



Making a difference...together

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SAANICH PENINSULA WASTEWATER COMMISSION

Held Tuesday, November 10, 2020 in Meeting Room #6 at Greenglade Community Centre, 2151 Lannon Way, Sidney BC

PRESENT: **Commissioners:** R. Barnhart (Vice Chair); M. Doehnel; C. McNeil-Smith; G. Orr; M. Weisenberger; M. Williams; R. Windsor
By WebEx: D. Kelbert; Z. King

Also Present by WebEx: S. Duncan (for P. Wainwright); B. Fallot

Staff: G. Harris, Senior Manager, Environmental Protection; I. Jesney, Senior Manager, Infrastructure Engineering; D. Dionne (recorder)

REGRETS: P. Wainwright (Chair)

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Vice Chair Barnhart presented the Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Commissioner Windsor, and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Doehnel,
That the November 10, 2020 Special Meeting agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

There were no presentations or delegations.

4. SPECIAL MEETING BUSINESS

4.1. CRD Bylaw No. 4391 - Establishment of a New Harbours Environmental Action Service for Saanich Peninsula

G. Harris outlined the process for establishing the new service, noting that:

- This first step is to seek Commission support for the Establishment of a New Harbours Environmental Service for Saanich Peninsula
- The recommendation would then be brought to the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board for consideration then it would be referred to Municipal Councils for approval.
- If it is successful at Municipal Councils it would come back to the CRD Board to be referred to the BC Inspector of Municipalities for approval.

He summarized the report stating that there are increased stressors impacting the environment around the near shores of the peninsula. There are concerns with the harbours and neighbouring waters and off-shore moored boats.

He advised that, in response to these concerns, Local Governments are considering their options for dealing with the issues and one option is to seek sub-regional coordination and cooperation among Local Governments and potentially with the senior levels of government, First Nations, community groups and associations.

Staff responded to questions from the Commission and the following additional information was provided:

- This will be a standalone Service that would not fall under the Liquid Waste Management Plan.
- In terms of governance, there would still need to be a Committee or Commission to make recommendations to the Board.
- Regulatory enforcement of offshore marine vessels lies with senior levels of government.
- Senior government funding cannot be secured until the Service is in place.
- The Bylaw is written to allow the Service to be broad enough to encompass issues outside of the Liquid Waste Management Plan, such as environmental stewardship and public education and outreach to any research or planning, searching out grants or looking for other ways to coordinate project stewardship.
- The intent is to bring together all the stakeholders who have responsibilities for the issues, identify roles and responsibilities and coordinate a response to the issues. Senior Governments, local governments, community associations and the public all have roles to play.

The Commission asked staff to provide examples of other successful Services using the same model. Staff noted the following:

Esquimalt Lagoon Stewardship:

- The Federal Government - responsible for vessel traffic
- The rowing community – as a stakeholder
- There is a bird sanctuary
- Public and dog use impacting on the wildlife
- Contamination, from development in the area

Gorge Waterway Initiative:

- Similar issues around development happening on the waterway
- Conversations were brought together around the moorage of boats in the Gorge Waterway above the Trestle
- The question of jurisdictional responsibility was resolved with the City of Victoria applying for a license of occupation

Bowker Creek Initiative:

- Bowker Creek runs through three municipalities
- Community groups, local government and senior levels of government were all brought together for the funding, planning, development and restoration of the creek

The CRD facilitates these conversations by formalizing meetings and providing the opportunity to put an agenda forward, identify the topics for discussion and work toward some action. Each of those committees have pursued grant money and opportunities that senior levels of government are providing.

Motion Arising

MOVED by Commissioner King, and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Kelbert,
That staff prepare a summary of outcomes from similarly established services in the Region, and the cost benefit of it, so that the Commission can evaluate how the Services have resulted in changes.

Secondary Motion

MOVED by Commissioner, Windsor and **SECONDED** by Commissioner, Williams
That the question be referred to the CRD Board when it considers the Bylaw.

CARRIED

MOVED by Commissioner Windsor, and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Williams,
The Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That CRD Bylaw No. 4391 "Saanich Peninsula Waterways Environmental Action Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2020" be introduced and read a first, second time and third time; and
2. That Bylaw No. 4391 be referred to the municipal councils of the participants for approval, and if two-thirds of approval is received, to the Inspector of Municipalities.

CARRIED

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Commissioner Windsor, and **SECONDED** by Commissioner McNeil-Smith,
That the meeting be adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR

SECRETARY