

Hi All.

Both Irene and I on March 11<sup>th</sup> audited the CRD Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee meeting and a Public Forum in Esquimalt that evening where the Fidelis resource consultants presented their Integrated Resource Management (IRM) System paper. The IRM system is one driving force and a consideration of the CRD waste water management system.

Here are the fundamental things I gleaned from both these meetings:

- 1) Victoria is unique in having to start from zero treatment of waste water all the way to having a system to meet Federal requirements and Provincially mandated standards. The system must be planned to meet future requirements for increased population, the effects of global warming and have the flexibility to incorporate new technologies as well as be able to accommodate various IRM's (like Dockside Green and larger) as they come on stream with new development.
- 2) The transfer from old Waste Water system to the new technologies is difficult and expensive from even the best starting off points. With Victoria starting from ground zero the challenges and expense make the difficulties even greater.
- 3) One has to look at the total costs involved in the changeover. The Peer Review Panel did not think the present costing document reflected the true total cost. When pressed the Panel said costs would be significantly more than even 10% more than current estimates. Because the panel was meeting with CRD consultants in the afternoon in camera where they hoped to get a clearer picture of what was included in the cost estimate they were not prepared to be more finite at this time in the meeting.
- 4) It would not be practical to do all the building for the entire system upfront as the cost load on taxpayers would be unsustainable. We should therefore be looking at a phased in multi -year project. This was also stated for other reasons as well as follow:
  - 5) a. Each area has its own characteristics which in turn determine how many and where standalone IRMs could be placed (eg you don't place one away from users of recovered energy or heat). Also, it is good practice at the start to build a trial or pilot IRM to see if the expected recovery projections actually are effective in either/or reduction of greenhouse gasses or make a profit from a monetary standpoint.
  - 6) b. To get maximum resource benefits is dependent on a variety of things already in place all of which is added cost and few of which exist in Victoria. This again adds to the bottom line total cost and the degree to which resource recovery is viable.
- 7) One member of the Peer Panel remarked that water recovery was a main driver in San Francisco for their system and to quote "because there aint no water" but that it is not a problem to date here now. With global warming however it likely will be and regardless if we have water now, water conservation should be practiced. Here for us in this exercise water recovery benefit was only to demonstrate the present requirement needed to meet federal and provincial standards but future needs should never be ignored.

8) The panel cautioned that land dispersal of the sludge end product was possible but that it was not a simple matter of building berms but rather ensuring that any site was managed throughout its lifetime in regard to leakage, etc. This is because ground water could easily be contaminated by Endocrine Disrupter Chemicals.

9) The panel indicated that the question of Green House Gas being reduced required a lot of in depth analysis if a true bottom line was to be found. The implication was more work needs to be done here.

10) My summation of the above is that the Peer Panel (this being their first of many meetings with the CRD Core Area Waste Water Committee and consultants) is well qualified from both the scientific, practical and operational view point. They have world wide recognition as experts in their fields and to me have done exactly what I would have expected. I think they have provided a major jolt to all and got things moving particularly in regard to both more indepth study and public consultation (see later comment).

11) What they are saying at this time is you must start with your core (the collection systems that exist and that here major costs will be involved in both upgrading and maintaining this backbone of the system: keep in mind increasing population forecasts (they change over time, be aware that technology is always advancing so make considered choices, be aware of global warming and include that in evaluations, make sure what you choose is effective re resource recovery and GHG reduction; from the start the overall drive is to make your system as flexible as possible to accommodate the future. NOTE - COLLECTION SYSTEMS ARE THE LARGEST COST ITEM in the equation.

**Committee Agenda Item 6. Project Progress Report. Same as Feb 25<sup>th</sup> but this time the committee got to hear it.**

**Committee Agenda item 7. Report on Program Management Consulting services:** The present consultant's contract is for this planning stage only. The contract ends in June. The new upcoming contract is for the consultant chosen to provide assistance in development, coordination and implementation of the project. This also includes site selection by the way. The committee want an expression of interest for this next phase to be sent out sooner than later.

**Agenda Item 8. Public Education and Consultation Update.** This together with the Peer Review Panel's remarks put consultation on the front HOT burner. The committee members all realized they had missed the boat in this respect. You will see action in the near future. The date March 28<sup>th</sup> was mentioned when the train should start rolling. I found it very interesting that our March 10<sup>th</sup> letter although not mentioned was in part quoted (well while not referenced the words used matched exactly what we had written) by several committee members including those who 3 meetings ago had poopooed Judy's plea from the chair that public consultation was urgently required. In fact CRD's I.T. team already have a complete "all you want to know" on line . Just Google crd.bc.ca and click on Capital Regional District on the first screen. The second screen has a panel on the top left I think entitled "what you want to know" or something like that. Scroll down to Sewerage and click and them Voila you have all you want to know about things to date.