
**REPORT TO CORE AREA LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, 25 JULY 2007**

SUBJECT **CORE AREA AND WEST SHORE WASTEWATER TREATMENT – TERMS OF REFERENCE – RESOURCE RECOVERY AND BENEFICIAL USE**

PURPOSE

To ensure all the opportunities for resource recovery and beneficial reuse are explored and maximized to ensure the current representative wastewater treatment strategy maximizes the opportunities to be innovative in the resource recovery and beneficial reuse area.

BACKGROUND

The current approach supported in "The Path Forward" document approved by the Board calls for a decentralized system that incorporates initially up to five treatment plants with the opportunity in the future for multiple smaller facilities that could address growth as it occurs.

While this approach is an innovative, cost-effective and flexible solution to deal with our existing infrastructure and at the same time accommodate future technologies, innovations and growth, it does not address the opportunity for a multiple-facility approach in the existing infrastructure.

When the plans for wastewater treatment for the core area were developed, members of both the Core Area Liquid Waste Management committee and the Technical and Community Advisory committee expressed a strong desire for a high level of resource recovery and beneficial use of the products and byproducts of wastewater and sludge treatment processes. A review is warranted to support our commitment to resource recovery and beneficial use principles that will be incorporated into the wastewater treatment facilities and to provide information to the general public and resource recovery and beneficial use options.

ALTERNATIVES

The alternatives that the committee may wish to consider are:

1. That terms of reference be developed and discussions with the provincial government for partnering be held to conduct a study on the beneficial reuse and resource recovery opportunities, including an evaluation of our current representation approach as compared to a broader decentralized system.
2. That the market, in the eventual procurement process, be tasked solely with the goal of incorporating innovative resource recovery and beneficial reuse opportunities.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of the study would be approximately \$275,000. This project will be funded from a capital borrowing bylaw and direct funding from the province.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

In order to disseminate workload and take advantage of other Capital Regional District (CRD) departments that have an expertise and interest in this area, the Water Services' function will be co-managing this project with Environmental Services.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Beneficial reuse and integrated resource recovery options are of broad interest across the public sector. The CRD should examine opportunities to partner with the provincial government on this work. This should include investigation of these opportunities in the Capital Region and evaluations of the representative wastewater treatment strategy illustrated in "The Path Forward" report to ensure it reflects the best approach to illustrate our commitment to environmental innovation and excellence.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

It is proposed to engage a consultant to complete a report on opportunities for recovery and beneficial use of products and byproducts of wastewater and sludge treatment processes. The document would serve as a resource for future system development.

RECOMMENDATION

That terms of reference be developed and discussions with the provincial government for partnering be held to conduct a study on the beneficial reuse and resource recovery opportunities, including an evaluation of our current representation approach as compared to a broader decentralized system.

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COMMENTS

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