
MINUTES

LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, October 31, 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
Melanie Mamoser, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Phil Edgell, Alberni Valley Enhancement Association
Rick Avis, Somass Estuary Management Plan Committee
Mike Carter, Port Alberni Port Authority
Ingo Lambrecht, PGL Environmental Consultants
Matt Christensen, Ducks Unlimited
Tom Robinson, Associated Engineering
Darrell Ross Sr., Tseshah First Nation

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.**

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

Ingo Lambrecht commented that he would like to see the report that the restoration plan is based on. Associated Engineering will provide that report, they are currently waiting for the analysis of the sludge that was removed in September.

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

REMP report can be found in BOX:

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

Associated Engineering has done three testing regimes as scheduled, the final is starting next week. The third test was good, nothing was found in the environment that exceeded the criteria.

Question 1:

Melanie Mamoser: Is that data going into the EMS (Environmental Monitoring System)?

Answer 1:

Rob Dickinson will speak with Associated Engineering and follow up.

The Ministry of Environment commented that the operational Certificate states that an annual report is due by March 2023, all the requirements for this report are outlined in the Operational Certificate. Ongoing data has to be placed in the EMS as it is received. If the effluent quality data gets put into the EMS regularly then it won't have to be reported as frequently.

**3. Review of controlled releases of treated effluent from outfall
– i.e. released only during outgoing tide**

The intention is to keep this going through the summer months. There doesn't seem to be any changes with any of the environmental monitoring tests that we do.

Associated Engineering commented that they're running pumps on falling tides. The timing was ideal for mid-August reporting, the water was very clear. With the end of summer being so dry, more than a day would go by without any discharge due to evaporation.

**4. Review of "holding" of releases of treated effluent from outfall
- i.e. not release any treated effluent for days**

We did this at least once this summer, holding the effluent for 5 days. The first was held Fathers Day weekend, Rob will follow up with Associated Engineering on if there was a second one. Operationally there were no difficulties with the facilities, we were able to release it at the following tide. The test went very seamlessly.

Question 1:

Tom Robinson: Is there any anecdotal information based on observations people have made?

Answer 1:

Darrell Ross Sr: I will ask that question to the managers. If they have a request for that, they can send it out in a newsletter.

Question 2:

Tom Robinson: What would get caught up in the nets on the west bank of the River? I would be really interested to hear if he had anything to share as before there was a black sludge on the bottom of the river.

Answer 2:

Darrell Ross Sr: We should have a meeting to discuss if there are any environmental concerns.

5. Status of new Waste Water Treatment Facility

It was fully operational January 14th. It is currently fully commissioned now except for the Argyle force main which just has to be connected at each end. TriTech has been demobilizing at this point.

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

We put out a tender with a \$450,000 budget and had one submission come in for just over \$1,000,000. They're currently doing a survey to see how much sludge is in the lagoon. 25% or more of the sludge is solids with some liquid. They've been removing it and mixing it with wood chips at the landfill for more even consistency. They have removed 3,000 tons and estimate there are another 50,000 to 70,000 tons left to be removed. We removed a substantial amount in 2018, this 3,000 tons was to resolve any concerns we have going forward.

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

The City does not have a communications person yet, once we do they will work on an engagement plan. We'll still have to decommission next year so there's time but hoping to commence that before the next LWMP meeting.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. CSO Reporting Website

<https://portalberni.ca/wastewater-overflows>

The website is up and running monitoring any wastewater outfalls. The link at the top of the page shows the original report to Council. There have been signs posted at each of the four locations. The website has been collecting data since May 24, 2022. The City will commence public and community wide engagement regarding the CSO's and website in the coming weeks.

Question 1:

Tom Robinson: The four dots on the website change colour according to the legend?

Answer 1:

Rob Dickinson: Yes, and it is updating regularly (every 10 minutes). We have found that there are occasionally errors showing that there is an outfall when there isn't. We'll continue to check these facilities to make sure the information is accurate.

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.

Somass Crossing – The company drilling the Argyle Force Main had a lot of issues initially but the pipe has now been pulled through. With the weather there will be challenges connecting it.

We have a qualified environmental person on site at all times, especially on the Ducks Unlimited land. They have committed to DFO to be out there all the time, it was up to the contractor to hire their own QEP to compliment our QEP who could not be out there full time.

Ministry of Environment has not received a closure plan yet. Rob will work with Associated Engineering on this.

Rick Avis commented that he will go and see what they're doing out there in the next couple of weeks as there are some relatively rare plants of concern.

Matt Christensen asked for further clarification on the remediation of Ducks Unlimited land and would like to see proposed plans for the future. The City will hopefully have this by the end of the year. We will be doing some remediation as we go, although it will likely take years to get it back to its original condition.

Tom Robinson mentioned it looks like in their review process something dropped off the radar. He has already activated that and will get these reports out the door. It looks as though in the last few months of monitoring the absence of hits is a good thing.

Darrell Ross Sr. thanked Tom Robinson for bringing up their fisherman and suggested that a discussion be had in the future to figure out how to lessen the consumption of water in Port Alberni.

Phil Edgell asked if the restoration plan just deals with effluent removal or if it talks about what to do with the habitat in the future. Rob stated that the plan talks about decommissioning and some opportunities for rehabilitation, possible estuaries. There will be continued discussion with the community about what they'd like to see.

E. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:46 PM.

F. PROPOSED NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, February 20, 2023 at 2:00pm via Zoom platform.