

SAANICH PENINSULA WASTEWATER COMMISSION

Minutes of a Meeting held 21 April 2011 at the Saanich Peninsula Treatment Plant Meeting Room 9055 Mainwaring Road, North Saanich

PRESENT: A. Olsen, R. Commandeur, M. Doehnel, C. Green, M. Lougher-Goodey, M. Loveless, J. MacGowan, M. Matheson, G. Orr (Chair); CRD: D. Desharnais, G. Harris, A. Liu, J. Poncelet, T. Robbins, R. Sharma, D. Telford, J. Tradewell (recorder); Guest Speakers: P. Lucas, J. Sandwith

ABSENT: J. Bill, J. Mar

The meeting commenced at 9:17 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD 17 FEBRUARY 2011

MOVED by C. Green, **SECONDED** by M. Lougher-Goodey, that the minutes of 17 February 2011 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. REVIEW OF TASK LIST FROM MEETING HELD 17 FEBRUARY 2011

The task list was reviewed.

A. Liu gave an update on task #3 regarding having the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) conference delegates tour the thermal energy recovery facility in April. He reported that the AVICC tour was not arranged at this time as a decision was made to have the ribbon cutting ceremony prior to scheduling official tours.

G. Harris reported on task #9 regarding whether there is a seasonality trend for biosolids and informed members that seasonal patterns are possible, but there is not enough data available (data set is limited) to statistically identify a trend.

4. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Chair Orr introduced Jim Sandwith, a retired farmer with a degree in agriculture, a professional agrologist and a former chair and member of the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission (SPWWC).

J. Sandwith expressed his support of the pilot for the biosolids program and presented reasons for his support. Following his presentation, J. Sandwith answered questions from members.

Chair Orr introduced Philippe Lucas, a City of Victoria Councillor, member of the CRD Board, Environmental Sustainability Committee member, Solid Waste Advisory Committee member and founder of the downtown public market society initiative.

P. Lucas presented information to assist members in making a decision on the biosolids pilot program. He informed members of a motion before the CRD Environmental Sustainability Committee on 27 April that would require the SPWWC to move production, storage and distribution of PenGrow off CRD property. P. Lucas answered questions following his presentation.

5. THERMAL ENERGY RECOVERY PROJECT UPDATE

A. Liu gave an update on the thermal energy recovery project and mentioned the following:

- Testing of the thermal energy recovery system was performed with great results in the temperature recovery time; there is significant capacity in the system to potentially serve other areas at the Panorama Recreation Centre.
- There are some minor outstanding issues to be addressed, which will be resolved shortly.
- Training on the system has been done and substantial completion has been recently requested by the Contractor. The project team is reviewing their request. Handover of the system to the CRD is anticipated at the end of May.

6. BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM PROPOSED PILOT STUDY

a) Background Information

D. Telford gave a brief recap of the proposed biosolids pilot study motions that were passed at the November 2010 and February 2011 SPWWC meetings. D. Telford then introduced Dr. Glenn Harris, Senior Manager, CRD Environmental Protection, highlighting his doctorate from Simon Fraser University in environmental toxicology and his past experience with the Ministry of Environment (MoE) for eight years as the provincial expert for human health and ecological risk management.

Prior to G. Harris' verbal report, in reference to task list item #8, Chair Orr requested a brief update from a recent meeting of the Peninsula Agricultural Commission (PAC). A member reported that PAC is supportive of the proposed biosolids pilot project and that a formal letter will be issued.

b) Land Application of Class A Biosolids – Literature Review

In response to the concerns of members and their request for additional scientific information on risks associated with land application of biosolids, G. Harris reported that the CRD enlisted Stantec Consulting Ltd. to undertake a scientific literature review of the research associated with these practices (copy of *Land Application of Wastewater Biosolids – Concise Literature Review of Issues for CRD* included in agenda package). G. Harris presented the findings and context of the Stantec report in a PowerPoint presentation. In summary, he advised that the proper application of Class A biosolids results in acceptable levels of risk to human health and the environment here in BC and across all jurisdictions. Ensuing discussion included the following points:

- "The dose makes the poison" – What are the acceptable OMRR limits based upon?
Staff: The most sensitive receptor, understanding of toxicity profile and conservative assumptions.
- If biosolids are applied properly, there are no issues. If not, how much cushion is there in the regulations to deem it safe?
Staff: A risk management approach is taken and regulated.

- What is the recovery time of the soil if farmers decide to stop using biosolids?
Staff: The current *Canadian Organic Production Systems General Principles and Management Standards* allows farmlands to convert to Certified Organic Farms if prohibited substances (i.e., biosolids) have not been applied for 36 months.
- Currently, a certified organic farm cannot use biosolids as it would be denied status as certified organic.
- Emerging contaminants of concern: With the research to date, concentrates are low enough that risk levels are acceptable and there is no direction to change the current regulatory framework.
- The proposed pilot study is for use of biosolids on forage crops.

MOVED by M. Loveless, **SECONDED** by C. Green, that the report *Land Application of Class A Biosolids – Literature Review* be received for information.

CARRIED

MOVED by M. Loveless, **SECONDED** by M. Lougher-Goodey, that the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission reaffirms support for land application of biosolids as the primary beneficial use under the Saanich Peninsula Liquid Waste Management Plan and agrees to go forward with the pilot project.

CARRIED

Opposed: R. Commandeur, A. Olsen.

In reference to the motion going to the Environmental Sustainability Committee on 27 April 2011 stated by P. Lucas regarding moving PenGrow off CRD property, Chair Orr asked members if there was benefit to the SPWWC of making an appearance at the meeting to communicate the Commission's approach.

MOVED by C. Green, **SECONDED** by M. Lougher-Goodey, that the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission make a presentation at the CRD Environmental Sustainability Committee on 27 April 2011 to communicate the Commission's approach to the land application of biosolids pilot.

CARRIED

c) Update on Preparation of Land Application Plan

A. Liu reported that a formal discussion is planned with the MoE to develop a single Land Application Plan that would cover multiple parcels of land. He advised that interested farmers would sign on to the plan and storage and delivery details would then be finalized. Storage sites would be selected based on the MoE environmental impact criteria guidelines. The land application pilot study will proceed once agreement is reached with the farmers.

d) Update on Preparation of Public Education and Communication Plan

A. Liu advised that staff is in the process of contacting other municipalities throughout Canada and the USA that have similar kinds of biosolids programs, to learn about their public education and communication plans. The research results will be used as a base and modified to suit the needs of our local proposed biosolids program.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

MOVED by M. Lougher-Goodey, **SECONDED** by M. Loveless, that the letter from P. Lucas regarding land application of biosolids be received for information.

CARRIED

8. OTHER BUSINESS

A revised 2011 membership list was distributed.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday, 16 June 2011 at 9:15 a.m. at the Saanich Peninsula treatment plant meeting room.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by M. Matheson, **SECONDED** by M. Doehnel, that the meeting adjourn at 10:58 a.m.

CARRIED