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REPORT TO SAANICH PENINSULA WASTEWATER COMMISSION MEETING OF THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2012

SUBJECT **BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – UPDATE**

ISSUE

Update on biosolids management program.

BACKGROUND

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Board, at its meeting of July 13, 2011, passed the motions ending the production, storage and distribution of biosolids for land application at all CRD regional facilities and parks; and that the CRD does not support the application of biosolids on farmland in the CRD under any circumstances.

In order to find an alternative beneficial use for the biosolids, the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission, at its November 10, 2011 meeting, directed staff to proceed with an invitation for “Expressions of Interest” (EOI) to identify any potential parties, companies or end users that may be interested in utilizing the Peninsula sludge/biosolids.

The EOI was advertised nationally and invitations were also sent directly to potential biosolids users and companies involved in biosolids management/utilization. Staff reported to the Commission at its April 19, 2012 meeting that a total of six companies submitted Expressions of Interest. All proponents were offering to manage the sludge/biosolids by means of land application. The land application approach is contrary to CRD Board direction, therefore, all EOI were rejected by the Commission.

Biosolids Management Program Update

The Commission, at its April 19, 2012 meeting, passed the following motions:

1. Amend the Saanich Peninsula Liquid Waste Management Plan (SPLWMP) to harmonize the Saanich Peninsula biosolids management with that of the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan for the beneficial use of biosolids.
2. Forward the Commission’s motion to the CRD Board that it reconsiders its motion of July 13, 2011 with respect to land application of biosolids in the Capital Regional District.

The Ministry of Environment (MOE) has been briefed on the CRD Board decisions and the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission direction regarding sludge/biosolids management. Appendix A provides the proposed amendment submitted to the MOE for consideration.

Depending on MOE's response to the proposed SPLWMP amendment, the Commission's request that the CRD Board reconsider its motion with respect to land application of biosolids may no longer be needed.

ALTERNATIVES

That the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission:

1. receive this report for information; or
2. not receive this report for information and direct staff to provide additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

The PenGrow biosolids program is an approved commitment under the SPLWMP. Ministry of Environment approval is required for any amendment to the SPLWMP for an alternative use of the biosolids that would comply with the CRD Board Policy.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission receive this report for information.

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Concurrence

AL:jt

Attachment: 1