

DATE: July 5, 2016 **FILE:** 5340-02

TO: Chair and directors
Comox Valley sewage commission

FROM: Debra Oakman, CPA, CMA
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: Comox No. 2 Pump Station – June 21st open house regarding the Beech Street site

Purpose

To provide an overview of the June 21, 2016 public open house for the Comox No. 2 pump station project.

Policy analysis

The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) operates a sewerage service primarily for the City of Courtenay and Town of Comox, established by Bylaw No. 2541, being the “Comox Valley Sewerage Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2541, 2003”.

At its March 1, 2016 meeting, the Comox Valley sewage commission approved the following recommendation:

THAT staff continue efforts on the Beech Street property for a Comox No. 2 pump station and a public open house be held regarding the Beech Street site within three months from March 1, 2016.

Executive summary

On June 21, 2016, the CVRD hosted an open house to update the public on the Beech Street site for the Comox No. 2 pump station project. The meeting was designed to provide the community with an update on the work completed to date, information about the decisions resulting from that work and an overview of the investigation that is still required to be completed regarding the Beech Street site.

In order to facilitate the meeting nine poster boards were created for the event, providing information and visuals that helped explain the work to date. The poster information was supported by CVRD staff, consulting engineers and communication support. Some elected officials from the Comox Valley sewage commission also attended the meeting to answer questions. The event was attended by approximately 117 people the majority of which were residents from the Croteau Beach area.

As part of the meeting comment forms were made available and many participants took time to fill them out and leave them with staff for follow-up. In total, 77 forms were submitted to the project team. The following common themes and questions were provided:

- Groundwater:
 - Concern about potential impact on wells in the area, both during construction and after.
 - Eager to see more research conducted on this topic

- Transparency:
 - Concerns about the process to date re: selection, communication with neighbourhood
 - Desire to see open involvement/engagement in the process to come.
- Community Impact:
 - Concern about noise and odour, visual appearance
 - Questions about impact to MacDonald Wood Park
- Broader Service Planning:
 - Interest in seeing a re-assessment of the decision that includes rerouting entire foreshore pipe.
 - Questions about broader regional solutions – tying in discussions about

All 77 comment forms received have been posted to the internal regional district website for access by all directors of the board. Over the next several weeks the project team will work to answer the questions provided through the comment forms. Questions and answers will be posted to the CVRD's project webpage. Questions will be categorized and common questions will be combined for ease of navigation. An email list will be generated in order that information can be provided to those individuals that have expressed an interest in receiving information by email. For questions that cannot be answered at this time due to the need for additional planning or engineering, these will be kept on file until an answer is developed and then provided in the future.

Recommendation from the chief administrative officer:

This report is presented for information only.

Respectfully:

D. Oakman

Debra Oakman, CPA, CMA
Chief Administrative Officer

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