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REPORT TO CORE AREA LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2009

SUBJECT

West Shore Sewage Treatment Subcommittee Structure

PURPOSE

With the desire of Colwood and Langford to have more autonomy over the development and future operation of the sewage treatment program in their communities, supported by the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee (CALWMC), it is essential to have a formal review and recommendation process in place to ensure the desires of the joint communities are passed from them to the CALWMC and the Board so the Capital Regional District (CRD) can act in the best interests of everyone in a timely fashion.

BACKGROUND

At the October 7, 2009, meeting of the CALWMC, the committee considered a report on options for wastewater treatment in the West Shore and passed resolutions that supported: 1) a separate West Shore treatment plant, 2) the submission of a Liquid Waste Management Plan amendment with all the information available at that time with the understanding that any outstanding information would be submitted when completed, and 3) that staff proceed with analyzing governance and financial options/impacts as outlined by the West Shore motion.

It is critical, as we move into the final phases of the CALWMC planning process, that we have clear and timely information so that the CRD can be confident that we are both understanding the desires of the western communities as well as meeting our obligations to both the Provincial and Federal governments. Up to the time that a final governance structure has received all of its final approvals, and this can take a considerable period of time depending on the model chosen, the CRD remains the legal entity responsible for the Liquid Waste Management Plan, the application of and accounting for any grant funds, and the sole authority for the treatment of sewage in the core area.

The administrators from Colwood, Langford and the CRD have met to review the most appropriate structure to operate under for the foreseeable future.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That a subcommittee be struck consisting of the Board member from Colwood, the Board member from Langford, and as many representatives from their Councils as they desire to advise the CALWMC on the wishes of their two communities as it relates to the sewage treatment project and future governance as per the attached terms of reference.
2. That the current structure and process remain in place.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

1. The creation of a subcommittee for the West Shore will add administrative and technical costs to the project but our support for this subcommittee would be consistent with the support we provide any committee of the CRD and would be covered under the current planning grant. Any major work not anticipated in the planning phase would have to be approved by the CALWMC.
2. Status quo.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

It is important to recognize the committee's commitment to respect the desires of Colwood and Langford in evolving a sewage treatment system that reflects their aspirations while ensuring that the CALWMC is not remiss in meeting its statutory and financial obligations of the Provincial and Federal governments as well as the other members of the CALWMC. By ensuring that the CALWMC receives recommendations from the western communities in a timely fashion and within the process committee members are familiar with (i.e., minutes from the subcommittee with recommendations pulled from those minutes as items for CALWMC's consideration) we can ensure that communications from both communities are clear and directions are in writing.

The attached terms of reference for the subcommittee are proposed.

SUMMARY

The CALWMC has supported the intent and desire of the western communities of Colwood and Langford to have more direct input into the wastewater treatment project as it relates to their communities. Further, the committee has supported the desire of these committees to consider other governance options for the future of this system. To support that, as well as to ensure the CALWMC gets accurate, timely, and jointly supported recommendations from these communities a more formal reporting structure was deemed to be desirable by the administrators of Colwood, Langford and the CRD.

RECOMMENDATION

That a subcommittee be struck consisting of the Board member from Colwood, the Board member from Langford, and as many representatives from their Councils as they desire to advise the CALWMC on the wishes of their two communities as it relates to the sewage treatment project and future governance as per the attached terms of reference.



Kelly Daniels
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment

**WESTERN COMMUNITIES SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
CORE AREA LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CALWMC)
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Date Established: October 20, 2009

Membership:

- The CRD Board representative from Colwood
- The CRD Board representative from Langford
- Any further members from Colwood and Langford Councils that those Councils deem as appropriate.

Terms of Reference:

- To advise the CALWMC on all matters required, as well as determined by the members of the subcommittee to be desirable, to meet all the requirements of the Provincial and Federal governments for the development of the sewage project.
- To advise the CALWMC on all matters relevant to the successful completion of the CALWMC sewage project – specifically related to the system within the boundaries of Colwood and Langford.
- To review and advise the CALWMC and the Board on options related to the future governances of the West Shore communities sewage treatment options. (It is understood that if/when a formal process of service review and/or withdrawal is commenced that other structures may be required to be implemented.)

