

MINUTES
LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, August 22 @ 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
Rick Avis, Somass Estuary Management Plan Committee

A. REVIEW PREVIOUS MINUTES

B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Link to open an account and create your own password to have access prior meetings and related reports/data.**

No concerns.

<https://portalberni.box.com/s/l8f37zox9seur4m1l72x6txzj0udsg5y>

2. **Continue Discussions regarding the (REMP) Receiving Environment Monitoring Plan.**

REMP report can be found in BOX:

<https://portalberni.box.com/s/l8f37zox9seur4m1l72x6txzj0udsg5y>

A seep study was performed by WSP and Associated Engineering. We have received a finished draft but have asked them to create a simplified summary including action plans. Results have shown that the one seep of concern isn't seeping anymore and hasn't been for quite some time. They did find another seep and two more possible seeps.

From June 15th – 18th we ceased release of any effluent from the lagoon, we did that for two weeks bringing levels low enough to stop it for 5 days. We're looking at doing it again this August with another fishery.

Question 1:

Melanie Mamoser: Is there anything to point out that stood out from the study?

Answer 1:

We'll keep monitoring, there are already high levels of some compounds in the background. Looking at the big picture there's no indication that we exceeded any of our limits but something to keep our eye on in the future.

3. Continue discussions of monitoring and coordination of monitoring data through out the Somass Estuary.

There haven't been any meetings as they stopped due to Covid. We could use a portion of this meeting to discuss these issues.

Comment 1:

Rick Avis: Some of the data is still out there.

Response 1:

It would be nice to know what those background levels were and would be nice to know if we are contributing to it or if it's already present.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1 & 2. Review of controlled releases of treated effluent from outfall / Review of "holding of releases of treated effluent from outfall"

Sometimes we control it with tides, sometimes we hold it in, it would be nice to be consistent. Right now, we're testing it to see how long we can hold onto it. By next year we should be able to do this as a program that we coordinate with neighbours and the community in the area.

3. Status of construction completion of the new Waste Water Treatment Facility.

Last week the last pipes were connected, there are 6 pipes into the treatment facility from different pump stations. The contractor tidying up the site at this point. Some minor issues will be outstanding but the contractor will be done in the next few weeks. Sewage is now directed straight to the new lagoon.

4. Status of decommissioning (sludge removal) of the old lagoon.

We put a tender out for the decommissioning and received 1 submission from American Process Group. We had a budget of \$450,000 and they came in with \$1,019,147.72. We're looking to empty as much of the lagoon with trucks rather than centrifuge starting the second or third week in September. It will take about 120 trucks to remove the sludge, we'll have 20-30 trucks this fall and the rest next summer. It will be a two-summer process. During the winter we'll pump every month or so into the new lagoon to keep the water levels down.

Question 1:

Paulo Eichelberger: With roughly 30 loads in September/October how are you achieving dewatering of the sludge that's there?

Answer 1:

Because of the sun, half of the lagoon is dry already, we can just scrape off the dry material. Optimistically we'll do it once this fall then again in June and use centrifuge in August.

Comment 2:

Melanie Mamoser: We'll need a closure plan to be submitted to the Ministry for dewatering/desludging.

Response 2:

Will follow up with Associate Engineering.

5. Rehabilitation of the old lagoon. City to hire communication expert to draft an Engagement Plan for discussion at the next Committee meeting to review.

With regards to engagement with Port Alberni Port Authority, ACRD, Tseshaht and Hupacasath, we are going to hire a communications person to put together a communication plan.

Question 1:

Melanie Mamoser: Does that include public engagement as well?

Answer 1:

Definitely, we'll be setting parameters with professionals. There's an opportunity to partner with Ducks Unlimited to work towards rehabilitation which could cost anywhere from \$300,000 to \$5,000,000. We're hoping to apply for some good grants.

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.

Mike Carter: Always appreciate the inclusion, sounds like all operations are a go. If there's a way to have inclusion for the public that would be enormous to have public access.

Rob Dickinson: We do have protected species in the area, we'll continue monitoring over the next few years. We'll also monitor for invasive species for both plants and birds.

Rick Avis: The contractor has done an amazing job. Pleased to hear of public access, if there's some way to resolve that, it would be a great first step.

Paulo Eichelberger: I hadn't heard of SEMC, will follow up with Jenny and Mike Irg and look for archived data.

Rob Dickinson: The SEMC meetings were cancelled due to Covid, it wasn't an official committee. I will touch base with the various parties involved in the SEMC such as First Nations to see if we can get more engagement.

Rick Avis: There is a pile of data out there for the estuary, I will come in to discuss.

Mike Carter: I've found some 2016 emails from Libby Avis that I will forward to Rob.

E. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.

F. PROPOSED NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, October 31, 2022 at 2:00pm via Zoom platform.