



Liquid Waste Management Plan Development For Electoral Area: *Central Okanagan East*

What is a Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP)?

A LWMP is a plan for a municipality or specific area that charts the future course of action with respect to sewage, stormwater, and other wastewaters, including the management, collection, treatment, and disposition of the effluent. A LWMP covers more than solutions for managing liquid wastes. It can also deal with lot sizes, zoning issues in unsewered areas, water conservation programs, and public education programs aimed at making septic systems more environmentally friendly.

A LWMP is a tool used to develop cost-effective solutions to address local liquid waste issues, it allows a community to: protect human health and the environment, develop strategies to minimize wastewater generation, meet water conservation goals, maximize use of reclaimed water, and address stormwater issues.

Public participation is mandatory for the development of an effective Waste Management Plan to ensure the Plan reflects the needs of the community, now and for the future. This is especially important as the implementation of any recommendations will be funded by those in the Plan area.

Why develop a LWMP?

Advance planning can ensure that current and future needs for the management of liquid wastes for the community are met. It saves both the environment and the taxpayer by creating proactive solutions rather than the more costly option of reacting to problems as they arise.

A LWMP provides an opportunity for ratepayers to assist in the process of selecting the best options for their community and can increase support for implementation of the recommendations to address their current and future needs.

Further, there is a higher likelihood of obtaining grant monies for implementing a LWMP as the community need, environmental and health benefits are clearly identified in the LWMP.

How do you develop a LWMP?

Ground Rules:

- Identify and solicit input from appropriate government agencies, Non Government Organizations (NGOs), special interest groups (if any), and the general public in the plan area
- Answer all questions completely and openly
- Consider all ideas suggested
- Discard suggested options only for sound technically defensible reasons with a clear explanation of the reasoning behind the decision
- Elected officials make the final decision on the selected LWMP option or mix of options for the management and future management of wastewaters for the LWMP plan area **ONLY** after carefully considering all presented information including feedback from an informed public.

The Regional District must first recognize the need for a LWMP. It must then retain consultant(s), notify the Ministry of Environment of its intent to develop a LWMP, and form committees to assist in the process. In this plan there are three committees. The *Engineering Committee* which carries recommendations to the Regional Board. The *Technical Advisory Committee* which ensures that all the technical details are considered. The *Public Advisory Committee* which provides insight into local issues, reviews information, and assists in ensuring that the LWMP is meaningful and comprehensible to the citizens of the plan area.

There are three stages to a LWMP.

Stage 1: Data Gathering

Process: Draft report; review by Ministry agencies and committees. Agency workshop; Public Information “Open House” style meeting where ideas are actively solicited. Final Stage 1 report produced.

Intent:

- Identify existing situation including known environmental and health issues with respect to wastewater(s)
- Identify possible future issues with respect to wastewater(s)
- Identify potential options for the management of wastewater(s) to resolve the issues.

Stage 2: Option Development, Cost Analysis and Option Selection

Process: Draft report; review by Ministry agencies and committees. Agency workshop; Public Information “Open House” style meeting where the options are clearly explained and feedback is actively solicited from local citizens. Political decision making; final Stage 2 report produced.

Intent:

- Develop identified options in sufficient detail to permit comparison between different options
- Provide clear and reasoned explanation for those options that are technically impractical
- Develop the Cost Analysis to a level to permit Order of Magnitude cost comparisons between options - including costs on a per household basis
- Present the preferred option (or mix of options) to the Regional Board for consideration based upon the information developed throughout the LWMP process and – most importantly – feedback from an informed public.

Stage 3: Finalization (Selected Option Details and Costs)

Process: Executive Summary developed for current and future elected officials, new residents moving to the plan area, and as a recap for those who will participate again in the next review of the LWMP. Necessary bylaws identified and drafted. Need for Operations Plans identified for the implementation of: collection, treatment and effluent handling. Regional Board adopts LWMP and submits it to the Minister via the local Ministry office. Ministerial Approval; Implementation and Operational Certificate are developed if appropriate.

Intent:

- Provide details of the selected option, the process followed, and rationale for options not selected and why
- Outline Plan details of what is to be done; level of treatment and effluent disposition (disposal or reuse) required
- Provide a schedule of stages and phases for sewage treatment plant and collection system and upgrades **if appropriate**, including costs and timing of each stage and phase of upgrade (extracted and condensed from Stage 2)
- Forward LWMP to Ministry for approvals of due process, adequacy of public involvement, environmental and health issues addressed, and final outcomes, etc.

The Plan Process

The Regional District has retained the services of Tim Forty, P. Eng of Quaran Environmental to facilitate the plan development process, and Jan Enns, MA, of Jan Enns Communications to assist in the public information process.

Consultation is Key

These options will be presented to two committees: the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Public Advisory Committee (PAC). The TAC consists of representatives from local and provincial governments, including Westbank First Nation, and is tasked with reviewing all proposed programs and passing the information to the PAC. The PAC consists of members of the Electoral Area “*Central Okanagan East*” who represent a wide range of community interests, such as neighbourhood groups, businesses, service clubs, construction groups, and institutions as appropriate to the plan area. The PAC will review information from the TAC and provide input from each member representative. The TAC will integrate this input into the proposed programs and strategies and will pass the final result to the Engineering Committee for approval by the Regional Board and its member municipalities.

Prior to the completion of the draft Stage 1 LWMP, the identified options will be presented to the general public through community meetings. Public input will guide the development of the draft plan. This reflects the RDCO's commitment to including public input in planning long-term strategies.

For More Information Please Contact:

Hilary Hettinga P. Eng
Director of Engineering, RDCO
Phone: 250- 868-5241
Email: HHettinga@cord.bc.ca

Tim Forty, P. Eng
Quaran Environmental
Phone: 250-496-5934
Email: tforty@shaw.ca

Jan Enns, MA
Jan Enns Communications
Phone: 250-769-3627
Email: janenns@shaw.ca