

Lions Gate Secondary Wastewater Treatment Plant

**Community Resource Forum Meeting Summary:
May 23, 2012**

July 25, 2012

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LIONS GATE COMMUNITY RESOURCE FORUM MEETING SUMMARY

1. Introduction

Metro Vancouver is building a secondary wastewater treatment plant on the North Shore to help ensure liquid waste is managed safely, affordably and effectively. As part of its commitment to work with the community, Metro Vancouver held a Community Resource Forum meeting from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Eagles Club Banquet Hall, 170 West 3rd Street, North Vancouver on May 23, 2012.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- introduce the Lions Gate Secondary Wastewater Treatment Plant Project (the Project) and the engagement and consultation process
- identify and discuss community, business and environmental key interests
- seek key input to be considered in the process.

2. Opening remarks and review of objectives

Following a welcome to participants from the meeting facilitator John Forsdick of Context Research Ltd., Marie Griggs, Public Involvement Division Manager, Engineering & Construction Department, reviewed the objective to build a working relationship with the community and ensure the project meets the needs of local residents and the region. She expressed the intent to collaborate and receive input from participants.

3. Project Overview

Fred Nenninger, Project Manager, Wastewater Secondary Treatment Upgrades, provided an overview of the Project, which covered:

- The four key objectives of the Project:
 - secondary wastewater treatment
 - sustainability, for example the protection of Burrard Inlet, energy efficiency, and greenhouse gas emission targets
 - integrated resource recovery, such as reclaimed water use by industry and nutrient recovery
 - community integration.
- An overview of the three phases of the Project:
 - Project definition phase: 2012-2013
 - Design and construction phase: 2014-2019
 - Decommissioning existing plant: 2020-2021
- An overview of the planned Integrated Design Process (IDP) for the project definition phase which includes the scope of the Project for the procurement method for design and construction.

The process involves engagement of an IDP facilitator, architectural and community integration team, engineering consultant team, business consultants, construction experts, and an expert advisory panel with experience in wastewater technology and in design/procurement options.

4. Engagement and Consultation Process

Ms. Griggs provided an overview of the engagement and consultation process for the Project:

- Public Consultation
 - Lions Gate Public Advisory Committee (LGPAC), with 11 members including the Norgate Park Community Association, local and regional environmental interests, business interests and non-affiliated citizens
 - Community Resource Forum (the Forum), which includes individuals recognized for community service, academic contributions, and involvement in environmental issues
 - public meetings.
- Governmental/First Nations Engagement
 - local councils, staff from North Shore municipalities, Metro Vancouver advisory committees, Utilities Committee and Board of Directors
 - provincial and federal government agencies
 - engagement with First Nations including invitations to representatives from the Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation to sit on the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee.
- Process:
 - LGPAC members will be announced and published on the Metro Vancouver website in the near future with the first meeting to be held on June 26th and approximately every two months thereafter
 - correspondence and comments are encouraged and can be submitted throughout the consultation process
 - participants in the Forum are encouraged to assist in conveying information back to the community and have recommended others who may be interested in participation in the Forum.

5. Summary of Discussion

The following key issues and recommendations resulted from a facilitated discussion with Forum participants:

Integrated Design Process (IDP)

- Integrate learning from the Drinking Water Plan process including getting more input from the public earlier in the process
- Develop a strong process for gathering, managing and sharing information during the IDP, and clearly communicate it to the Forum and other stakeholders
- Develop and communicate a clear process for managing divergent opinions and trade-offs to allow closure and broad agreement rather than consensus
- Use the early stage of the Project to build trust
- Identify innovative approaches/technologies for wastewater treatment from around the world to inform the process
- Identify the unique aspects of the North Shore location (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats)
- Provide opportunities for Forum participants to discuss technology options being considered by consultants/Metro Vancouver including consideration of criteria, end results, indicators of success and best practices
- Provide opportunities to discuss the potential community benefits of the Project
- Ensure the focus is not only on technology, but on technology as it used to impact desired outcomes.

- Consider how to mitigate risks of climate change including rising sea levels which could impact wastewater
- Consider how to mitigate risks of seismic events
- Provide opportunities for the Forum to provide input and participate in public meetings
- Provide the schedule for IDP decision points.

Integrated Resource Recovery (IRR)

- Consider the importance of ecological design and community resources such as carbon reduction/reuse, moving away from the old Roman design to a completely new model of treatment plant
- Consider IRR as a subtitle to the Project
- Focus on waste as a resource, rather than just a liability
- Consider the North Shore's unique advantages in terms of resource recovery, including opportunities to utilize the heat generated as the plant will be in a populated area
- Consider having a longer session with the Forum on IRR
- Make resource recovery a primary part of the Project
- Consider research and the recovery of phosphorous from sewage systems as there is a shortage of nutrient supplies globally
- Consider the relationship between financing the Project and recovering resources
- Consider the possibility of integrating solid waste management
- Provide information on current and emerging technologies
- Provide rough numbers in terms of anticipated capital costs or revenue generation that could offset amortized capital costs.

Costs

- In response to a question about incremental costs of using an Integrated Design Process (IDP), Mr. Nenninger advised that using IDP will not cost more than traditional design approaches
- In response to a question on potential annual tax costs/revenue associated with IRR from the Project, Mr. Nenninger indicated an interest in private sector venture capital investment and the idea of integrated resource recovery to offset long term operating costs
- In response to a question about costs associated with the building of the Metro Vancouver Academy at Annacis Wastewater Treatment Plant, Mr. Nenninger advised that Metro Vancouver had received some grants from the province and federal government to build the research facility
- In response to a question about the responsibility for the maintenance costs of sewage pipes, Mr. Nenninger advised that Metro Vancouver is responsible for the 500 kilometres of sewers in the trunk sewer system and the treatment plants, while municipalities own and maintain the local sewage pipes that feed the trunk sewers
- In response to a question about the need for required upgrades and practices of the local sewage pipes, Mr. Nenninger noted that the 2010 Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan includes numerous required actions for municipalities associated with their systems
- Provide more details regarding lifecycle costing estimates, including design, construction operations and maintenance costs

- Explain the 15 year amortization period for the capital cost of the Project
- Provide more information on government funding sources (federal, provincial and municipal government) and implications of not receiving this funding
- Provide more information on P3 (public, private partnerships) procurement models and related political constraints.

Community Interests and Communications

- Ensure the Project does not cause odours, noise or air pollution and provide mitigation opportunities
- Consider the example of the Cypress Creek Village as a successful community project with community input, which included ongoing dialogue between consultants, politicians, municipal staff and the community
- Ensure that resiliency, the ability to adapt to changing circumstances, is part of the design considerations
- Clearly explain the rationale for the Project
- Bring the Project down to the personal level and help the community to understand the Project in terms of benefits as well as costs
- Re-think our approach to sewage from waste to resource recovery
- Explain the Project in terms of cost of living, health and intangible benefits
- Make the plant part of the community by building connections to local school districts on the North Shore and creating educational opportunities at the new facility
- Talk about the Project in non-technical terms, for example what it does rather than what it is, such as producing cleaner water and nutrients rather than secondary wastewater treatment plant
- Provide people with clear options, alternative and examples of what's possible
- Engage North Shore stewardship programs
- Ensure the Project that has been presented to the community is what is built
- Communicate public meetings to the public through multiple channels including the Internet
- Public meetings should not exceed two hours.

Topics for Future Meetings

- IRR opportunities, including the pros and cons of different approaches to IRR
- Technologies and innovations in treating liquid waste
- Cost of secondary treatment, and the opportunities for revenue generation
- Project objectives, outcomes and indicators
- Brainstorming options across objectives
- Discussion of the outcomes we need to achieve
- Risk management with emphasis on climate change.

6. Decisions and Next Steps

- The Forum agreed they would be interested in participating in one or more half-day workshops with pre-reading
- Following a discussion amongst the participants, it was agreed to change the name of the Forum from “Community Leaders’ Forum” to “Community Resource Forum”
- Ms. Griggs confirmed that before posting to the Metro Vancouver website, a meeting summary would be drafted, circulated, and sent electronically to meeting participants with copies of the presentations
- Comments or questions to be directed to Robin Mills at LGSWWTP@metrovancover.org.
- The next meeting of the Community Resource Forum is scheduled for the fall of 2012.

CONCLUSION

The Lions Gate Community Resource Forum Meeting on the “Lions Gate Secondary Wastewater Treatment Plant” held May 23, 2012, at the Eagles Club, 170 West 3rd Street, North Vancouver, British Columbia, concluded at 8:15 p.m.