



Join us for some septic tank talk!



We often don't give much thought to what happens to the wastewater that leaves our homes and businesses. Yet, managing those wastewaters properly is key to protecting human and environmental health and water quality.

Get involved in planning for the future of your wastewater

That's why the Regional District is inviting Central Okanagan East Electoral Area residents to two Septic Tank Social Open Houses. Learn more about how to care for your septic tank, and give your input on the Liquid Waste Management Plan being developed for your area.

Come out and visit your neighbours, enjoy some refreshments, take in the displays and presentations, and give your thoughts on options for managing wastewater for

the future in your area!

For more information visit www.regionaldistrict.com or email lwmp@cord.bc.ca or call 250-469-6327.

About the Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP)

The Septic Tank Social Open Houses are part of the public consultation process required by the Ministry of Environment for the three stages of developing a LWMP. We are currently at the first stage, which consists of working with an advisory committee to create a long list of all possible options for managing wastewater and sharing this list with the community via open houses, a newsletter, and the web site to gain their feedback and any new ideas for investigation.

In the next stage, options will be short listed, costs included and shared with the community for more feedback.

Septic Tank Social Open Houses

Join us for some 'tank talk'!

- Learn more about septic tank care and to pump out your tank and not your pocket book
- Give your input on plans for managing wastewater in your area, now and for the future
- Enter our draw for one of two free septic tank pump-outs compliments of Sun Valley Septic valued at approximately \$250 each!
- Displays by Sun Valley Septic, Saura and Sons (septic system planners and installers), Interior Health, Regional District Waste Reduction Office, and LWMP possible options for wastewater management for your area
- Displays from 5 P.M. to 7 P.M. and presentations at 7 P.M.

June 13
5 P.M. to 8 P.M.
**Ellison Heritage School
Community Hall**

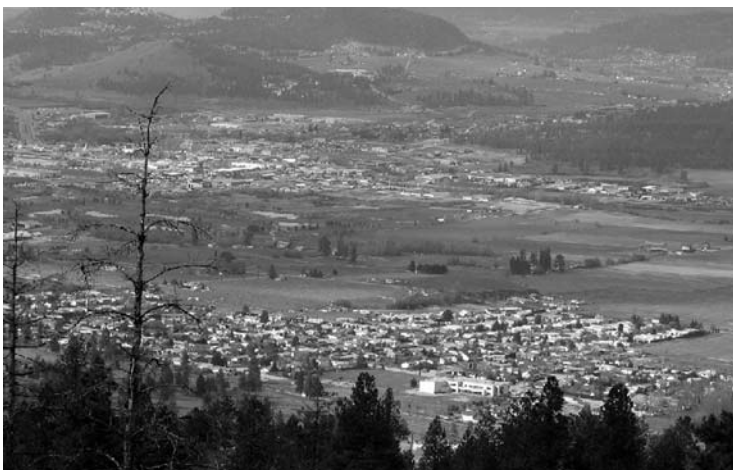
June 14
5 P.M. to 8 P.M.
**Joe Rich
Community Hall**

Community input helps guide the recommendations that will go before the Regional Board and the Ministry of Environment for approvals at each stage. In the final stage, the plan is completed and once approval is received from the Ministry, implementation gets underway. Currently, there are approved LWMPs for all areas in the Regional District, with the exception of Central Okanagan East Electoral Area and some parts of rural Area Westside.

Progress to Date

In January, an advisory committee was formed to help develop the LWMP for the area for the next 20 years. This committee includes members

of the public representing the communities of Central Okanagan East Electoral Area, RDCO staff, Interior Health staff, Ministries of Environment and Agriculture, Agricultural Land Commission, Black Mountain Irrigation District, and Westbank First Nation with support from consultants from Quaran Environmental and Jan Enns Communications. This committee provides ideas and feedback on possible options for managing wastewater and assists with plans for public input. The input from the advisory committee and from the public will be used to help guide future decisions for managing wastewater in the area.



About these Options

These options are only the first of many being considered and additional ideas for further investigation are welcome! Next, the options will be evaluated on the basis of cost, practicality, community acceptability, and the environmental and health impacts. Once the LWMP is approved, some options can proceed, while others may be for the future. Learn more about them at the upcoming Septic Tank Social Open Houses (see page one).

About other important Plans and Policies

The LWMP will work in concert with a number of other plans and policies that guide development in the area such as the Official Community Plan (OCP) for the Ellison area and the Rural Land Use Bylaw (RLUB) for the Joe Rich area. The Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) guides farmland development and the City of Kelowna's current sewer servicing policy requires an area to join the City in order to receive sewer service.

OPTION 1: Ellison Community – Rural

- As is. Homes on septic tank and tile field
- New home construction would use on-site treatment - septic tank and tile field the most likely system

OPTION 2: Sunset Ranch

- As is. Sunset Ranch area continues to have sewer service provided by the City of Kelowna

OPTION 3: Sunset Ranch

- Sunset Ranch area sewer service could be provided by RDCO
- RDCO would construct and operate a sewage treatment plant and effluent disposal system

OPTION 4: Scotty Creek Area

- Petition the City of Kelowna for sewer service similar to Sunset Ranch
- Scotty Creek area would be required to join the City of Kelowna under current City policy

OPTION 5: Scotty Creek Area

- Petition the City of Kelowna for sewer service but request to remain in the RDCO

OPTION 6: Scotty Creek Area

- Scotty Creek area sewer service could be provided by the RDCO
- RDCO would construct and operate its own sewage treatment plant (STP)
- STP could also service the adjacent Sunset Ranch and Country View areas

OPTION 7: Spencer Road – Country View

- Petition the City of Kelowna for sewer service
- Would become part of the City of Kelowna under current City policy (same as adjacent Country Rhodes subdivision)

OPTION 8: Spencer Road – Country View

- Country View area sewer service could be provided by the RDCO
- RDCO would construct and operate its own sewage treatment plant (STP)

OPTION 9: Joe Rich Area

- As is. Homes on septic tank and tile field
- New home construction would use on-site treatment – septic tank and tile field the most likely system

OPTION 10: Joe Rich Area

- Sewer service could be provided by the RDCO for the two small lot residential areas (Falcon Ridge and Greystoke/Dion Road areas)
- RDCO would construct and operate its own sewage treatment plant (STP) or possibly a community septic system if the ground disposal area is suitable

OPTION 11: Southern Tip of Lakeshore Road Area

- As is. Homes on septic tank and tile field
- New home construction would use on-site treatment – septic tank and tile field the most likely system

OPTION 12: Southern Tip of Lakeshore Road Area

- Petition the City of Kelowna for sewer service
- Would become part of the City of Kelowna under current City policy

OPTION 13: McCulloch Area OPTION 14: June Springs Area OPTION 15: Chute Lake & Okanagan Mountain Park Area

- As is. Homes on septic tank and tile field
- New home construction would use on-site treatment – septic tank and tile field the most likely system

OPTION 0: Everywhere in Central Okanagan East Electoral Area

- Status quo. Continue as is
- New home construction would use septic tanks or existing systems if in serviced subdivision

OPTION 16: All Areas

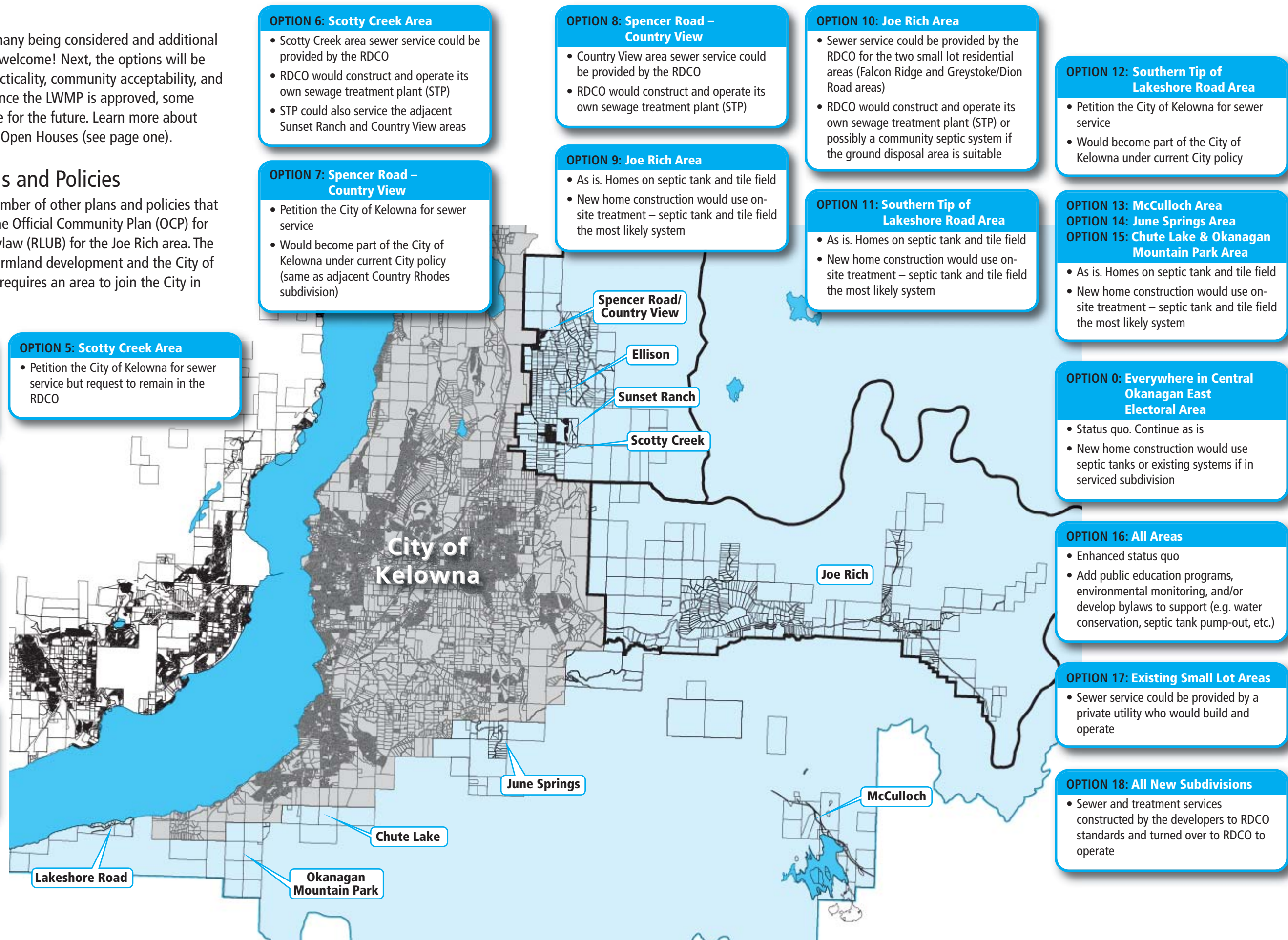
- Enhanced status quo
- Add public education programs, environmental monitoring, and/or develop bylaws to support (e.g. water conservation, septic tank pump-out, etc.)

OPTION 17: Existing Small Lot Areas

- Sewer service could be provided by a private utility who would build and operate

OPTION 18: All New Subdivisions

- Sewer and treatment services constructed by the developers to RDCO standards and turned over to RDCO to operate



Six Simple Steps for the Care of your Septic Tank

Septic systems are the most common form of wastewater treatment in the area. A healthy septic system recycles household wastewater back into the natural environment. On the other hand, a system that's improperly operated or maintained will not only compromise human and environmental health, but a basic system can cost around \$7,500 to \$10,000 to replace. Proper care will protect the environment as well as your financial investment.

- 1 Keep up-to-date records.** In addition to charting exactly where your septic system is located, keep a detailed record of inspections, pump-outs, and repairs. This will not only help you plan for regular maintenance, but will provide any future property owners/renters with the information they need to locate and maintain the system.
- 2 Pump your septic tank regularly.** How often you should pump will depend on the size of the tank, the number of people using the system, the amount of water used, and the volume of solids in the wastewater. In general, it is recommended to pump-out every three to five years. A licensed septic system professional can help you determine optimal pumping frequency. The best time to pump is summer or early fall, which leaves plenty of time before winter for bacteria to start working again.
- 3 Reduce the amount of water going into your tank.** Fix leaky appliances. Install low-flow toilets and water-saving taps and showerheads. Wash clothes throughout the week rather than all on one day. Use dishwashers and washing machines only when full.
- 4 Reduce wastes going into your tank.** Keep out unnecessary wastes like hair, lint, cigarettes, cat litter, kitchen waste, dental floss, and paper towels. Do not install or use a garburettor to grind food waste. Compost instead. (Note: garburettors are banned from use in homes on the RDCO and City of Kelowna sewer systems in order to better protect the system.)
- 5 Avoid using potentially harmful chemicals.** The following can harm the 'good' bacteria in your septic system: prescription and over-the-counter medications; personal hygiene products; disinfectants, bleach, antibacterial cleaners; and anything labeled 'corrosive,' 'explosive,' 'poison,' or 'flammable.' Always use phosphate-free and biodegradable cleaners and laundry soaps.
- 6 Protect your septic field.** Plant grass on your septic field and water sparingly. Do not plant large trees or shrubs, as their roots can clog the system. Keep rainwater runoff away from the septic field. Keep sump pump and foundation drains away from the system as well. Keep heavy vehicles and equipment off the field. Insulate your system against the cold by letting the grass grow longer to hold the snow, or by putting down a layer of loose hay or straw.

What is wastewater?

Also known as sewage or liquid waste, it is the untreated contaminated solids and liquids from homes and businesses. For example, domestic wastewater comes from your sinks, showers, dishwashers, toilets, and washing machines. The contaminants need to be treated in a septic tank and field or a sewage treatment plant before they can be disposed of or reused.

TANK TIPS!

Did you know...

- ✓ The average life span of a septic tank and tile field is about 25 years.
- ✓ The average cost to replace a basic system can start around \$7,500 to \$10,000 or more.
- ✓ You can extend the life of your tank by taking care of it!

Q&A

Why Central Okanagan East Electoral Area?

The area includes a number of distinctive communities with its own unique set of wastewater management challenges and potential solutions that require attention now to protect our future health and environment.

Why now?

The RDCO has developed Liquid Waste Management Plans (LWMPs) for all areas with the exception of Central Okanagan East Electoral Area and some rural parts of Area Westside. Given the growth of the region, it is time to ensure that plans are in place to manage wastewater for the future. A LWMP will allow the area to ensure that human health, the environment and water quality are protected by identifying and implementing the best option or mix of options to collect, treat, reuse or dispose of wastewater. It will help meet water conservation goals and address local areas of concern where old septic tanks combined with higher housing densities may be putting a strain on the environment. It also provides a plan that will help support future development in concert with any other plans, such as the Ellison Official Community Plan and the Joe Rich Rural Land Use Bylaw. Finally, if any new sewers or treatment plants are identified, an approved LWMP will improve the RDCO's chances of obtaining government grants to help fund construction.

Why should I participate?

Your participation is necessary to ensure the plan reflects your wants and needs and will contribute to the long-term social, environmental, and economic health of the region. Finally, your input is important since any recommendations would be funded by the area ratepayers.

How do I find out more?

For more information, visit our website at www.regionaldistrict.com or email lwmp@cord.bc.ca or call the Engineering Department at 250-469-6327.

