



Making a difference...together

**Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Capital Regional District Board  
Held Wednesday, July 3, 2013, in the Board Room, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC**

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**PRESENT: Directors:** A. Bryson (Chair), D. Blackwell (Vice Chair), S. Brice, J. Brownoff, C. Coleman (for D. Fortin), T. Daly, V. Derman, S. Gudgeon (for M. Alto, 12:12), B. Desjardins, G. Hill, D. Howe, M. Hicks, N. Jensen, F. Leonard, P. Madoff (for B. Isitt), W. McIntyre, W. Milne, J. Ranns, K. Roessingh (for J. Mendum), L. Seaton, L. Wergeland and G. Young

**Staff:** B. Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer; J. Hull, Interim Program Director, Core Area Wastewater Treatment Program; D. Lokken, General Manager, Corporate Services; T. Robbins, General Manager, Integrated Water Services; S. Santarossa, Corporate Officer, and S. Norton, Deputy Corporate Officer (Recorder)

**ABSENT: Directors:** L. Cross and C. Hamilton

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:04 am.

**1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOVED** by Director Hill, **SECONDED** by Director Brownoff,  
That the agenda and supplementary agenda be approved.

**CARRIED**

**2. REPORT OF THE CHAIR – No report**

**3. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS**

Chair Bryson advised that as there were more than six speakers to speak to Item 4.1, Biosolids Energy Centre Siting Process - Public Consultation Interim Summary Report, he intended to allow a maximum of three minutes for each delegation as permitted by the CRD Board Procedures Bylaw No. 3823.

1. Jeff Irwin, Community of Willis Point – spoke to the concerns of Willis Point residents regarding drinking water supply, pipeline risks, emergency services impacts, and increased traffic if the proposed Biosolids Energy Centre (BEC) is located at Hartland landfill. He pointed out that the Willis Point community has not been involved in the BEC siting consultation because its Electoral Area Director has no vote for this project. He recommended a motion to include Willis Point representation through a liaison committee [see Item 5]. The delegation provided speaking notes which are on file at Legislative Services.
2. Beth Burton-Krahn, Sewage Treatment Action Group (STAG) – advised that STAG is dedicated to a land-based sewage treatment process based on a waste-to-energy facility. She spoke to her concerns regarding: the planning and management of the sewage treatment project; the risks involved with creating biosolids and their eventual end-product use; and the selection of Viewfield Road as a proposed BEC site. She asked that the current plan be revisited.

3. Janet Riddell – spoke in favour of the recommendation to abandon the Viewfield Road property as a BEC site. She spoke against the decision to purchase this site. The delegation provided speaking notes which are on file at Legislative Services.
4. Eric Pittman – spoke against the Viewfield Road property as a BEC site, including the possible impacts on him personally if this site was pursued. He spoke to his concerns regarding the information presented during the public consultation process and on the CRD website. The delegation provided speaking notes which are on file at Legislative Services.
5. Justine Semmens – spoke in favour of the recommendation to abandon the Viewfield Road property as a BEC site. She raised concerns regarding the information presented during the public consultation process. She noted the site was incompatible with surrounding uses as outlined in a CRD-commissioned report. The delegation provided speaking notes which are on file at Legislative Services.
6. Jack Meredith, P. Eng. – spoke in favour of the recommendation to abandon the Viewfield Road property as a BEC site. He showed why he thought sludge digestion should not take place within 500 m of residences or commercial businesses. He suggested commissioning a life-cycle analysis of the current plan and alternatives, re-examining the alternatives and confirming with senior governments that deadlines could be pushed back. The delegation provided speaking notes which are on file at Legislative Services.
7. Mark Dickerson – spoke in favour of the recommendation to abandon the Viewfield Road property as a BEC site. The delegation provided speaking notes which are on file at Legislative Services.
8. Richard Atwell – read out the wording of a petition with 2,418 signatures. In brief, the petition called for the CRD Board to: 1) abandon the Viewfield Road properties as an option for a sewage sludge facility; 2) evaluate and pursue other sites for a sewage sludge facility after public consultation; 3) demand an extension to the sewage treatment implementation date to allow time to identify an appropriate site and to have public engagement. He outlined possible cost savings resulting from the delay from 2018 to 2020 for sewage treatment implementation. The delegation provided a compact disc with the petition signed 2418 signatures and speaking notes which are on file at Legislative Services.
9. Jane Baigent – asked the CRD to apply the precautionary principle in siting a biosolids facility by providing evidence of no risk including under severe weather conditions or earthquakes. She cited incidences at other facilities that put people at risk. She asked that the criteria used for siting a facility include ‘not in a densely populated area’.

10. Carole Witter – spoke in favour of the recommendation to abandon the Viewfield Road property as a BEC site, and against the decision to purchase the site. She described her concerns with the current approach to sewage treatment with respect to cost to the taxpayer, environmental impact, and lack of innovation and benefits to the community. She asked that the plan be revisited.
11. Bryan Gilbert – spoke against the Viewfield Road property as a BEC site. He spoke to his concerns regarding: the costs of the sewage treatment project; the formation of the technical community advisory committee (TCAC); and the recent public consultation process. He asked that the current plan be stopped, a proper TCAC be formed, and the process be started over. The delegation provided speaking notes which are on file at Legislative Services.
12. John Newcomb – spoke in favour of the recommendation to abandon the Viewfield Road property as a BEC site. He reviewed his concerns regarding: the Triple Bottom Line (TBL) criteria used to identify sites for a BEC; the costs of the BEC versus the treatment plant; environmental and safety risks of a BEC. He called for the CRD Board to throw out the current TBL and look for more site options for a BEC; and to do an environmental and health impact assessment of all sewage treatment options, including the current system. The delegation provided speaking notes which are on file at Legislative Services.
13. Dianne Carr, Victoria West Community Assoc. – spoke in favour of the recommendation to abandon the Viewfield Road property as a BEC site, and read out a motion passed by the Association opposing this site and asking the CRD to look at alternatives. She spoke against the current treatment plan predicated on a treatment plant at McLoughlin Point and asked the CRD to look at other alternatives such as a distributed system with integrated resource management.
14. John Farquharson – spoke to his concerns with the posters and guide presented at the recent open houses for the BEC, in particular, the use of a picture of the Kelowna wastewater treatment facility. He described the attempts to correct this misleading information.
15. Susan Low – spoke in favour of the recommendation to abandon the Viewfield Road property as a BEC site and put forward an alternative approach to move forward with sewage treatment. She asked the CRD Board to direct the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee to review and adopt an integrated resource management approach combined with an innovative ownership structure using private investment with public infrastructure control. She also put forward a proposal for the use of the Viewfield Road property as a community food centre. The delegation provided speaking notes which are on file at Legislative Services.

16. Lori Gracia-Meredith – spoke in favour of the recommendation to abandon the Viewfield Road property as a BEC site. She described a visit to the BEC in Nanaimo and the problems with smell and noise within the facility.
17. Patti Parkhouse – spoke in favour of the recommendation to abandon the Viewfield Road property as a BEC site because of safety and health concerns to the nearby residential neighbourhoods. She spoke against the decision to purchase this property.
18. David Ferguson – spoke in support of the safety and health concerns raised by the residents near the proposed Viewfield Road BEC site. Speaking in support of the effectiveness of the current marine-based treatment system, he asked the CRD to demonstrate that the proposed land-based system is measurably better.

#### 4. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

##### 4.1 Biosolids Energy Centre Siting Process - Public Consultation Interim Summary Report

**MOVED** by Director Blackwell, **SECONDED** by Director Brice,  
That the Interim Public Consultation Summary Report be received.

**CARRIED**

**MOVED** by Director Blackwell, **SECONDED** by Director Brice,  
That the Viewfield Road site no longer be considered as an option for the Biosolids Energy Centre.

Alternate Director Gudgeon entered the meeting at 12:12 pm.

Discussion ensued regarding the rationale for considering the Viewfield Road property as a potential site for a biosolids energy centre (BEC), and the requirement to include a site (currently Hartland landfill) for a BEC in the amendment to the Core Area Liquid Waste Management. There was also broad discussion on the current plan for sewage treatment.

The question on the motion was called.

**CARRIED**

In response to questions, staff advised that there will be a report on how to proceed with the Viewfield Road property.

**MOVED** by Director Blackwell, **SECONDED** by Director Seaton,  
That the full consultation report, including verbatim comments, be presented to the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee and Board at a later date.

**CARRIED**

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**Proposed Biosolids Energy Centre at Hartland Landfill – Community Liaison**

It was noted that the residents of Willis Point are concerned with the proposed siting of the biosolids energy centre (BEC) at Hartland landfill. In particular, how will they be included in the consultation process as the community is located in the Juan de Fuca (JDF) Electoral Area, which is outside the service area of the Core Area Wastewater Treatment program.

**MOVED** by Director Hicks, **SECONDED** by Director Brownoff,  
That should Hartland Landfill become the site of the Biosolids Energy Centre, a liaison committee including the Juan de Fuca Director, representatives from Willis Point and Saanich, and one CRD Board member from Saanich shall be established, and that the CRD ask the Core Area Wastewater Commission to confer with this committee with the aim of identifying residents' concerns and finding mutually agreeable solutions.

On the motion, concern was expressed about voting on the establishment of this committee in advance of consideration of the rezoning application by the District of Saanich Council. There was discussion on whether or when this type of forum could be considered in relation to the rezoning application. It was requested that the District of Highlands also be included because of traffic concerns.

**MOVED** by Director Brownoff, **SECONDED** by Director Derman,  
That consideration of the motion be deferred to consider alternate wording for the motion in response to concerns expressed.

**CARRIED**  
Hicks **OPPOSED**

**6. MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING**

**MOVED** by Alternate Director Coleman, **SECONDED** by Director Hill,  
That the Board close the meeting in accordance with the Community Charter, Part 4, Division 3, 90 (1) (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose (Item 2.2.1); (m) a matter that, under another enactment, is such that the public may be excluded from the meeting (Item 2.2.2); 90 (2) (b) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the regional district and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party (Item 2.1.1).

**CARRIED**

The Board closed the meeting at 12:50 pm and rose without report at 2:00 pm.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED** by Director Blackwell, **SECONDED** by Director Seaton,  
That the meeting be adjourned at 2:00 pm.

**CARRIED**

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**CHAIR**

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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**CORPORATE OFFICER**