

Minutes of the **Liquid Waste Management Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #2** of the Regional District of Central Okanagan held at Regional District Offices, 1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, BC, on April 3, 2007 @ 4:00 p.m. Kaloya Room

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Members:	Edna Thiessen	Ellison Area Resident
	Carl Withler	Ministry of Agriculture
	Bob Calder	Sunset Ranch Golf Course (Ellison area)
	Conrad Pryce	Ministry of Environment
	Budge Winter	Joe Rich area resident
	Trudy Peterson	WFN, also on behalf of Jim Mountain, Dan Brown
	Tim Forty	Quaran Environmental
	Emma Rantucci	Joe Rich area resident
	Jules Morris	Joe Rich area resident
	Bob Hrasko	Sunset Ranch Golf Course (Ellison area)
	Keith Duhaime	Agricultural Support Office for the RD
	Ray King	Public Health Inspector, Interior Health
	Gundie Volk	Interior Health, Senior Public Health Inspector (Presenter)
	Jan Enns	Communications
	Hilary Hettinga	Director of Engineering, RDCO
Absent:	Bill Berry	Wastewater Manager, City of Kelowna
	Martin Collins	Agricultural Land Commission
	Don Darling	Manager of Engineering, RDCO
	Al Strachan	Country View Estates (Ellison area)
	Ken Arcuri	Director of Planning, RDCO
	Jean-Francois Ferry	Environment Canada

Note: Dave Rolleston has stepped down from the committee due to prior commitments. We thank him for his time and energy to date!

## 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Jan Enns welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the Advisory Committee to develop the Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) for Central Okanagan Area East. The main purpose of today's meeting is:

- o Presentation on approval process for septic tank (G. Volk)
- o A review of the possible options to date (T. Forty)
- o Ideas for public consultation (J. Enns)

Round table introductions followed.

## 2. OPENING REMARKS, JAN ENNS

Jan thanked the committee members on behalf of the RDCO and provided the review of last meeting:

- o Why a LWMP and an overview of Wastewater 101 – from outhouses to sophisticated treatment plants, like Kelowna's
- o Also reviewed your role as a committee (see Terms of Reference):
  - Review the info and provide feedback

- Provide ideas, options, and any concerns for consideration and investigation
- Help with plans for taking the plan out to the community to get their feedback
- Hopefully, participate in any Open Houses or meetings that are held
- Assist with recommendations that will go to the RDCO Engineering Committee and eventually the RDCO Board
- Ultimately, your input and that of the community will be used to help guide future decisions for the area

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Hilary, Tim, or Jan.

**3. SEWERAGE SYSTEM REGULATION, GUNDIE VOLK, SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, INTERIOR HEALTH**

See attached PDF file of Gundie's PowerPoint presentation. In 2005 the Province changed the approval process for sewage treatment, including approval process for septic tanks. Installation is now handled by a certified Authorized Person (AP) and they file the plans with IH who keeps them on record. Province has shifted onus to AP and homeowner. The installer is required to provide the new system owner with an operating and maintenance document, which the homeowner is obliged to follow in order to maintain their system warranty.

**Discussion**

Following Gundie's presentation a general discussion ensued including comments on the approval process and homeowner education as summarized here.

- Add septic tank pump-out reminder to RDCO annual recycling calendar
- Q: Is there any obligation on the septic hauler to alert homeowner of a problem? A: No obligation.
- Need a process to get people to pump regularly. Cost of septic tank replacement ballpark estimates
  - Type 1 (typical tank and field) \$18,000-\$20,000
  - Type 2 (package treatment) \$25,000 – \$32,000
  - Type 3 (package treatment with disinfection) \$40,000 and up
- Types of systems, these are not based on number of users. Different types used in different areas/conditions.
- Noted that in the Okanagan, discharge to lake or surface water must have tertiary treatment and disinfection (and can only be done from a municipally owned and operated system)
- Unlike septic tanks and fields, holding tanks are not done by filing with IH but they do require a local gov't bond. Not common and no holding tanks in Plan area
- Q: Does Authorized Person (AP) have liability insurance? Will they be around to fix if necessary? A: Unknown, however there is an approved list of APs and appeal process to be removed from the list
- ACTION: Check on insurance and certification of AP
- Q: Does the plan say the maintenance plan for septic tanks, etc., "must be filed" or "should be filed" with IH. A: Must be filed
- Owner is responsible for ensuring tank and field maintenance
- Not enforced, but huge investment at stake for homeowner if they don't

- Q: Does the RDCO require proof of certification before they issue a building permit? A: Unknown
- ACTION: RDCO to check on proof of certification with Inspections Department
- Concern over lack of education for homeowners that they are responsible and that AP needs to be certified, have adequate insurance – plus info on how to care for the investment in their septic tank. Many may have false notion that someone else (IH) is still responsible for checking, etc. Gundie indicated that they are looking at the possibility of tying to land title as a covenant at some point in the future.

#### **4. POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT, TIM FORTY, QUARAN ENVIRONMENTAL**

Tim gave a presentation on a wide range of options for wastewater management for the plan area, and a review of the process. A copy of his presentation is attached and can also be downloaded off the RDCO web site. This presentation includes the addition of several new possible options for discussion.

Key points in his presentation included:

- We are at Stage 1 of a 3 stage plan – education and brainstorming for any and all possible options for wastewater treatment (i.e. costs and details not included)
- Stage 2 involves creating a short-list of these options based on criteria developed with input from the advisory committee and the public (via open houses, etc) and further investigation of the short-listed options, including possible costs.

#### **Discussion**

- Printed copies of responses received to date were distributed prior to the meeting and a recent one from the Agricultural Land Commission was distributed at the meeting and will be included as an attachment to these minutes
- TF is waiting for confirmation from Ministry of Community Services confirming that new lots using on-site disposal are minimum of 1 Ha (2.24 acres). Hilary added that the 1 Ha minimum lot size is supported by the Okanagan Basin Water Board, and is consistent with most zoning bylaws. He noted that on rare occasions, under special provisions, a smaller lot may be permitted.
- Noted that the census figures are currently 2001 and will be updated
- Gundie noted that there may be many aging septic systems in the Scotty Creek area as they only last about 20-25 years
- Hilary noted that Sunset Ranch sewer line was designed to handle additional flows from the area
- ACTION: Clarify number of services at McCullough Lodge and Chute Lake Lodge to confirm actual number of services provided (ie: numbers or units in the lodges, each with oven, shower, toilet, ect.) as opposed to number of parcels.
- Conrad noted that possible assistance maybe available from RDOS if needed with regards to properties along shared boundary
- A Stormwater option, was suggested that a commitment from the RDCO that an engineering study be conducted within the next 5 years to provide a basis for including a stormwater management plan in the next iteration of the LWMP. It is not possible to do more in this LWMP due to cost considerations.
- ACTON: Other plans identified that may be of use include:

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- The engineering firm Dayton & Knight has apparently done a drainage study for the city on areas surrounding the city, including Ellison that can perhaps be of use in this plan.
- Similarly, the province is doing a hydrology study that may be of interest
- Voluntary Environmental Farm Plan
- Environment Agricultural Initiative
- For any new development that proposes to join the city for sewer service, an amendment to the OCP may be required.
- Q: Is RDCO interested in being in wastewater treatment business? A: Already is with Westbank WWT Plant on Westside
- Q: Where would any new system go? A: Good question. As we are still at brainstorming stage and collecting all and any ideas, an STP or spray irrigation would need land acquisition and agreements with farm, etc. This type of clarification should be included in the options to help people understand the steps involved in a particular option
- ACTION: Need more feedback from health on possible areas of concern
- ACTION: RDCO to contact septic haulers for information
- Q: Ambiguous whether Scotty Creek can hook up to City sewer and not join the City. A: For example, one option could be to hook up and join, another to negotiate to hook up and not join (which may or may not be successful as decision would be made by City and they already have a policy)
- ACTION: RDCO to seek clarification with City around policy
- Q: If lines are there to enable hook up to Sunset Ranch, is there a latecomer's agreement?
- A: Yes, there may be a small latecomer charge. This will have to be confirmed. (?). The services are there to handle the capacity
- Ray noted that there are many different problems associated with septic fields, aside from lifespan and environmental. For example, can limit physical expansion or installation of a swimming pool
- Add to public education: septic fields have a limited capacity (20-25 years)

**5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION PLANS, JAN ENNS**

Jan gave a quick overview of the need to take the options to the community. While time was short, the committee was able to provide the following feedback and action items.

- Note that Ministry guidelines require that the draft plan and long list of all possible options be taken out to the community for comments, even though details, such as costs are not available
- ACTION: Jan to first see if any community meetings in area, and also to investigate holding 2 open houses (Ellison and Joe Rich). The main focus would be educational and information sharing for public input on long list of options. Tentatively looked at something around the first week of June. Brainstormed involving septic haulers, IH, school students, and a draw prize of some sort (e.g. free septic tank pump-out)
- ACTION: Jan to put together a draft plan and send to committee for comments.
- Requested if some type of ballpark costs could be used when presenting info to public, such as typical connection cost or cost to replace a failed septic field

**4. ADMINISTRIVIA**

- Materials will be sent by email. Anyone requesting a hard copy can simply reply back and we'll send!

**5. NEXT STEPS**

- Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 4-6pm, RDCO office
- If you have any questions, comments, or ideas, please feel free to submit directly to: lwmp@cord.bc.ca.
- Thank you for your time, energy, and interest!

**6. MEETING ADJOURNED @ 6:25P.M.**

***These minutes are in the writer's best interpretation of discussions held during the meeting. Please inform the writer of any noteworthy omissions or errors.***