

Municipality of North Cowichan Quamichan Lake Water Quality Task Force MINUTES

March 16, 2017, 6:00 p.m.
Municipal Hall - Council Chambers

Members Present Mayor Jon Lefebure, Chair
 James Cosh
 Dave Groves
 Tim Kulchyski
 Tom Rutherford
 Jen Woike

Members Absent Ken Ashley

Staff Present David Conway, Director of Engineering and Operations
 Mary Beth MacKenzie, Recording Secretary

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

There being a quorum present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded:

That the Committee approve the agenda as amended to add 5.1 Limiting Nutrients Entering Quamichan Lake.

CARRIED

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded:

That the Committee adopt the minutes of the meetings held January 19, 2017 and February 9, 2017.

CARRIED

4. **BUSINESS**

4.1 **Nutrient Removal**

The Committee reviewed a spreadsheet prepared by James Cosh providing a comprehensive list of mechanical and biological treatment actions to improve Quamichan Lake water quality discussed by the Committee to date. It was noted that improvements to the outflow should also be considered as an option to improve the flushing of nutrients from the lake, and that any actions taken should be low risk, cost-

effective and assessable. After discussing the pros and cons of the various treatment actions, the Committee agreed to further investigate a) skimming algae bloom; b) digester bacteria (concentrated bacteriological cultures); c) barley straw; d) zeolite; e) cold water; and f) improved outflow.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Director of Engineering and Operations prepare a report reviewing options to improve the mouth of Quamichan creek, including an application under Section 11 of the *Water Sustainability Act*, if necessary.

CARRIED

4.2 Monitoring Program

The Committee discussed the preparation of a monitoring program for presentation to Council, noting the need for a sampling design. James Cosh, Dave Groves and Tom Rutherford agreed to discuss this matter with Deb Epps of the Ministry of Environment and Stacy Sowa of Island Health.

4.3 Posted Signs

Responding to a question by the Committee, the Director of Engineering and Operations advised that the Municipality posts signs when there are elevated toxicity levels in Quamichan Lake, and has a responsibility to remove the signs when the conditions cease to exist. He also noted that a protocol used by the Capital Regional District may be of interest, and offered to send it to Committee members following the meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Limiting Nutrients Entering Quamichan Lake

The Committee agreed to discuss at a future meeting, options to limit nutrients entering Quamichan Lake including the use of barley straw at lake inlets. Pilot projects of barley straw application to streams and zeolite applications either to streams or ponds on private property were suggested. Members of the public in attendance at the meeting offered the use of their properties to conduct the pilot project as well as volunteering to help with the work.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 8:23 p.m.

Signed by Chair or Member Presiding

Certified by Recording Secretary