

Municipality of North Cowichan Quamichan Lake Water Quality Task Force MINUTES

June 26, 2017, 6:00 p.m.
Municipal Hall - Council Chambers

Members Present Mayor Jon Lefebure, Chair
 Ken Ashley
 James Cosh
 Dave Groves
 Tom Rutherford

Members Absent Tim Kulchyski
 Jennifer Woike

Staff Present Mary Beth MacKenzie, Acting Deputy Director of Corporate Services
 David Conway, Director of Engineering and Operations

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

There being a quorum present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

(For purposes of convenience, some items of business were dealt with out of order, but for ease of reading and cross reference with the agenda, these minutes are recorded in agenda order).

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded:

That the Committee approve the agenda as amended to add 5.1 Introduction of Crayfish for Remediation.

CARRIED

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded:

That the Committee adopt the minutes of the meeting held June 13, 2017.

CARRIED

4. **BUSINESS**

4.1 **Task Force Report**

The Committee reviewed and discussed the Final Report on Quamichan Lake Water Quality compiled by James Cosh. Members emphasized the importance of continuing to conduct routine monitoring to better understand what is causing increased nutrients in

Quamichan Lake, and that that efforts to remediate water quality without addressing these causes would be senseless. Members also cautioned about the measures to be used noting that the biodiversity of the lake can be compromised by introducing species as part of remediation measures.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Committee approved the Quamichan Lake Water Quality Task Force draft report, subject to the following changes prior to the presentation to Committee of the Whole on July 19, 2017:

1. the addition of an executive summary at the beginning of the report,
2. adding "crayfish" and "food web" as possible remediation measures under Section 8 - "Actions Chosen for Further Investigation," and
3. other minor amendments as noted by the Committee.

CARRIED

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Introduction of Crayfish for Remediation

The Committee heard a presentation from Zel Djuric, Asturia Aquaculture Inc., who claimed successful introduction of crayfish to Somenos and Kingzett (the former Bamberton quarry) lakes. Both lakes suffered from similar issues to those at Quamichan Lake, and he believed this remediation measure may help. He discussed ongoing testing and advised that crayfish are placed in floating pens and eat the algae. He noted that the temperature of Quamichan Lake is suitable for the introduction of crayfish, and along with aeration to increase oxygen, could provide optimal results. He also discussed crayfish as a commercial industry in the Cowichan Valley, noting that the project may be self-financing.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 8:22 p.m.

Signed by Chair or Member Presiding

Certified by Recording Secretary