

SAANICH PENINSULA WASTEWATER COMMISSION

Minutes of a Meeting held 17 February 2011 at the Saanich Peninsula Treatment Plant Meeting Room 9055 Mainwaring Road, North Saanich

PRESENT: R. Commandeur, M. Doehnel, C. Green, M. Lougher-Goodey, M. Loveless, J. MacGowan, J. Mar, M. Matheson, G. Orr (Chair); CRD Integrated Water Services: T. Robbins; CRD Environmental Sustainability: G. Harris, A. Liu, J. Poncelet, D. Telford, S. Webb, J. Tradewell (recorder)

ABSENT: J. Bill, A. Olsen

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

D. Telford called the meeting to order at 9:23 a.m. Introductions had been made at the previous Saanich Peninsula Water Commission meeting.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

D. Telford called for nominations for the position of chair of the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission for 2011 and Geoff Orr's name was put forward. D. Telford called a second and third time for further nominations and, as there were none, Geoff Orr was declared chair for 2011 by acclamation.

Chair Orr called for nominations for the position of vice-chair of the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission for 2011 and Mervyn Lougher-Goodey's name was put forward. Chair Orr called a second and third time for further nominations and, as there were none, Mervyn Lougher-Goodey was declared vice-chair for 2011 by acclamation.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by M. Loveless, **SECONDED** by M. Lougher-Goodey, that the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD 18 NOVEMBER 2010

MOVED by M. Loveless, **SECONDED** by M. Lougher-Goodey, that the minutes of 18 November 2010 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

5. REVIEW OF TASK LIST FROM MEETING HELD 18 NOVEMBER 2010

The task list was reviewed. Chair Orr advised that a letter to Gary Lunn and Murray Coell has been drafted requesting their support for the heat recovery project's potential expansion to include the Centre for Plant Health; the letter will now be finalized and sent out.

Staff referred to a handout showing some property north of the Saanich Peninsula wastewater treatment plant (SPWWTP) site which could potentially come available for sale. Staff advised that the land base of the SPWWTP site is suitable for its current needs and is designed to enable the plant to double in size (to the west of the existing plant).

6. EMISSIONS RESPONSIBILITIES AND CARBON ACCOUNTING

S. Webb, CRD Climate Action Program Coordinator, gave a presentation on carbon neutral commitments, emissions and energy responsibility, and emerging opportunities that the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission can take advantage of. The CRD's climate action service was established in 2009 and provides the following key roles to the municipalities/region:

- Information – provides energy and emissions data indicators, future climate impacts
- Support – provides direct support to municipalities on corporate and community-wide climate action and climate adaptation
- Education – helps to inform citizens, businesses and public sector organizations and helps change behavior to reduce energy use and emissions
- CRD Carbon Neutral Program – helps the CRD calculate corporate emissions and supports local governments in achieving carbon neutral commitments starting in 2012
- Interacts with the inter-municipal climate action working group and steering committee

The CRD, as well as individual municipalities, signed a Climate Action Charter which includes a commitment to becoming carbon neutral in corporate operations starting in 2012. Carbon neutral is an annual three-step process that each organization will follow starting in 2012: quantifying emissions within a given scope; implementing actions to reduce energy use and emissions; and purchasing offsets to get to zero.

S. Webb clarified the benefits of the current SPWWTP heat recovery project and how it acts as a greenhouse gas reduction project because it is a service within the scope of the charter. There are no "credits" associated with the project at this time. She also explained that carbon markets, or selling offsets, could be possible in the future if the project was expanded to displace fossil fuel use in other areas such as the Centre for Plant Health, nearby residential or schools.

Following the presentation, Ms Webb answered questions from members. Copies of the presentation along with the draft scoping guidance on carbon neutrality will be forwarded to the members for information.

7. THERMAL ENERGY RECOVERY PROJECT UPDATE

A. Liu gave an update on the SPWWTP thermal energy recovery project. After a three-month delay, the main switch gear for the new system was delivered and installed on February 15. Everything is now ready and all equipment will be tested prior to the start of system commissioning in early March.

8. THERMAL ENERGY RECOVERY PROJECT EXTENSION TO GAS TAX FUNDING AGREEMENT

A. Liu reported that due to the delay in locating and securing delivery of a switch gear for the thermal energy recovery system, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities has agreed to an extension to the Gas Tax Funding Agreement to complete the project. A revised agreement needs to be approved and signed by the Commission.

MOVED by M. Lougher-Goodey, **SECONDED** by C. Green, that the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission approve the amendment of the Gas Tax Funding Agreement with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities to extend the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Treatment Plant Thermal Energy Recovery project completion date to no later than 30 June 2011.

CARRIED

Discussion on the thermal energy recovery project followed and a member advised that Sidney is hosting the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) in April, and a suggestion was put forth to have the thermal energy recovery facility put on the venue for a tour if the facility is ready to be seen at that time.

MOVED by M. Loveless, **SECONDED** by C. Green, that staff investigate the particulars of having the AVICC conference delegates tour the thermal energy recovery facility, in particular the heat recovery aspect of the system.

CARRIED

9. BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM PROPOSED PILOT STUDY

A. Liu gave background information on the SPWWTP biosolids management program and the proposed pilot program, which included the following points:

- The SPWWTP was commissioned in 2000 and the application of biosolids on farmland was part of the Saanich Peninsula Liquid Waste Management Plan.
- In 2006, the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission requested staff to look into a long-term sustainable plan for managing biosolids.
- A pilot project for the residential sector's use of biosolids (PenGrow), which began in 2006, has been well received by the general public.
- There is a lack of sufficient storage space for curing the biosolids at Hartland landfill prior to distribution, which limits the overall production volume.
- In November 2010, the Commission approved the motion to:
"undertake a study of the Saanich Peninsula wastewater treatment plant's lime stabilized biosolids effects on soil and its constituents when applied to land used for forage production and that staff come back to the Commission with a plan for the study along with the cost to conduct it."
- The application of more than five cubic metres of biosolids on a parcel of land requires a Land Application Plan costing \$15,000-\$20,000 per plan. There is verbal agreement with the Ministry of Environment that a single Land Application Plan covering multiple parcels of land with similar soil conditions and crops could be submitted for approval.
- It was noted that an estimated additional cost of \$16,100 to the current Biosolids Management Budget would be required to run the proposed pilot program which would include the preparation of a Land Application Plan, the storage/curing/handling costs at farms and testing of the biosolids and soil for PPCPs and OMRR regulated components.

Commission approval is required for the 2011 Biosolids Management Program Pilot Study to proceed. Discussion followed with staff responding to questions from members.

It was approved by a unanimous vote of members present at the meeting, for a local farmer to speak at the meeting.

The local farmer reported that he has applied biosolids at five cubic metres per farm parcel for several years with considerable success. However, due to a public perception that land application of biosolids may not be safe, there is a potential of losing customers by using biosolids. It is this potential loss of customers that is the main reason why the farmers are not lining up to use biosolids on their land. In order to counter this public perception, there needs to be a public education initiative surrounding this method of soil amendment. If the farmers are to get involved in using biosolids, they will need this support.

A member recommended that if the 2011 pilot program is approved, there would be a need to increase the budget amount to include education and communication.

A member was reluctant of supporting the pilot program going forward without more information on the public health and environmental implications of land application of biosolids as provided in research studies or reports done by the scientific community. Public perception is a major issue at this time. Another member cautioned that fruit and vegetable crops produced on lands using biosolids could be considered unacceptable by the consumers.

MOVED by M. Loveless, **SECONDED** by M. Lougher-Goodey, that the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission approve that the 2011 Operating Budget be amended to include a surplus carried forward in the amount of \$25,000 to fund the pilot study costs, including public education and communications plan.

CARRIED

MOVED by C. Green, **SECONDED** by M. Lougher-Goodey, that as part of the biosolids pilot study, the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission requests staff to: 1) provide further information and scientific research papers related to land application of biosolids; 2) proceed with the preparation of the Land Application Plan; and 3) provide a public education and communications plan.

CARRIED

MOVED by J. Mar, **SECONDED** by C. Green, to refer the biosolids management program proposed pilot study to the Peninsula Agricultural Commission for input.

CARRIED

10. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2011

The schedule of meetings for 2011 was approved.

11. MEMBERSHIP LIST FOR 2011

C. Green's home telephone number will be updated.

MOVED by M. Matheson, **SECONDED** by M. Loveless, that the membership list for 2011 be received as amended.

CARRIED

12. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

13. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday, 21 April 2011 at 9:15 a.m. at the Saanich Peninsula treatment plant meeting room.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by J. Mar, **SECONDED** by M. Lougher-Goodey, that the meeting adjourn at 11:15 a.m.

CARRIED