



Corporation of the Village of Cumberland

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File No. 0540-20

Liquid Waste Management Plan
Wastewater Advisory Committee
Minutes,
Meeting #21
Thursday, March 6, 2025, 1 pm to 4 pm
Council Chambers

Invitees

Name	Representing
Matt Ishoy	Chair, Public member at Large
Ken Barth	Public member at large
Mike Tymchuk	Public member at large, Alternate Chair
Chris Thomason	Public member at large (new)
Brian Beaudry	Public member at large (new)
Sean Sullivan	Alternate Council Representative
Neil Borecky	Alternate Council Representative
Troy Therrien	Alternate Council Representative
Rob Crisfield	VC Director of Operations
Jason Wallace	VoC Manager of Projects
Paul Nash	LWMP Project Coordinator
Colleen Dane	Public engagement coordinator (Zinc Communications)
Copied on correspondence	
K'omoks First Nation	
BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs	
Vancouver Island Health	
BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change	

Item	Description	Owner
21.1	Call to Order, Approval of Agenda, any items of new business to be added Call to order at 1pm, Agenda was adopted	Chair

21.2	Review of minutes of meeting #20, January 30,2025 Ken Barth noted that the LWMP cost history, as requested at Meeting #20, and presented at the Feb 25 open house, was not as detailed as he had intended it to be. In discussion it was noted by Cr Therrien that council would look for a full project cost reconciliation at the end of the LWMP process, expected be the end of 2025.	Chair										
21.3	Update on Stage 3 process and timelines. <table><tr><td>March 21</td><td>Submit draft Stage 3 report to MoE</td></tr><tr><td>Late April</td><td>Received feedback from MoE, finalize report</td></tr><tr><td>May 5</td><td>Cumberland Council approval</td></tr><tr><td>16 May</td><td>Submit final Stage LWMP report to MoE</td></tr><tr><td>End of 2025</td><td><i>Expected</i> date for approval by Minister</td></tr></table> Cr Therrien asked if the Village should be meeting with the Minister of Environment at UBCM in September, about the LWMP? In discussion on this point it was noted that the LWMP would be in the hands of Ministry technical staff at that time, who have already said that the Cumberland LWMP will be the top processing priority once received. So there is likely little that the Minister could do to speed the process along. However, that does not mean there is no value in a meeting, so Cumberland Councillors should take a meeting with the Minister if they can get one.	March 21	Submit draft Stage 3 report to MoE	Late April	Received feedback from MoE, finalize report	May 5	Cumberland Council approval	16 May	Submit final Stage LWMP report to MoE	End of 2025	<i>Expected</i> date for approval by Minister	Paul
March 21	Submit draft Stage 3 report to MoE											
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May 5	Cumberland Council approval											
16 May	Submit final Stage LWMP report to MoE											
End of 2025	<i>Expected</i> date for approval by Minister											
21.4	Content of Stage 3 Report • Updated community growth projections (from updated OCP) • Wastewater Treatment Plan & Budget (current upgrade project) • Environmental Impact Study of upgraded treatment on receiving water creek • Updated Stormwater Master Plan • Updated Source Control bylaw (trade waste policy) • Inflow & Infiltration Reduction plan (including storm-sanitary separation plan) • Financing plan for near future works – the storm sanitary separation program • Borrowing bylaw – <i>might become a “parcel tax” bylaw</i> • Summary of public and First Nation consultation	Paul										

21.5	Review of public Open House Feb 25 • Overview of presentation Paul ran through the presentation from the Open House • Feedback on Storm- Sanitary separation program Colleen summarized the public feedback as; • Noting that collectively, it is a large tax increase • generally supportive of the least costly separation plan option – all tax and assuming 50% grants. • The representative from Fanny Bay Oysters expressed a desire for the project – especially the disinfection – to be brought online as soon as possible, and that the storm-sanitary separation program be implemented as fast as possible.	
21.6	Storm-Sanitary Sewer Separation Plan The overview of the financial plan was reviewed, noting some minor cost changes for loan repayment compared to the presentation at the Open House. In discussion about the timing of the implementation, it was noted that; • There is little environmental benefit from an expedited implementation, as the upgrade works will achieve environmental protection against high wet weather flows • Construction costs seem to rise faster than inflation, so doing the works earlier would be cheaper overall • A longer timeframe for implementation allows more cost to be spread onto future residents, and also to pursue more grant funding opportunities • A longer timeframe should not be taken to mean the program is of lesser importance, it is purely intended to be a means of reducing cost burden on existing taxpayers In discussion about funding the works, it was noted that: • While there is a reduced tax burden with the “all tax, no borrowing” option, a decision on how to fund the works is really for Council and Staff, not the WAC. The WAC’s purview is that the program must funded, one way or another, but need not be accelerated • The issue of a large LWMP borrowing commitment reducing Cumberland’s ability to borrow for other projects is also a question. For Council and staff, not the WAC. • While the prospect of 50% grant funding results in a reduced tax burden, there is no guarantee of securing any level of grant funding. It was generally agreed in discussion that it is better to start by taxing for the full amount, and if any grant funding is received it can either reduce future tax burdens or accelerate the completion of the program. • The current wastewater fee structure is largely a flat fee for all users, regardless of actual use (production) of wastewater. Some	Paul

municipalities use flat fee fees, others have fee structures based partially or fully on water usage. Where usage fees are involved, there can be accommodations for winter vs summer use (e.g wastewater usage fees are based on winter potable water use only) and special rate structures for unusual water users. It is rare to do explicit metering of wastewater except for large commercial users. In some cases there is “credit metering” of potable water use, such as metering of irrigation to allow deductions from overall potable water use to determine actual wastewater generation. Any usage-based fee system needs to consider these sorts of variables to avoid undesirable or inequitable results.

Recommendation #1

In consideration that Cumberland is already implementing advanced treatment works to mitigate the environmental effects of high wet weather flows, the WAC proposes;

On the **timing** of the program, that:

1. Cumberland commit to 100% completion of the Storm-Sanitary Separation Program within the 20 year period of the LWMP.
2. It be recognized that there is limited environmental value in an accelerated implementation of the separation plan
3. It also be recognized that the further the works are pushed into the future, the more likely it is that costs will increase.

On the **funding** of the program, that:

1. Council should decide the question of whether the program should be paid for directly by (parcel) tax, borrowing or a combination of both.
2. The financial plan should be based a full cost contribution – assuming no grant funding.
3. The Village pursue both project implementation efficiencies and future grant funding opportunities to reduce the financial burden on the Village residents.

Moved: Michael Tymchuk

Seconded : Brian Beaudry

CARRIED unanimously

Recommendation #2

In consideration of the large increase in wastewater costs (from the LWMP works program), the WAC recommends that the Village review the wastewater user fee and parcel tax structure with a view to a cost distribution based in part or whole on usage.

Moved: Matt Ishoy

Seconded: Chris Thomason

21.7	Review of Storm and Sanitary Sewer connection bylaws. • How do they work for when existing houses are newly serviced by separated sewers? • Are any updates suggested by the WAC? Recommendation #3 In recognition that installing the separated sewers in and of itself does not achieve the full benefits until the newly separated users connect to the storm system, the committee recommends that: • The Village take a pro-active approach to ensuring that newly separated properties connect to the storm system, in accordance with the Stormwater system bylaw (1024) • There be ongoing efforts to ensure compliance with the Stormwater bylaw (1024) Moved: Michael Tymchuk Seconded: Chris Thomason CARRIED Unanimously	Paul
21.8	Wrap up There was a round of thanks and appreciation to all the members for their volunteer service. In particular to Matt Ishoy, Michael Tymchuk and Ken Barth, who are all original members from WAC meeting #1 in 2016. Even though this was the last official meeting of the WAC, the members requested to be kept informed of progress/developments, as appropriate. It was also requested that there be a site tour for the WAC in summer, when there has been substantial progress on construction Adjournment -4pm	Chair
	Public Q&A – there were no members of the public present.	Chair