



Making a difference...together

**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, 06 FEBRUARY 2008**

SUBJECT FUNDING FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ONSITE SYSTEMS EDUCATION PROGRAM

PURPOSE

To request funding for work by staff on an education program and feedback survey to determine the suitability of a program for management of onsite systems to meet the needs of the electoral areas of Salt Spring Island, Southern Gulf Islands and Juan de Fuca.

BACKGROUND

The Capital Regional District is developing and implementing a program for management of onsite systems; i.e., septic systems and other small wastewater treatment systems that discharge to ground. It is envisaged that the program will require owners of septic systems to regularly pump out their septic tank and for owners of small treatment plants to have a contract with a qualified service provider for regular maintenance.

Municipalities that are participants in the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan and have unsewered areas are required to participate in the program. In addition, the District of North Saanich might elect to participate in the program.

The directors for the electoral areas indicated an interest in participating in a modified program that targets watersheds that are a source of drinking water and community well capture zones. To assess the community support for such a program, the directors have suggested an education/outreach program for specific areas, with a feedback program to solicit comments.

The suggested program would include six community workshops, handout of "Septic Savvy" kits, a mailout of pamphlets and survey questionnaire, and analysis of the returned questionnaire.

The cost for such a program would be \$15,000, shared equally among the participating electoral areas.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Electoral Area Services committee allocate a budget of \$15,000 for 2008 to provide for preliminary work by staff to conduct an education/outreach program to investigate how a program for management of onsite systems could be adapted to meet the needs of the electoral areas, with funding to come from the Electoral Area Feasibility Study Reserve Fund.
2. That plans for management of onsite systems in the electoral areas be put on hold.
3. That the electoral areas not pursue a program for management of onsite systems.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Provision of additional funding will impact the 2008 budgets for the electoral areas.

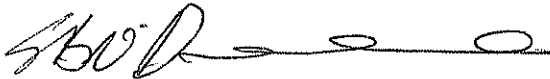
SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

Staff of the Environmental Services department are developing and implementing a program for management of onsite systems. It is envisaged that the program will require owners of septic systems to regularly pump their septic tank and owners of small treatment plants to have a contract with a qualified service provider for regular maintenance. The directors for the electoral areas have indicated an interest in an education/outreach program to determine community interest in participating in such a program.

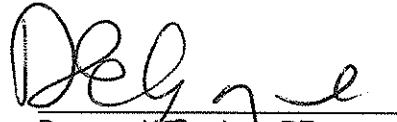
It is recommended that the committee allocate a budget of \$15,000 for 2008 to provide for work by staff to conduct an education/outreach program to investigate how a program for management of onsite systems could be adapted to meet the needs of the electoral areas.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Electoral Area Services committee allocate a budget of \$15,000 for 2008 to provide for preliminary work by staff to conduct an education/outreach program to investigate how a program for management of onsite systems could be adapted to meet the needs of the electoral areas, with funding to come from the Electoral Area Feasibility Study Reserve Fund.



Seamus McDonnell, PEng
Senior Manager, Engineering Services



Dwayne Kalyanchuk, PEng
General Manager, Environmental Services
Concurrence

COMMENTS

JMcl/jt