



LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 2017

Cumberland has restarted the Liquid Waste Management Plan process. The goal is to come up with a sustainable, “made in Cumberland” solution for long term wastewater treatment.



UPDATE - Summer 2017



What's happening?

2016 saw the completion of Stage 1 – developing the short list of options – and culminated with the submission of a Clean Water and Wastewater Fund (CWWF) application for a \$21M comprehensive mechanical treatment plant. In March of this year, we learned the application was not successful.

With the “all-in-one” funding option denied, the LWMP process resets to Stage 2 – studying the treatment and discharge options that were identified and shortlisted in 2016. An additional study area that will be evaluated in 2017 is a phased approach to upgrades to spread the costs over time, and reduce the initial costs of the project.

The results of the studies will be brought back to the Wastewater Advisory Committee and the public in the fall of 2017.



Project Stages

The BC Ministry of Environment regulates the LWMP process, and there are three stages, all of which must include comprehensive public involvement and consultation.



1 Identify

- ✓ Define the baseline – Where are we now?
- ✓ Set the goals, using the OCP for context – Where do we want to be?
- ✓ Develop the “long list” of options – How do we get there?
- ✓ Screen the options to the “short list”
- ✓ Identify any knowledge gaps and further studies needed to fill them

2 Evaluate

- ★ **Detailed evaluation of the short list**
- Carry out required studies, how do they impact the options?
- Select preferred option

3 Adopt

- Detailed study of preferred option
- Identify steps for implementation
- Develop financing plan
- Decision to adopt and implement
- Approval by Minister of Environment

★ *Where we are now*



THE VILLAGE OF
CUMBERLAND

250.336.2291
lwmp@cumberland.ca
cumberland.ca

2673 Dunsmuir Avenue
Box 340, Cumberland, BC
V0R 1S0

An Updated Approach for 2017



What is the phased approach?

Cumberland needs to make near term improvements to treatment quality, and longer term increases in treatment quantity (population capacity). The phased approach looks at doing the quality improvements first, to meet the current and pending regulatory requirements. Future phases would include increasing capacity to handle population growth, and possibly further treatment improvements for reclaimed water purposes.

Why not just do it all at once?

Quite simply – the cost. Doing it all requires substantial outside funding, and while all efforts will continue to be made to secure grant funding, a smaller first phase will result in a project that Cumberland can afford today.

What specific studies are being done in 2017?

The list includes:

- Treatment options – lagoon based, and base flow mechanical. Full (winter) flow mechanical has already been studied.
- Discharge options – summer storage by wetlands or reservoir, with winter discharge.
- Resource recovery options – reclaimed water, heat recovery, biosolids processing and re-use, and water conservation updates.
- Servicing options for the Comox Lake area that is on septic fields.
- Updates to the stormwater separation program.
- Study of phosphorus behavior in Maple Lake Creek.
- Options for treatment to remove pharmaceuticals and trace organics.

When will we see the results?

In the fall. There will a meeting of the Wastewater Advisory Committee on September 7 to provide a progress update on the studies, and an evaluation of all the options on November 2. This will be followed by an update newsletter, as well as a public Open House on November 23. A final Committee meeting to make recommendations to Council will take place on November 30.

Committee meetings are open to the public, and attendance is welcomed. Agendas, minutes and updates will be posted on the Cumberland website. It's your village, have your say!

FAQ



Q: Does the work that was done for the funding application still have value?

A: Most of it. The “full flow” mechanical treatment option was thoroughly studied, and the preliminary site layout and servicing planning is relevant to future works. The financial model of long term operating costs and tax burdens will be applied to the new options that are developed.

Q: Is there anything new in the technical options?

A: A new discharge option of summer time irrigation of the marsh and wetland areas adjacent to the lagoons is being considered. This option would see the treated and disinfected water being applied by a subsurface method (like infiltration beds or subsurface drip irrigation), and the water would move towards Maple Lake Creek.

Q: What about the Reed Bed that was discussed in 2016?

A: The concept of re-purposing part of the large lagoon into a planted reed bed with charcoal media, was developed as part of the funding application in 2016. The reed bed will “polish” the effluent, remove some of the pharmaceuticals and trace organics, and the charcoal is carbon sequestration. This concept is now a preferred addition to all the treatment options that are being studied. It is a good example of the value created out of developing the funding application.

Wastewater Advisory Committee Representatives



Public Members

Ken Barth
Matt Ishoy
Mike Tymchuk

Dennis Cassin
Vig Schulman
Anya MacLeod

Village, First Nations and Technical members

Sean Sullivan, Council Representative
Jesse Ketter, Alternate Council Representative
Chief Nicole Rempel, K'omoks First Nation
Sundance Topham, Chief Administrative Officer
Rob Crisfield, Manager of Operations
Paul Nash, LWMP Project Coordinator
TetraTech Co, Technical Consultants
Dave Cherry, Vancouver Island Health Authority

Other government agencies that are involved, but will not be sitting on the Committee include;

- BC Ministry of Environment
- BC Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
- Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans



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