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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission, held Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 9:30 am, Meeting Room, Sidney Community Safety Building (Fire Hall), 2245 Oakville Ave, Sidney BC**

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**PRESENT: Commissioners:** D. Kelbert (Chair); M. Doehnel (Vice Chair); S. Duck for S. Duncan; D. Halldorson; Z. King; C. McNeil-Smith; C. Pinches (EP); S. Shrivastava (EP)

**Staff:** A. Fraser, General Manager, Integrated Water Services; G. Harris (EP), Senior Manager, Environmental Programs; J. Dales, Senior Manager, Wastewater Infrastructure Operations; Ye Li, Senior Financial Advisor; D. Dionne, Administrative Coordinator, Integrated Water Services (Recorder)

**REGRETS:** P. Jones; R. Windsor

EP = Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 10:31 am.

**1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

An Acknowledgement was provided in the preceding meeting.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOVED** by Commissioner King, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Halldorson, That the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED**

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**MOVED** by Commissioner McNeil-Smith, **SECONDED** by Commissioner King, That the minutes of the January 18, 2024 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. Update on the Progress of the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Services Loan Authorization**

A. Fraser stated that this report is to inform the municipal representatives that their councils can be expecting a letter from the Capital Regional District (CRD) Legislative Services department over the next few days seeking feedback. Once the letters are received, the bylaw will be sent to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

Discussion ensued and staff responded to questions regarding:

- Borrowing – staff advised that this bylaw provides authorization for staff to borrow funds for the completion of projects.
- Process, since the Bylaw has already received first reading at the CRD Board, the requirement for approval from the three municipalities is because it is a sub-regional service. Staff noted that letters from the municipalities are submitted with the Bylaw as support documents to the Ministry.

The report was received for information.

**7.2. Biosolids Monthly Update to the Capital Regional District Board – March 13, 2024**

G. Harris provided an overview of the staff report that was presented to the CRD Board at its Marcy 13, 2024 meeting.

Discussion ensued and staff responded to questions regarding:

- Negotiations with Synagro and whether the Commission can assist. Staff noted that until the completion under the Project Agreement has been met, Synagro is not obligated to receive Other Municipal Solids.
- Lafarge receiving – staff are hoping that Lafarge will be ready to start receiving biosolids again next week. Lafarge has been dealing with several operational issues.
- Timeline for upgrading the Residual Treatment Facility to receive municipal biosolids – staff noted that all the parts are onsite and ready to go, biosolids could be being received as soon as possible following the Project Agreement sign off.
- Beneficial use of Biosolids exemption by the Province – staff noted that the Province has been sympathetic to the CRD as we work through the long-term planning and the short-term plan challenges.
- The last review of the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR) was completed in 2015. Staff are awaiting the release of a report from the Province on the scientific and regulatory review OMRR.

The report was received for information.

**8. NOTICE(S) OF MOTION**

**8.1. Motions with Notice**

**8.1.1. Redirection of Saanich Peninsula Septic Tank Effluent: M. Doehnel, January 18, 2024**

**MOVED** by Commissioner Doehnel, **SECONDED** by Commissioner King,  
Be it resolved that the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission mandate the redirection of local Saanich Peninsula septic tank effluent from SPL Waste Recovery Center to the Saanich Peninsula Waste Water Treatment Plant in an orderly and prescribed fashion for processing. Thereby keeping with both the spirit, and the letter of the bylaw prohibiting the land application of biosolids within the CRD.

There was a discussion regarding the standard practice of obtaining staff's input on implications prior to mandating service changes.

**MOVED** by Commissioner McNiel-Smith, **SECONDED** by Alternate Commissioner Duck,  
That the recommendation be amended to add the words "staff be directed to report back on the implications of" after "Be it resolved that". And then amend the word "mandate" to "mandating".

Be it resolved that staff be directed to report back on the implications of the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Commission mandating the redirection of local Saanich Peninsula septic tank effluent from SPL Waste Water Recovery Centre to the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Treatment Plant in an orderly and prescribed fashion for processing. Thereby keeping with both the spirit and the letter of the bylaw prohibiting the land application of biosolids with the Capital Regional District.

**CARRIED as amended**  
**Opposed: Doehnel**

Staff advised of two previous staff reports in response to similar requests by the Commission on the same issue, one in 2014 and the other in 2022, in which implications were outlined. Staff stated that they could provide those two reports to all Commissioners for their review, then respond to specific concerns that may not have been already addressed in those reports.

There was a discussion regarding the procedure of not bringing the same subject before the Commission as has previously been decided, unless there is new information arising since the previous decision. There was debate as to the subjectivity of whether there is new information since then or not.

**MOVED** by Commissioner Halldorson, **SECONDED** by King,  
That staff review the Commission's authority to do this, especially the mandate part and how it would affect treatment plant capacity and any fees related.

**CARRIED**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED** by Commissioner King, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Doehnel,  
That the March 21, 2024 meeting be adjourned at 11:14 am.

**CARRIED**

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**CHAIR**

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**SECRETARY**