



**TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CORE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT
Meeting Minutes**

Friday, October 27, 2023

**City Hall, City of Victoria
Songhees Nation Meeting Room (second floor)
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6**

1:00 pm

PRESENT: B. Donald, D. Kobayashi (Vice Chair), J. Clary, C. Valeo (EP), J. Roe, C. Coleman (Chair), G. Gillespie, J. Andrews, M. Engelsjord, C. Remington, J. Paul, K. Wilson, D. Monsour, L. Hatch, W. Pugh

STAFF: G. Harris, P. Kickham, D. Green, J. McAloon, L. Maslen (EP), L. Nickerson (Recorder)

GUESTS: K. Hamilton, R. Beise, T. Urquhart, J. Beatty (EP)

REGRETS: I. Leung

(EP) = Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm.

- 1. Territorial Acknowledgement**
- 2. Welcome and description of TCAC purpose (Chair)**

Chair Coleman welcomed everyone and informed the group that this committee is a technical and advisory committee made up of technical and community representatives. This group will provide recommendations to the CRD Board.

- 3. Introductions (all)**

G. Harris introduced himself and CRD staff. Chair Coleman introduced himself and Vice Chair Kobayashi. Other attendees introduced themselves and gave a brief history of their experience and interests relating to this committee. Chair Coleman advised this group will be together for about six months with the first few meetings relating to I&I and the last few meetings relating to biosolids. Chair Coleman advised as the Chair he follows “Robert’s Rules of Order” – he is a fan of Robert’s Rules being relaxed at first to allow more conversations, but once recommendations are being made, there is a need to have a more formal approach to any recommendations or advice we wish to give because the words that make sense to this committee may not make sense to others.

- 4. Presentations**

- a. TCAC process and Liquid Waste Management Plan background (D. Green)**

D. Green provided a brief overview of liquid waste management plans (LWMPs) and the process for the TCAC group. LWMPs are tools that allow regional districts and local governments to develop community-specific solutions for the management of liquid waste and environmental protection under the Province of BC Environmental Management Act. TCAC will meet approximately monthly, which will include a combination of presentations, group discussion and some reading work. The output from this group will be reported back to the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee.

b. Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) background and Q&A (J. McAloon)

J. McAloon provided a brief overview of I&I and advised inflow and infiltration refers to “leaky sewers” which can result in overflows to beaches and health concerns. I&I is a capacity issue and will get worse over time if not addressed. The older municipalities (Victoria, Esquimalt and Oak Bay, especially Uplands) have higher I&I rates due to deterioration and/or the types of sewer lines, and the newer municipalities have lower I&I rates. The current LWMP I&I commitment needs to be reviewed and possibly amended.

c. Biosolids background and Q&A (P. Kickham)

P. Kickham provided some background on the process of how the wastewater is managed and treated in the region since the initiation of the new wastewater treatment plant and Residuals Treatment Facility (RTF) in 2021. The process of creating biosolids at the RTF was introduced and discussed. The RTF is already one of the most sophisticated biosolids processing facilities in Canada. To be consistent with provincial requirements, wastewater utilities must not view these biosolids as a waste product but rather as a resource to be beneficially re-used.

LaFarge was contracted to receive the biosolids for beneficial re-use and a contingency plan was put into place allowing the biosolids to be landfilled during LaFarge maintenance periods (anticipated to be 35 days/year). However, due to operational and logistical challenges, LaFarge has only been able to accept a very small amount (5½ days worth in 2023) and the majority of the biosolids have been landfilled. An additional contingency plan was established in the summer of 2023 for reclamation of an aggregate quarry in Cassidy BC, however current space is limited at this location. The province has required broad public consultation on all available beneficial re-use options and a long term biosolids management strategy to be submitted by June 2024 with the expectation that it will be implemented by January 2025. Thermal options and land application options for biosolids were introduced. The CRD requires redundancy and resiliency to ensure service delivery and compliance with legislation, and therefore numerous options (e.g., a preferred option, a support option, and contingency options) are required.

d. Biosolids Public Consultation (K. Hamilton)

K. Hamilton presented a public consultation process for long term management of biosolids and sought feedback from the TCAC. TCAC was supportive of the general approach. K. Hamilton’s role is to ensure a wide range of audiences have access to complete, educational, quality information on this complex issue. They foresee a multi-month engagement process from November 2023 – February 2024. Their communication and consultation objectives are to raise awareness, provide multiple channels and opportunities for the community to provide input and seek to understand public awareness, perceptions and concerns for how biosolids should be managed in the region. They will provide a detailed consultation summary report in March 2024 which will include what input was collected and how that informed or influenced decisions.

5. Action Items

- a. **Chair Coleman** advised he will follow up with Tourism Victoria, the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce, Esquimalt Chamber of Commerce and the West Shore Chamber of Commerce regarding the TCAC.
- b. **K. Hamilton** will provide an update to the TCAC on the public consultation process prior to launch (mid-November).
- c. **CRD staff** will determine if virtual or in-person tours of the RTF are possible for TCAC members and/or the public



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6. Next meeting

The next TCAC meeting will be held on November 24, 2023 at 1:00 pm.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 pm.