
MINUTES

LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, May 9, 2022 @ 2:00 PM - Via Zoom platform

RECORD OF MEETING

This Record of Meeting is considered to be complete and correct. Please advise the writer within one week of any errors or omissions, otherwise this Record of Meeting will be considered to be an accurate record of the discussions.

PRESENT: Rob Dickinson, Chair, City of Port Alberni
Paulo Eichelberger, Alberni Clayoquot Regional District
Mike Carter, Port Alberni Port Authority
Melanie Mamoser, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Michal Simhon, Associated Engineering
Tom Robinson, Associated Engineering
Darrell Ross Sr, Tseshah First Nation

A. REVIEW PREVIOUS MINUTES

B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1. Update on LWM Plan Monitoring Committee Terms of reference.**
Will bring this to Council to endorse the final terms of reference.
- 2. Review of Receiving Environment Monitoring Plan (REMP) shared through BOX with last draft minutes.**
<https://portalberni.box.com/s/l8f37zox9seur4m1l72x6txzj0udsg5y>
- 3. Link to open an account and create your own password to have access prior meetings and related reports/data.**
No concerns, Rob Dickinson provided clarification that the link given will stay the same and information in the folder will be updated as needed. The link will also be attached to all future meeting invites.
<https://portalberni.box.com/s/l8f37zox9seur4m1l72x6txzj0udsg5y>

C. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Update on old lagoon decommissioning and Rehabilitation of "old" lagoon.**
A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be put out in the next two weeks for the decommissioning with plans to close the RFP in June. The work is proposed to begin in July so as to decommission the facility as much as possible this year with rehabilitation scheduled for next year.

Question 1:

Tom Robinson: How are you going to evaluate these?

Answer 1:

Rob Dickinson: The bids will be strongly focused on cost but if they propose another solution and their timeline and environmental impact is on the same timeline as us, it will be taken into consideration.

Question 2:

Paulo Eichelberger: Do we have a sense on how long the decommissioning will take?

Answer 2:

This will depend on the weather and the process that they choose.

- Meeting to be set up between ACRD and Christian Brumpton from Associated Engineering.
- Christian had previously discussed alternate routes to take to transport solid waste from the lagoon to the landfill to avoid using the highway. Paulo to contact Christian to discuss.

The City will have an engagement plan completed over the next year that we will bring to this committee for consideration. Rehabilitation to begin when the engagement is completed.

2. Summer mode – Controlled discharge from lagoon during summer.

Tom Robinson: The average dry weather flow is 10,000 m³/day. Each of the two effluent pumps can run at a rate of 40,000 m³ in 6 hours. 10,000m³ into the lagoon represents 75mm. If drawn down to 600mm we can completely stop effluent release from the lagoon for up to 8 days.

For example the first trial, 3 weeks prior to the release, pump 12,000m³/day to get down 600mm lower level.

Michal Simhon: Father's Day weekend would be a good time to try this out. It would be better to start discharge before high tide and stop it before low tide to draw the level down and pump 9 hours a day into falling tide.

- Parameters to consider: Risk to fish from low flows and high water temperatures (mid-June).

Question 1:

Mike Carter: Would it require a lot of time to change the release date? The fisheries, weather and oxygen levels change week by week.

Answer 1:

Tom Robinson: This release scenario is icing on the cake, I want to dispel the notion that it's doom and gloom if we don't do this. Once we've started the process of adding, we can start anytime. It is not a critical situation. I would say go into the 3rd or 4th week of August with the full 2ft. available and go 2 or 3 days with releasing half as much. If it doesn't go smoothly we can just shut it off. We can keep the level low and at the 1st sign of trouble, lock it down.

Question 2:

Melanie Mamoser: It's great to have the opportunity to practice this, I'm wondering how are we going to find out when this is needed?

Answer 2:

Tom Robinson: In the last 10 years regardless of how we define the trigger, ultimately it might be better to keep a softness around the trigger rather than go hard.

Michal Simhon: We have put together a trigger control response. Use June as a trial period to work out logistics, available data and predictions.

Tom Robinson: It will take 2 weeks to prep, but best to stay in a state of readiness.

Question 3:

Melanie Mamoser: What would we look for in changes of environment, DO and temperature?

Answer 3:

Tom Robinson: If DO was to start dropping what would that be telling you? Not from effluent being discharged, low likelihood because DO's and temperature would be the same. These are things we can't control. If we saw any problems we could clamp down.

Question 4:

Melanie Mamoser: During the summer you'll always be discharging during ebb tides, when does this start?

Answer 4:

Michal Simhon: The flow needs to be low enough to turn on Summer Mode when not reaching the limits of what the pumps can flow out. We're going to start prepping, what does that mean and what do we need to get ready on our end? If there's significant rain how will we mitigate this? Gives us a trial, if there are changes to make we'll know before we have to do it.

Tom Robinson: When we go from discharge to non-discharge will we notice a difference at all? It's not what I expect. I don't think it will be discernable.

Michal Simhon: We completed the first discharge monitoring end of February, early March. We've just started receiving data back and will start putting together a memo to circulate with PMC, Council and the public.

3. CSO locations and report were shared through BOX with last draft minutes.

Legal commitment for the City to spend \$1.3M / year (approx. 1.5km/yr), to report every 5 years and provide public notification for each event. Due to CSO separation in the Coal Creek catchment completed to date, there were 3 occurrences of raw sewage release in March 2022 whereas previous years there would have been 25-30 occurrences. The City has been working with Koers to prioritize the separation work.

D. DISCUSSION PERIOD

Round table (5 minutes for each member) ask each member for any topics they would like to introduce. These topics will be considered as an item to discuss at the next meeting.

Rick Avis via email:

1. Marsh Wrens: I would like to encourage the city to continue past procedures.
 - ***We will continue this as we have done in the past.***
2. The largest stand of a blue listed species *Bidens amplissima* on the estuary was lost when the pulp mill settling pond was drained. It would be nice to re-establish this species.
 - ***We will be monitoring this, we had a biologist and the Parks Manager go out to identify them. They were unable to find them but will go out again.***
3. Invasive species: Purple Loosestrife, English Ivy, Canada Geese.
 - ***The scotch broom inside the new lagoon will be cut down by hand once they bloom.***
4. Wild life corridors and trails – One of the objectives of the Somass Estuary Management Plan was to maintain access to the estuary for wildlife.
 - ***We need to find out who wants access and how do we maintain access?***

Darrell Ross Sr:

Question 1:

Will there be documentation for the lagoon decommissioning? Would like to know whether or not there will be a standard update or a contact as fisherman will want to know what's going on with that.

Answer 1:

Rob Dickinson – There will be a tender going out to remove solids and the plan is to begin decommissioning this summer. We will start engagement in the next couple of months and hope to start rehabilitation next summer.

Associated Engineering mentioned a decommissioning plan was completed.

Question 2:

Where are the Solids going?

Answer 2:

They'll be going to the landfill.

Question 3:

Is it going to be tested?

Answer 3:

Melanie Mamoser – There are organics matter regulations but I'm not sure if any testing is required.

- Rob Dickinson to share closure plan.
- Tom Robinson will look into prior testing data from the last solids removal.

Darrell Ross: In complex review of the landfill, we want to make sure we're not creating a problem somewhere else.

E. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.

F. PROPOSED NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, August 22, 2022 at 2:00pm via Zoom platform.