



Making a difference...together

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission, held Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 11 am, Training Room 2, Sidney Community Safety Building, 2245 Oakville Ave, Sidney BC

PRESENT: Commissioners: D. Kelbert (Chair); S. Duncan; D. Halldorson; P. Jones; Z. King; C. McNeil-Smith; C. Pinches
Staff: A. Fraser, General Manager, Integrated Water Services; J. Marr, Senior Manager, Infrastructure Engineering; G. Harris, Senior Manager, Environmental Programs; J. Dales, Senior Manager, Wastewater Infrastructure Operations; L. Westinghouse, Senior Financial Advisor; Y. Li, Senior Financial Advisor; D. Dionne, Administrative Coordinator, Integrated Water Services (Recorder)
Also in Attendance: C. Stock, Alternate Commissioner to P. Jones
REGRETS: M. Doehnel; S. Shrivastava; R. Windsor

The meeting was called to order at 11:03.

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

An acknowledgment was provided in the preceding meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Commissioner McNeil-Smith, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Jones, That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by Commissioner McNeil-Smith, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Jones, That the minutes of the September 28, 2023 meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

4. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair made no remarks.

5. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

There were no presentations or delegations.

6. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

There was no report.

7. COMMISSION BUSINESS

7.1. Service Planning 2024 – Wastewater Community Need Summary

A. Fraser provided a summary of the staff report. She highlighted the Initiative Business Cases related to the wastewater service.

MOVED by Commissioner McNeil-Smith, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Duncan, The Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission recommends the Committee of the Whole recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:
That Appendix A, Community Need Summary – Wastewater, be approved as presented and form the basis of the 2024-2028 Financial Plan.

CARRIED

7.2. Service Planning 2024 – Wastewater Community Need Summary

A. Fraser provided an overview of the proposed 2024 Operating and Capital Budget and the five-year capital plan staff report.

MOVED by Commissioner Duncan, **SECONDED** by Commissioner McNeil-Smith, The Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission recommends that the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Capital Regional District Board:

1. Approve the 2024 Saanich Peninsula trunk sewers, treatment and disposal operating and capital budget and the 2024 Saanich Peninsula Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) program budgets including the LWMP administration budget, the Saanich Peninsula Stormwater Quality Management Program budget and the Saanich Peninsula Stormwater Source Control budget, and the Harbours Environmental Action Service (Peninsula) budget;
2. Direct staff to update carry forward balances in the 2024 Capital Budget for changes after year end; and
3. Direct staff to balance the 2023 actual revenue and expense on the transfer to capital reserve fund.

CARRIED

Opposed: Jones

8. NOTICE(S) OF MOTION

8.1. Speaker Series

Significant discussion on this topic occurred in the preceding Saanich Peninsula Water Commission meeting, with several benefits and concerns raised.

Benefits:

- There is a disconnect with public understanding about water and there should be more appreciation, connection and understanding by the general population.
- There is lots of valuable emerging science and information and there would be a benefit to bringing that information to educate and provide for more engagement between the community, the Capital Regional District (CRD) and the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission.
- Hearing from other groups that are passionate about the environment.
- Speaker series generally focus on the objective of the people organizing it and therefore the speakers would be approved by the organizer.
- the public have no idea of what Regional Districts do and the more opportunity for the CRD, or municipalities, to get out there and talk to the public the better.
- Utilizing a CRD-directed series would allow for the CRD to vet speakers to ensure relevance to CRD business.

Concerns:

- This is outside the scope of this commission.
- There are many community groups who already provide information and speaker series that the public can attend.
- Instead, have CRD representatives participate in existing speaker series put on by community groups.
- Potential for speakers who may express political views on matters that are before the CRD Board that could involve some expectation of the CRD to respond.
- CRD already engages with the community appropriately on specific matters at the Board.
- More information is helpful to the public, but there are already other channels out there for delivering that information.
- Dedicated staff would be required to coordinate. Would be onerous on the water service to do this.
- Perhaps the commission could do more outreach to community groups to have the subject matter experts out to provide presentations.
- A speaker series may provide the public with a whole bunch of ideas they may want to consider but may not be practical which may lead down a path that would be hard to keep up with. Not sure it would be as helpful a result as intended.

MOVED by Commissioner King, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Kelbert,
That staff to provide a report on implications and a potential budget for associated costs to organize an annual speaker series for the peninsula, dedicated to presentations by researchers and public interest groups that are focused on emerging topics concerning water and wastewater.

CARRIED

Opposed: McNeil-Smith, Duncan

8.2. First Nations Wastewater Representation

Chair Kelbert stated that because there are no service agreements in place with the First Nations communities, they have no representation on the commission. He asked for input from all commissioners to come up with a way to accomplish this to solidify this position on the commission.

Discussion ensued with several points raised:

- There would likely need to be a bylaw change to create a position. Staff would need to review legally whether the bylaw can be changed and investigate what is allowed.
- Commissioner Jones would like to delay the motion until after North Saanich has met with Paquachin First Nation, the meeting will include a discussion on this topic.
- Prior to considering the motion there should be a motion to direct staff to determine the governance issues to understand how a position could be established.
- The motion is about having a delegation of commissioners meet with the Nations to hear any concerns they have on wastewater matters.

- Before giving consideration, the Commission would need to understand the governance options from staff.

MOVED by Commissioner Kelbert, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Jones,
Therefore, be it resolved that the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission discuss and implement the idea of sending a delegation of commissioners to each of the four nations on the peninsula to address, and acknowledge the Nations concerns regarding representation on the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission.

WITHDRAWN

MOVED by Commissioner Jones, **SECONDED** by Commissioner King,
That staff provide governance options related to First Nations participation on the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission.

CARRIED

Commissioner McNeil-Smith stated that at the Forum of Councils he heard the First Nations state very clearly their capacity is their number one challenge in terms of all the requests and interactions they have with all levels of government. He asked that staff include the capacity concerns in the report coming back to the Commission.

9. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Commissioner Halldorson, **SECONDED** by Commissioner McNeil-Smith,
That the October 19, 2023 meeting be adjourned at 11:40 am.

CARRIED

CHAIR

SECRETARY