
**REPORT TO CORE AREA LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, 26 JULY 2006**

SUBJECT **CORE AREA LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT
STAFF RESPONSE – SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL REPORT**

PURPOSE

To provide information and recommendations to the committee about the next steps to respond to the scientific and technical review of the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP).

BACKGROUND

The Scientific and Technical Review Panel report was presented to the Board on 12 July 2006. Following a presentation by the chair of the panel, the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) provided copies of the report to the Capital Regional District (CRD). In accordance with the instructions of the Board, copies were posted to the CRD website and distributed to Core Area LWMP municipalities, local MLAs, local MPs, the Ministry of Environment and the Marine Monitoring Advisory Group. SETAC advised all individuals, groups and organizations that made formal submissions to the panel that the panel's report is available on the CRD website. A form on the website provides an opportunity for members of the public to provide feedback to the CRD about the report.

It will take several months for staff to review and analyze all of the recommendations noted in the SETAC report.

The cities of Colwood and Langford have advised that they will need more sewerage capacity than currently provided to accommodate growth on the West Shore. They have requested that the CRD consider a separate treatment plant for the West Shore communities as an alternative to providing more sewerage capacity and more treatment, pumping and outfall capacity at Macaulay. The benefits of this alternative include the opportunity to reduce the size of facilities at Macaulay Point. Staff recommend that the additional option of a single West Shore plant to serve the seven LWMP municipalities should also be considered. Colwood and Langford also requested that procurement options, ranging from public-private partnership (P3) options to traditional methods, be considered as well.

Therefore, to assist the Board in the decision process to reaffirm or modify core area sewage treatment policies, it is recommended that a comprehensive report on treatment options, procurement strategies and update costing be prepared.

While some of the work can be done by CRD staff, it is necessary to retain consultants with expertise in areas, such as sewage treatment and project procurement. Stantec Consulting Ltd. is recommended for the treatment options review. Stantec has already provided estimates in the past for treatment at Clover and Macaulay so any proposed changes at these locations should be consistent with work already done. Stantec staff would also assess the applicability to the CRD of alternative and new liquid waste management systems, including the merits and costs of smaller local treatment systems.

With respect to procurement options, including P3 and conventional procurement methods, it is recommended that Jonathan Huggett be retained. He has extensive experience in this area and his assistance should provide valuable information to assist the Board.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That staff award contracts to Stantec Consulting Ltd. and Jonathan Huggett, as recommended, prepare a comprehensive treatment options and strategy report addressing the following components and bring the matter back before the Board before year end:
 - analyze the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry report, including the audit report, and make recommendations for action
 - evaluate cost/benefit and treatment impacts of multiple sites, as well as address the Colwood/Langford request for evaluation of a third treatment plant to service the West Shore
 - update our understanding of the most current reliable sewage treatment technologies available
 - update cost projections for treatment options, including capital and operating costs and potential cost recovery
 - provide options and recommendations to the Board on procurement options for proceeding with treatment ranging from public-private partnership options to traditional methods
2. That staff be instructed to request proposals from the consulting community for a feasibility study of wastewater treatment options and procurement options.
3. That no further work be done on treatment options and that Langford's and Colwood's request for the review of a third treatment site be denied.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The consultant support is expected to cost approximately \$125,000 and it is proposed to charge the cost of the studies to Bylaw 3072. The bylaw was set up to cover costs of the Core Area LWMP sewage treatment pilot, the sludge management options report, the Sludge Management Plan and identification and selection of a site for sludge processing. Work on the sewage treatment pilot was completed under budget, leaving sufficient funds to complete the proposed work.

A decision to request proposals for the components of the options study will delay completion of the work. The results would not be ready in time for the proposed Board review later this year whether to reconfirm or modify the LWMP position on wastewater treatment. A decision not to proceed with the wastewater treatment component of the options study will leave the Board without up-to-date cost estimates for wastewater treatment.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The cities of Colwood and Langford have determined that they will require more sewerage capacity and wastewater treatment capacity than was envisaged at the time that the West Shore trunk sewer was constructed. One option is to provide additional sewerage capacity to convey wastewater to Macaulay Point and to provide additional pumping, treatment and outfall capacity at Macaulay when it is required. However, there is merit in considering two more options for wastewater treatment – a separate plant to serve the West Shore and a single plant at a West Shore location to serve the seven LWMP municipalities.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The question of whether or not to alter the LWMP with a higher level of sewage treatment is a risk management decision that should take into account numerous inputs. These include social, economic,

political and technical to make an informed decision on this issue. Therefore, it is critical that a single, comprehensive report be prepared for the Board's consideration.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

The report of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel was presented to the Board on 12 July 2006. Following presentation of the report, the CRD posted the report to the CRD website and made copies available to LWMP municipalities, several interested individuals, the Ministry of Environment and the Marine Monitoring Advisory Group. SETAC advised individuals, groups and organizations that made formal presentations to the panel that the report is available on the CRD website. The website provides an opportunity for feedback from the public.

It is proposed that staff will report to the committee in the fall on the results of feedback from the public.

Retaining Stantec Consulting Ltd. to assist in the preparation of the detailed report will not only cover the option of a third plant but will look at options from one to three plants, several smaller local plants, and will also review new treatment technologies. Stantec's previous experience with the CRD will facilitate a review in both a timely and cost-effective fashion. The project schedule is attached.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That staff prepare a comprehensive treatment options and strategy report addressing the following components:
 - analyze the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry report, including the audit report, and make recommendations for action
 - evaluate cost/benefit and treatment impacts of multiple sites, as well as address the Colwood/Langford request for evaluation of a third treatment plant to service the West Shore
 - update our understanding of the most current reliable sewage treatment technologies available
 - update cost projections for treatment options, including capital and operating costs and potential cost recovery
 - provide options and recommendations to the Board on procurement options for proceeding with treatment ranging from public-private partnership options to traditional methods.
2. That staff engage Stantec Consulting Ltd. and Jonathan R. Huggett, PEng, to assist in the analysis and preparation of the report.

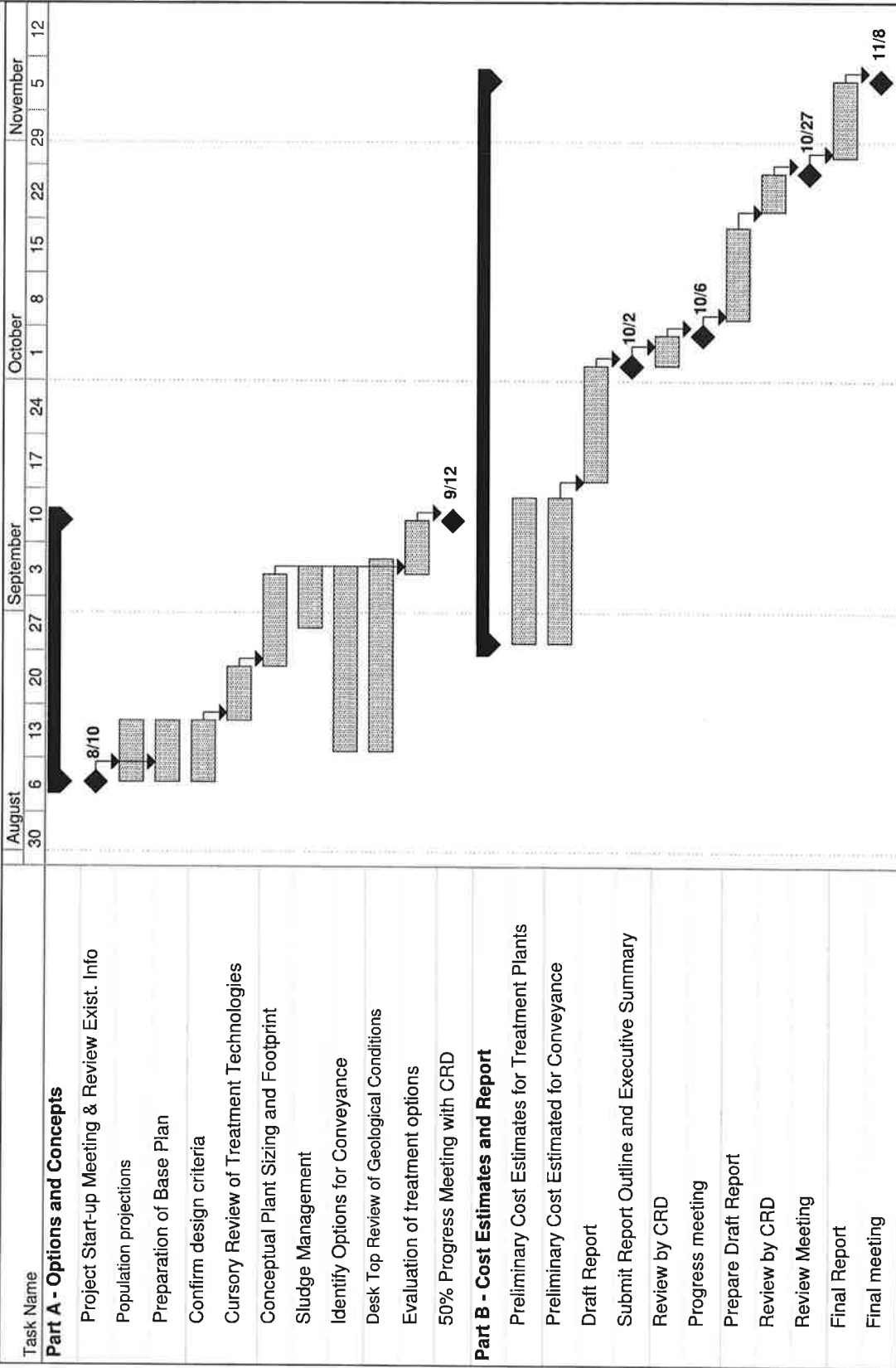
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COMMENTS

DK:cp
Attachment: 1
HDM#148534/v4

CRD Environmental Services Feasibility Study - Core Area Wastewater Treatment Schedule - Revised July 11, 2006



Project: WestShoreSTP_Schedule_re
Date: Wed 7/12/06

Task



Milestone

Summary