

Minutes of the **Liquid Waste Management Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #1** of the Regional District of Central Okanagan held at Regional District Offices, 1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, BC on January 17, 2007 @ 4:00 p.m. Kaloya Room

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

## 1. WELCOMES AND INTRODUCTIONS

Jan Enns welcomed everyone to the first 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 to provide:

- An overview of the process
- Background information on the treatment of liquid waste
- Information on the role of the Advisory Committee.

Round table introductions followed.

## 2. OPENING REMARKS, HILARY HETTINGA, RDCO

Hilary thanked committee members on behalf of the RDCO and provided background information on the importance of having a LWMP including the following points:

- The importance of working with this committee and the community to develop a sustainable plan to manage sewage and other wastewaters in the most cost-effective and environmentally sound manner. Community involvement is the key to a successful plan that will meet current and future needs.

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- There are concerns that current wastewater treatment may not be working in some areas. A LWMP can help identify and rectify current problems and reduce the potential for future problems.
- Once an approved LWMP is in place, the RD can apply for provincial funding to offset costs of new systems. This is especially important as any future requirements will be funded by the homeowners or ratepayers in the plan area.
- The Plan needs to be consistent with others planning processes currently in place or underway that guide land use and development (i.e. the Ellison Official Community Plan (OCP) and the Joe Rich Rural Land Use Bylaw (RLUB) that is in progress)
- And to ensure that the public consultation plans for sharing information with the community are timely, accurate, and relevant.

Hilary also introduced the consultants working on the project. Tim Forty of Quaran Environmental will handle the technical development of the plan. Jan Enns of Jan Enns Communications will facilitate the committee and oversee the public consultation plan and communications.

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

**3. Everything you ever wanted to know about a Liquid Waste Management Plan, Tim Forty, Quaran Environmental**

Tim gave a presentation that covered:

- What is a LWMP?
- Why develop one?
- How do you develop one?
- What is the LWMP plan area?
- And Sewage Systems 101, a primer on different methods for the treatment, disposal, and/or reuse of liquid waste.

See attached PDF file of Tim's PowerPoint presentation. Please note this can also be downloaded from the RDCO website at [www.regionaldistrict.com](http://www.regionaldistrict.com). Go to Quick Links, and look under Central Okanagan East Liquid Waste Management Plan.

Tim also reviewed the role of the Committee:

- Noted that in larger projects there are two separate committees for Technical and Public interests. Due to the smaller size of this project these two committees have combined to make one Advisory Committee. This also has its benefits in sharing the knowledge and experience of everyone around the table.
- The role of the Advisory Committee
  - Is the first step in ensuring that the community is involved
  - Will review options provided by the consultant as well as identifying other options for further investigation
  - To assist in plans for broader public consultation with the community
  - To make recommendations to the RDCO Engineering Committee for the Board to help guide future decisions.

**4. Discussion**

Following Tim's presentation a general discussion ensued including comments on what is to be included in the LWMP, concerns about specific areas, types of treatment systems, and education. A summary of the discussion follows.

- What about gray water recycling systems?
  - These are regulated by a Code of Practice and not promoted due to health concerns around post-installation renovations.
- Hilary advised of a potential new development in the plan area that may need to be considered. The proposed development is partly in the City and partly in the RD, located on South Slopes.
- Tim and Bill Berry reiterated the City's policy that areas requesting to be connected to the City of Kelowna's sewer system would be required to become part of the City. Hilary noted there is an agreement with Sunset Ranch that supersedes Council's adoption of this policy.
- Are there systems that can serve Scotty Creek without joining the City?
  - Yes, pending costs. Can be looked at as options under this process.
- Noted that there are a large number of older systems in the 30 year old Scotty Creek subdivision and quite possibly there may have been or there are some problem areas or fields that have failed. Scotty Creek apparently has gravelly, sandy soils that are not the best for septic fields. (NOTE: Sandy gravelly soils can accept the effluent very well but if the soils are too coarse they will not provide an appropriate degree of renovation to the effluent before it enters the groundwater)
  - Noted the possibility that some fields may have failed and been remedied over the years.

**ACTION**

Tim to check with Interior Health on whether they have any information on failed fields that might be applicable to this plan.

- Bill noted that it is very expensive to replace a septic field and gave a recent example of one in the Hall Road area that ran about \$20,000.
- With a LWMP, grant monies would be available for homeowners for implementing the recommendations in the LWMP, but unfortunately not for replacing or repairing individual septic tank tile field systems for a homeowner.
- Noted that rules regarding the installation of septic tanks have changed in recent years. Health no longer inspects but requires that installation be done by certified septic tank installers, and engineered plans for larger systems. More information was requested.

**ACTION**

Jan to contact Interior Health to see if they can give a brief presentation at the start of the next meeting on regulations around installation and the health aspects of liquid waste management.

- Concerns noted over contamination of groundwater from free range cattle and the potential from over wintering large numbers of cattle and the subsequent run-off. As well, concerns were also voiced about slides into

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Mission Creek potentially caused from logging in the side valleys that feed into Mission Creek.

- Hilary noted that the LWMP does not cover groundwater per se, unless a sewage issue.
- Due to the scope of this LWMP, it is not set up/ budgeted to also accommodate stormwater management planning.
- Bob advised that the Black Mountain Irrigation District has been meeting with the various agencies that regulate farming, health, forests, and the environment to find ways to reduce cattle crossings on drinking water sources, including funding for fences.
  
- Ken indicated there are two different planning processes (the Ellison OCP and the Joe Rich RLUB) that can address different land use issues. The LWMP is intended to support these existing plans. He noted these plans do not support developments of less than one hectare that are not on community sewer systems. Plans specify only parcels of one hectare or greater can be subdivided. These requirements are reinforced by the ability to get provincial funding, and by policies of the Okanagan Basin Water Board.
- Tim suggested that the plan could include something that requires community systems to meet RDCO standards for if/ when the RD takes over the system as often happens. He further suggested that the plan could require that developers turn the treatment systems over to the RD upon startup for a nominal fee as most developers are in the development business not the sewage treatment business.
- Confirmed that a home on an existing lot less than one hectare in size can still proceed with septic, even if it burnt down and had to be replaced. These are already registered lots, whereas the plans relate to new lots.
  
- Is there anything filtering into Scotty Creek?
  - Yes, all the side slopes are part of that watershed. Scotty Creek goes underground at times. GEID also controls the flow of Scotty Creek. Bob noted they are looking at a new water main in the area to increase chlorine contact times.
- Noted that education is important as many unfamiliar with what type of septic system they may have or how to take care of it to extend its lifespan and homeowners investment.

**ACTION**

Jan to bring forth ways to educate as part of public consultation plan.

- Opportunity for committee members to take a tour of a waste water treatment plant if desired.

**4. Administrivia**

- Confirm the use of minutes to record “Action Items” with abbreviated record of discussions
- Confirmed time and place suitable, with a request to try to make the meetings shorter (4 – 5:30 max)

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- Confirmed materials will be sent by email or mail as requested. Anyone requesting a hard copy can simply reply back and we'll send!
- All presentations, minutes, and other documents will be posted to the RDCO web site at [www.regionaldistrict.com](http://www.regionaldistrict.com). Simply go to "Quick Links" at the top of the page and then scroll down and click on "Central Okanagan Area East Liquid Waste Management Plan".
- Please feel free to contact Jan, Tim, or Hilary at anytime for ideas, questions, and support.

**5. Next Steps**

- NOTE: The February 20th meeting date has been changed and a new date has yet to be announced. We'll keep you posted!
- Agenda packages and Draft Discussion document will be sent three weeks before the next meeting

**ACTION**

Committee members to review Draft Discussion document and forward any comments. Specifically, committee members are asked to point out any additional areas of concern not captured in the report. For example, this could include any locally known existing or potential "problem areas" areas or anything that may affect groundwater.

- If you have any questions, comments, or ideas, please feel free to submit directly to: [lwmp@cord.bc.ca](mailto:lwmp@cord.bc.ca).

***Thank you for your time, energy, and interest!***

**6. Meeting adjourned @ 6:30 p.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.***