



## **Governance and Priorities Committee Report**

### **For the Meeting of December 18, 2014**

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**To:** Governance and Priorities Committee **Date:** December 11, 2014  
**From:** John Sturdy, Assistant Director Engineering, Engineering and Public Works  
Katie Hamilton, Director, Citizen Engagement and Strategic Planning  
**Subject:** Exploring Local Wastewater Treatment Options – Update Report

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### **Executive Summary**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Council on the work to explore local wastewater treatment options. The resolution previously passed by Council for the work plan contained a number of steps including:

- Review options for governance under existing legislation.
- Explore the feasibility of a Victoria only system and a system cooperating with Saanich and Oak Bay. Consider systems comprising of one central treatment plant and multiple distributed treatment plants.
- Initiate discussions with Esquimalt regarding treatment of sewage from Victoria West, which currently is treated in Esquimalt at McCauley Point.
- Develop a public engagement strategy.

The City has engaged Urban Systems and Kerr Wood Leidal to provide technical expertise and additional capacity, along with Young Anderson for legal expertise related to governance. Staff have continued to engage with staff from Oak Bay and Saanich as the work has proceeded.

The City of Victoria is committed to sewage treatment and the project team is currently gathering technical information and preparing for the engaging the public in dialogue about this issue. Staff are working to make the topic of sewage treatment more accessible for the public to learn more about sewage treatment in general and where the City of Victoria is in the process. Information is being prepared about:

- how the existing wastewater system works, and the benefits of sewage treatment,
- wastewater treatment processes, levels of wastewater treatment and various treatment technologies,
- the difference and considerations associated with centralized and distributed treatment systems,
- resource recovery,
- existing wastewater treatment plants in other communities.

The other aspect of the work currently underway is a review of governance options. The review will identify all the existing legislation, regulations, letters patent, bylaws and other documents at the federal, provincial and regional level that guide and influence regional conveyance,

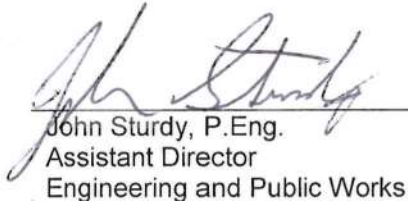
treatment and discharge of wastewater. Based on these documents, an outline of the existing governance structure will be prepared. Options for governance will be developed under scenarios where the City provides wastewater treatment either independent of CRD or while remaining under the CRD in some form. Each of these scenarios will be considered with either the City operating independently or with the City operating in partnership with neighbouring municipalities.

Staff will review the proposed engagement strategy with Council in January, before commencing public engagement. The engagement process will initially build public awareness to then gauge public values and desires as it relates to sewage treatment.


### **Recommendation**

That Council receive this report for information.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John Sturdy, P.Eng.  
Assistant Director  
Engineering and Public Works

  
Katie Hamilton  
Director  
Citizen Engagement and  
Strategic Planning

  
Dwayne Kalynchuk, P.Eng.  
Director  
Engineering and Public Works

**Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:**

  
Jason Johnson

**Date:** December 12, 2014