

MINUTES

LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 11:00 AM

Planning, Engineering and Building Boardroom

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
Rick Avis, Somass Estuary Management Plan Committee
Phil Edgell, Alberni Valley Enhancement Association
Darrell Ross Sr., Tseshaht First Nation
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**

- The old lagoon status remains unchanged. Biosolids still need to be removed which is not a straightforward process. Financial resources and time are limited. This project was looked at in the past and due to high associated costs involved, the project was stalled. Once resources are available, this project will proceed. A restoration plan is ready however, the biosolids have to be removed first.
- The new lagoon was commissioned in 2022 and has been operating for three years. Operational issues were encountered due to an incorrect design causing permit requirements not being met. A consultant has been budgeted to look at flow meter issues. Currently, we are experiencing elevated BOD levels (Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand) and we are unsure as to what is causing this. Research is being performed along with additional sampling.

2. **Review Josephine Forcemain Replacement Program**

- Josephine sewer forcemain is being replaced due to aging infrastructure. A new line will be installed with work anticipated to begin Spring of 2026. City Council recently

approved funding in order to proceed. A tender for the project will likely be submitted prior to Christmas 2025.

3. Discuss Operating Certificate deficiencies and contraventions

- Deficiencies identified from last year have been addressed.
- Lagoon berm assessments have been completed and submitted to the Ministry.
- Operating Certificate requires modeling to be performed post commissioning but we are unable to complete this until we have flow data.
- Annual reports have been submitted as per requirements.
- Some of the Operating Certificate requirements were due to this being a new plant which required proof that it was operating properly and not causing impact to the environment, therefore some requirements will be required on an annual basis.

4. Receiving Environment Program Testing

- This is a very detailed program that is completed quarterly.
- Consulting firm hired to perform sampling at multiple points including upstream locations.
- In 2023 one quarter sampling was missed due to staff turnover.
- 2024 and 2025 were completed and are up to date.
- Sampling performed at the estuary as well as multiple points around the outfall and upstream to the outfall to get background data points and a baseline to compare it to. Vegetation based surveys were also completed along the shoreline next to the lagoon.
- Sampling points and data confirm that there is no impact to the environment.
- Sampling is performed on a regular basis as per Certificate requirements.

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.

Comment: Committee member inquired if the old Josephine sewer forcemain could be removed.

Answer: As it is a concrete forcemain, it is not able to be removed. It will be abandoned in place.

Comment: English Ivy (an invasive species) is encroaching the boundary of the lagoon and would like to see it cut back / removed before it spreads as it will eventually cover the lagoon.

Answer: City will have staff look at this when doing maintenance.

Comment: Committee member inquired into the timetable in regards to removing the solids from the old lagoon.

Answer: As resources are limited and de-watering is not an option as the landfill is unable to accept these solids, all work is tentative at this time.

Comment: Committee member had concerns of the old lagoon not yet being restored to its natural state and would like to be involved regarding the removal of solids.

Answer: The City is committed and required to restore the lagoon back to its natural environment. There are very strict guidelines as to how the solids are disposed.

F. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:43 AM.

G. PROPOSED NEXT MEETING DATE

To be determined