



**REPORT TO CORE AREA LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY 23 MARCH 2011**

SUBJECT HARBOURS ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PROGRAM – REVIEW OF SERVICE

ISSUE

The Harbours Environmental Action Program requires a review before the expiry of its establishing bylaw in December 2012.

BACKGROUND

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) contains commitments to coordinate environmental protection of the harbours through a harbours environmental action program. The service required a new bylaw and cost-sharing formula, which were presented to the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee (CALWMC) at its 24 November 2010 meeting. Bylaw No. 3743, "Harbour Environmental Action Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2010" was adopted by the Board on 18 February 2011. The CALWMC supported the motion put forth by the harbours cost-sharing subcommittee that the bylaw be enacted for two years to allow time for a review of the service.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee endorse this plan to review the Harbours Environmental Action Program service.
2. That the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee direct staff to prepare an amended plan.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The service review requires clear communication and coordination between the core area municipalities, the CRD, which delivers the service, and the provincial government as the regulator. The three levels of government, but especially the municipalities and CRD, will need to work closely to review the harbours service. The intent is to design a new service for 2013 that provides municipalities with a coordinated, efficient and effective approach to the protection of the harbours and that also satisfies the parties' commitments under the LWMP. The CRD will be responsible for clarifying expectations under the LWMP with the Ministry of Environment throughout the review process and communicating that through to the municipalities.

Under the proposed plan, an inter-municipal group made up of municipal staff representatives from participating municipalities will be created to support the review. A timeline for this work is presented in Appendix A (attached). The review will integrate three parallel processes; discussions with municipalities to effectively and efficiently deliver on commitments under the LWMP; discussions with the Ministry of Environment on regulatory expectations and requirements; and internal discussions to ensure the efficient integration of existing services and programs.

This review also provides an opportunity to evaluate not only the work of the Harbours Program, but how it fits into other initiatives. Staff will work with municipalities to investigate ways to effectively deliver the program in concert with, or through, other CRD programs. For example, the Stormwater, Harbours and

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Watersheds Program is currently implementing an Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) strategy for the core area. Management of the marine receiving environment through the Harbours Program complements many of the goals and initiatives planned under the IWM focus. Opportunities are expected to exist for cooperative delivery of services and the review will examine how these two programs should be coordinated.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Healthy marine ecosystems maintain good habitat and biodiversity and add to building healthy, vibrant communities. There are multiple stressors that impact on the marine environment and the core area municipalities are responsible for the management of point and non-point discharges of contaminants to the receiving environment from liquid waste. The program will be coordinated with other initiatives, where appropriate, to enhance the ecological health of the region but will have a specific focus on the marine receiving environment.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The review will be conducted within the core 2011 harbours budget.

CONCLUSION

The Harbours Environmental Action Program will be reviewed over the next two years in order to provide municipalities with a coordinated, effective and efficient approach to the protection of the harbours and to meet municipal and CRD commitments under the LWMP. The review will also look for opportunities to combine efforts with the core area's newly implemented IWM strategy.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee endorse this plan to review the Harbours Environmental Action Program service.

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Senior Manager, Environmental Protection

Larisa Hutcheson, PEng
General Manager, Environmental Sustainability
Concurrence

DG:km
Attachment: 1

PROPOSED PLAN FOR THE HARBOURS ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PROGRAM REVIEW

TIME FRAME	ACTION
March 2011	Internal staff discussions to develop some options for the future program
April 2011	Form working group with representatives from each participating municipality
April - June 2011	With the working group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discuss program structure • develop program activities • define deliverables • evaluate the program's 2011-2012 work plan • establish measurable goals that satisfy commitments under the LWMP • evaluate working group's recommended direction to ensure compliance with LWMP
May 2011	Initiate discussions with Ministry of Environment regarding working group's recommendations
June 2011	Determine if there is a need for updating of the cost-sharing formula
September 2011	Based on Ministry input, make changes to service with the working group
October 2011	Report back to CALWMC on progress and get approval in principle for the service as recommended by the working group
October 2011 - Feb 2012	Finalize a program charter, five-year work plan and decision for how to proceed with establishment of the Harbours program

If the decision is made to establish the Harbours Program as a separate service, then the timeline for proceeding is:

TIME FRAME	ACTION
February-March 2012	Prepare a new service bylaw with cost-sharing formula
April 2012	Present bylaw to CALWMC
May 2012	Present bylaw to Board
May 2012	Send bylaw to Inspector of Municipalities for approval
January 2013	Establish new service

If the decision is made to include the Harbours Program within a potential future Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) service then the timeline for proceeding is:

TIME FRAME	ACTION
February-March 2012	Modify proposed IWM service to incorporate the Harbours functions
April 2012	Prepare an IWM service bylaw
June 2012	Present bylaw to CALWMC
July 2012	Present bylaw to Board
July 2012	Send bylaw to Inspector of Municipalities for approval
January 2013	Establish new service