



Making a difference...together

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Eastside Wastewater Treatment and Resource Recovery
Public Advisory Committee
Held Wednesday, March 18, 2015, in Room 488, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC**

Present: Director L. Helps (Chair); D. Dickson, B. Gilbert, G. Klima, J. Knock, S. Marks,
B. Mumford, D. Sutton, N. Thambirajah, R. Travers
Staff: C. Leahy (recorder)
Also Present: A. Gibbs, Public Assembly
Absent: T. Davies

Chair Helps called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by D. Sutton, **SECONDED** by B. Gilbert,
That the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

2. Chair's Remarks

Chair Helps thanked everyone for participating in the public advisory committee. When Saanich, Victoria and Oak Bay formed the Eastside Select Committee, they decided to strike a public advisory committee. There is a very compressed timeline to get a sewage plan/site/technology in place in order to keep the existing funding; the timeline involves intense public consultation over the next 2-3 months.

Chair Helps introduced Amanda Gibbs, who will be the committee's public engagement consultant.

3. Introductions

Introductions were made around the table.

4. Eastside Public Advisory Committee – Terms of Reference

Provided for information.

5. Framing Success for Public Consultation Process

Ms Gibbs asked members to create norms/values for working together, and they came up with the following:

Group Norms

- Interrogate ideas, not people.
- Present balanced information with sources cited; highlight biases and assumptions.
- Leverage and build on work that is already done.

- Pay attention to the tension between science and emotion.
- Set process for resolving disputes.
- Make room for dissenting voices.
- Be transparent.
- Stay focused on the topic at hand.

Engaging the Public Successfully

- Rebuild trust with the public.
- Keep community associations involved.
- Give the public access to real information; education is key.
- Good and accessible information.
- Clear process.
- Be clear about where we're starting.
- Outline costs.

Work Planning

- The Advisory Committee will meet for 90 minutes in the coming weeks until it gets closer to a plan.
- Amanda Gibbs and Chair Helps will present draft plans for review the day before the meeting for the advisory committee to review together at the committee table.
- The team has been tasked with finding a transparent and clear way to share documents and allow for dialogue on the consultation framework *online*.

General comments from the group included:

- Design surveys that allow people to give their opinion rather than "yes/no" responses.
- Online information/surveys can neglect seniors who mightn't use internet.
- Questionnaires/websites are passive.
- Think outside the box when choosing technology.
- NIMBY/siting is the main issue.
- Must understand the legislative framework.
- Our Terms of Reference say "work with the Eastside Select Committee, staff and consultants to assist with the development and implementation of a public consultation process"; not our role to design/site wastewater treatment.
- B. Gilbert offered to share background information on the sewage project.

Chair Helps advised that this group exists to help the Eastside Select Committee (politicians) design a public engagement process to share and get information. Public engagement will be launched in the next 4-6 weeks.

6. Next Steps and Work Planning

Ms Gibbs stated that the group must decide how to engage meaningfully with the public. She provided questions for members to take away and provide feedback on:

- How to improve the breadth and quality of participation.
- How do people like to share and receive information?
- Who has been left out of the conversation? How can we reach them?
- What forms of dialogue work well? (online, face-to-face, workshop)

For the next meeting, Ms Gibbs will provide a broad-brush consultation plan for review, and timelines. She welcomes comments and questions at: agibbs@publicassembly.ca.

Full public consultation must be done by the end of June. Mayor Helps will provide a context document that answers legislative and technical questions.

7. List of Eastside Public Advisory Committee Members

Provided for information.

8. New Business

Future meetings will be 1.5 hours long.

9. Adjournment

MOVED by D. Sutton, **SECONDED** by D. Dickson,
That the meeting be adjourned at 2:31 pm.

CARRIED

10. Next Meetings: March 25 and April 1, 2015

Chair

Recorder