

MINUTES
LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, March 21, 2024 @ 2:00 PM
City Hall Committee Room

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: Jim MacDonald, Chair, City of Port Alberni
Mike Carter, Port Alberni Port Authority
Phil Edgell, Alberni Valley Enhancement Association
Clinton Wright, City of Port Alberni
John Stephen, City of Port Alberni

A. INTRODUCTIONS

B. REVIEW PREVIOUS MINUTES

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Review current status regarding the operation of both lagoons

Both lagoons have been operating for quite some time, however there are some operational deficiencies. These issues are mainly administrative regarding the effluent flow meters not registering correctly, which is causing issues with testing and reporting requirements. We had a contractor on site to provide quotes and ideas on how to fix the issues. The 2023 final compilation report is in process.

2. Review Josephine Forcemain Replacement Program

This sanitary sewer forcemain, which has been in place since approx. 1950, is located at the corner of Josephine Street and River Road. This will be replaced by directional drilling under River Road and under the Somass River into the Estuary. The City has engaged a consultant and is currently in the consulting/design phase. Design to be completed in 2024, construction expected to start in 2025.

3. Discuss Operating Certificate deficiencies and contraventions

As mentioned earlier, there were issues with data reporting in regards to flow measurement. A couple of testing periods were missed with sampling from the Estuary. Last quarter was completed and we are currently in the process of obtaining samples from the surface and below the surface for this quarter.

Comment:

Mike Carter: Asked if we had a boat as the Harbour Chieftain (fire boat/patrol vessel) is a joint venture between the Port Alberni Port Authority and the City of Port Alberni. PAPA owns the boat and the City maintains it with the Fire Department. We share that resource and it may be available if needed.

E. 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.

Question 1:

Phil Edgell: Interested in the scheduling of the old lagoon. Department of Fisheries and Oceans is also interested. What will it look like once it is all removed? We had excavated a channel that connects the old sewage lagoon outflow to Shoemaker Bay, however vegetation is choking out the channel. It was built to DFO specs at .5 meters which isn't low enough and they are hoping to go back in and make it a little deeper, therefore they were thinking of possibly piggybacking onto the City's machining and excavating of the material when that time comes.

Answer 1:

Jim: The old lagoon started to decommission (removal of sludge) however the process was halted as the delivery location was no longer able to accept the material. We need to see what locations are available to send the material after de-watering. We will engage with a consultant to give us options of what we can do.

Comment:

Phil: Having lead time would be helpful as we will need to apply for funding ahead of time.

Question 2:

Phil: Rick Avis sent in some information regarding a concern around sensitive botanical species.

Answer 2:

Jim: Part of our receiving environment monitoring program with all of our downstream sampling and botanical species, a survey has been completed with a review of what the vegetation has been doing in disturbed areas. We have not yet received this report.

Question 3:

Mike Carter: Can the lagoon be encapsulated?

Answer 3:

Jim: No, due to the sensitive wetland area, it needs to be remediated and brought back to its original state. Any work needs to be reviewed and approved by the Ministry.

Comment:

Mike Carter: We dredge the river at China Creek every few years to keep access to the Marina. It has pretty good clean gravel (has been used at Canal Beach Waterfront Park) and it could possibly be used during the remediation if needed. It could help substitute some of the area if it isn't a bird pond again.

Question 4:

Mike Carter: In 2022 they were doing pulse releases around the fishing windows for First Nations, Commercial Fishing, gill netting etc. Is that still the plan? Did it work? Did it not work?

Answer 4:

Jim: We haven't done any operational holds since commissioning. I was told that it might be best to stop discharging during those times and to determine when those windows would be the Ministry suggested that the LWMP Monitoring Committee members would be best to provide recommendations as to the timing of releases.

Comment:

Mike Carter: Would like this revisited.

Comment:

John Stephen: During the summer months, there are many days with very little discharge.

F. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM.

G. PROPOSED NEXT MEETING DATE

Thursday, June 20th, 2024 @ 2:00pm