



Making a difference...together

**Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee, with the Environmental Sustainability Committee, Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission and members of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Held 25 May 2011 in the Board Room, 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC**

Present: Directors: D. Blackwell (Chair), P. Gerrard (S. Brice, Vice-Chair), J. Brownoff, C. Causton (J.Herbert), B. Desjardins, D. Fortin, G. Hill, F. Leonard (W.Hunter), P. Lucas, D. Saunders, C. Thornton-Joe, L. Wergeland, G. Young.

Absent: V. Derman,

Also present: Environmental Sustainability Committee: A.Finall (Chair), G.Hendren (Vice Chair), D.Blackwell, B.Desjardins, P.Lucas, J.Mendum, J.Ranns, D.Saunders (J.Cullington) and Board Chair (*ex officio*)

SPWWC: G. Orr (Chair), R. Commandeur, M. Doehnel, C. Green, M. Lougher-Goodey J. Mar, A. Olson

Staff: G. Harris, L. Hutcheson, J. Hull, S. Santarossa, T. Brcic, H. Raines (recorder)

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Director Hill, **SECONDED** by Director Desjardins, that the agenda be approved as amended, to include presentations by listed delegates.

CARRIED

2. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed members of the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission and Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

3. Presentations/Delegations

- a) Karen Dearborn (Scientific Victoria): Cautioned against the large-scale application of biosolids, but indicated her group had not reached consensus and encouraged the CRD to allow for more time for public education and dialogue to consider all perspectives.
- b) Dr. Ruby Commandeur (organic farming): Spoke against land application of biosolids, from an organic farming viewpoint. She stated that biosolids are not the best option for the CRD, and will create a larger divide between farmers and agriculture.
- c) Marcie Zemluk (UVic Environmental Law Centre): Spoke against the land application of biosolids from an environmental law perspective (stated several US and Canadian cases).
- d) Karl Hardin (Dogwood Initiative): Spoke in support of the current ban on land application of biosolids. He encourages the CRD to find alternate solutions to land application of biosolids.
- e) Chloe Donatelli (Dogwood Initiative): Spoke in support of the ban on land application of biosolids. Ms. Donatelli stated that several markets, both local and nationwide will not accept food grown with land application of biosolids.

- f) Stefan Morales (The Wayward School): Spoke in support of the continued ban of land application of biosolids.
- g) Dr. Shaun Peck (public health consultant): Spoke against the land application of biosolids, and against land-based sewage treatment in general.
- h) Jim Sandwith (retired farmer): Spoke in support of the land application of biosolids. He was part of a collaborative project with the CRD on land application of biosolids.

4. Land Application of Biosolids – Literature Review

- (a) Presentation by Dr. G. Harris, CRD Environmental Protection – Dr. G. Harris gave a PowerPoint presentation which had previously been presented to the ESC and SPWWC. Dr. Harris spoke on both the risk assessment and benefits of land application of biosolids, legislative framework for safe practice on land application of biosolids and land application guidelines.
- (b) Staff report presented to April 27 Environmental Sustainability Committee and April 21 Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission Meetings

The floor was opened for discussion, and included the following topics:

- Permits for land application of biosolids
- Alternatives to land application
- Difference of receiving environments (land versus marine)

Alternate Director W. Hunter entered the meeting at 11:01

- The need to involve other institutions (local scientific and educational) in the Saanich Peninsula pilot program
- Application of biosolids as mine reclamation, forestry land and forage crops, not food crops

The Chair of the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission spoke to the committee. He indicated that they are responding to a demand in the community, which is in keeping with the Saanich Peninsula Liquid Waste Management Plan. The pilot program is not meant to be an exhaustive research study, but a way to deal with the peninsula biosolids and its challenges, while the Core continues planning for the future.

Alternate Director Hunter left at 11:20

MOVED by Director Desjardins, **SECONDED** by Director Saunders, that the CALWMC support the current decision that was made in banning the land application of biosolids in the core area.

There was more discussion on the motion, including concerns that by upholding the current motion, options for the future will be limited.

The question on the motion was called.

G. Young **CARRIED**
OPPOSED

(c) Correspondence:

- (i) Letter to Chair Geoff Young and Directors, CRD Board, from Barry Penner, Minister of Environment re Amendment #8 to Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan (25 August 2010)
- (ii) Letter to Chair Geoff Young and Directors, CRD Board, from Barry Penner, Minister of Environment re Amendment #7 to Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan (09 February 2010)
- (iii) Letter to Andy Liu, CRD Environmental Engineering, from Chair Maxwell, Peninsula Agricultural Commission re Presentation to PAC – Bio-solids (27 April 2011)
- (iv) Material Submitted by Director Lucas

Director Lucas gave an overview of the materials that he submitted.

MOVED by Director Herbert, **SECONDED** by Director Hill, that the literature be accepted for information.

CARRIED

5. Reports for Information Only:

- (a) Integration of Solid and Liquid Waste Management Plans – Feasibility Study staff report presented to April 27 Environmental Sustainability Committee and May 11 Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee meetings
- (b) Integrated Resource Recovery Study – Metro Vancouver and North Shore Communities by Fidelis Resource Group (29 March 2011)

Chair Blackwell proposed that the reports be deferred to a future joint ESC/CALWMC meeting.

6. Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Chair