have consulted with our funders and have secured a one-year extension on a portion of this funding which gives us until March 2016 to find a solution to wastewater treatment for the Core Area --both east and west subregions.

This extension, however, means we need to get started on public dialogue immediately to ensure we have enough time to develop solutions that could be shovel ready by our deadlines. Observing the existing funding deadlines means that we are not shutting the door on dollars, while continuing to explore the most effective solutions.



The Eastside Select Committee's Public Participation Approach

OUR ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

We have developed a framework that works to internationally recognized standards for public participation. We are offering numerous opportunities for the public to offer guidance, feedback and to continue to receive information throughout this intensive process.

When we engage with communities, we will seek to:

- Provide technical information that is clear, pragmatic and seeks to communicate local impact;
- Be clear about how public input will be used in the development of solutions;
- Provide many opportunities to participate both face-to-face and online, so that we may broadly engage citizens;
- Respectfully obtain and transparently share stakeholder and community feedback; and
- Provide transparency about the costs and process to develop solutions.

Here are some guiding principles for this process that have been outlined by the Committee:

- Pragmatic
- Collaborative
- Transparent
- Adaptable
- Trust building
- Sustainability-focused (cost and environment)
- Inclusive

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:

We are convening a series of community briefings, workshops and feedback sessions over the coming three months. Each session will build on the findings of each activity. This work will also be grounded in findings from public surveys and opinion research, which will help us reach the broadest possible audience.

EASTSIDE BRIEFING AND WORKSHOP	EASTSIDE BRIEFING AND WORKSHOPS
<p>WED, APRIL 29, 7pm - 9pm Royal BC Museum</p> <p>This session will begin with a briefing on the project status – where we are, what has changed, and how decisions will be made. We will also outline our process for engaging stakeholders. The session will conclude with a workshop so that participants can share their priorities and vision for successful outcomes.</p>	<p>SAT, MAY 9, 11am - 2pm Cedar Hill Rec Centre, Saanich</p> <p>SAT, MAY 9, 3:30 - 5:30pm Windsor Pavilion, Oak Bay</p> <p>WED, MAY 13, 10am - Noon Crystal Pool, Victoria</p> <p>These sessions will offer the same opportunities to learn more and to share your priorities and vision for successful outcomes.</p>
EASTSIDE WASTEWATER SITING WORKSHOPS – FACE-TO-FACE/ ONLINE CONSULTATION	REPORTING BACK: Presenting the Emerging Solutions
<p>SAT, MAY 30 and Sun, May 31, 10am - 4pm Venues: TBA</p> <p>This collaborative session will offer an opportunity for community members to work with engineers, planners and community organizations to look at siting, consideration and outcomes for wastewater in the sub-region. We would like to invite residents, community leaders, city and government officials, and local organizations to attend the workshop, but all interested are welcome.</p>	<p>THURS, JUNE 11, 7 - 9pm Venue: TBA</p> <p>We will present the emerging ideas we are hearing from our community meetings, online feedback and the design workshop. We will take community feedback and review the emerging options with what we have heard.</p>

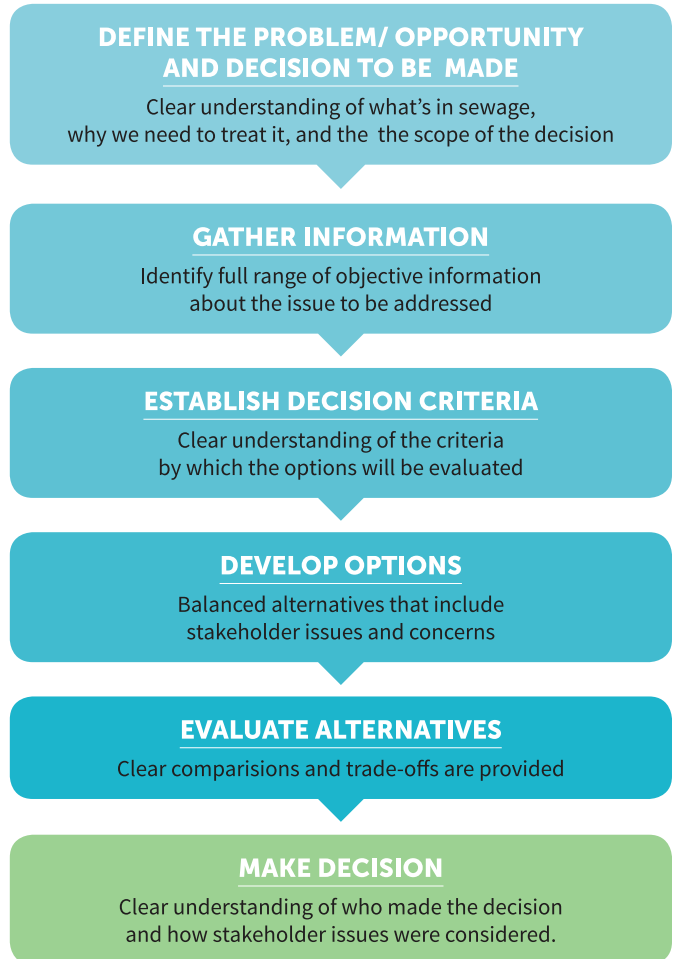
COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

Saturday, June 27 Venue: TBA

We will bring the options forward for a facilitated community conversation, with a real-time dialogue on benefits and drawbacks on the emerging options.

PARTICIPATING ONLINE

We want to provide as many opportunities for residents and citizens in neighbouring communities to participate in the conversation. We will be developing a parallel digital engagement platform that will provide the same options presented to the public during public workshops online. Please visit www.crd.bc.ca/eastside for ongoing updates about these opportunities and others, to participate.



HOW WILL THE FINAL DECISIONS BE MADE?

Technical Oversight and Accountability

A technical oversight working group comprised of one elected and one technical representative from each of the Select Committees (Eastside and Westside) and the CRD's General Manager of Parks and Sustainability, Larisa Hutcheson, has been formed to take the solutions set forward. This technical oversight group will develop terms of reference and a selection process to identify an engineering firm that can develop the necessary technical research on the options that emerge. These options will need to be developed before the Core Area Committee makes a decision on the outcomes.

Public Input – Ombudsperson/ Fairness and Transparency Advisor

We are committed to continuous transparent updates to the public. In order to ensure a high level of oversight, we are looking at independent oversight by an arms-length office, which will flow concerns from the public and other bodies to the decision makers.

Implementation

Once the solutions have been landed on, then the Seaterra Commission will be reactivated, and asked to implement the solution. It will not be involved in the process from a decision-making or technical standpoint.

GOVERNANCE

The Eastside Select Committee reports to the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee (CALWMC) and will be supported by CRD staff, participating municipal staff, and consultants.

The Eastside Select Committee will develop a plan for the Eastside that, in combination with the plan from the Westside Select Committee, could form the basis for an amendment to the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan (CALWMP).

WHO PROVIDES GUIDANCE TO THE EASTSIDE SELECTION COMMITTEE?

Technical Advice

The Eastside Select Committee has brought on a team of specialists in public engagement, planning and engineering to help develop and implement its engagement process. The companies and suppliers include Public Assembly, a Vancouver-based public consultation firm and Urban Systems, a regionally-based planning and engineering firm.

Eastside Public Advisory Committee

A committee of ten citizens offer advice and guidance to the Eastside Select Committee and the team of consultants, technical advisors and CRD staff in the development of a citizen engagement framework. Members of the general public were invited to apply, and the committee appointed five residents of Saanich, four from Victoria and one from Oak Bay.

NOTES:

For more information, please contact:
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