



**CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
JULY AND AUGUST 2014 REPORT**

**TO:** Darla Blake, CAO  
**CC:** Board Chair Reginald Moody and Board Members  
**DATE:** September 4, 2014  
**FROM:** Ken McIlwain, R.P.F. Public Works Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Public Works Monthly Report

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**THAT the Board of Directors accepts the Public Works Report.**

**THAT the Board of Directors approve Fire Chief Fred Sorensen to enter into negotiations and execute the purchase of a replacement fire truck for the Bella Coola Volunteer Fire Department, subject to budgetary constraints.**

**PUBLIC WORKS FUNCTIONS AND SERVICES  
JULY AND AUGUST 2014 HIGHLIGHTS**

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT**

1. Tenders for the operation of Thorsen Creek Waste and Recycling Centre were evaluated mid-July, and a contract was awarded to Don Nygaard and Son Ltd. for the amount of \$7450.00 per month beginning August 1, 2014 and extending until December 31, 2015, with the option to renew for three additional one year terms. Beau Mecham of Diesel Cowboy Transport was thanked for his service over the last several years.
2. Since the start of August, the new contractor has been busy cleaning up the landfill site and removing brush as per Ministry of Environment Report.
3. New signage has been installed at the landfill to make the public aware of prohibited items and to declare tipping fees. The CCRD is now collecting all the tipping fees for non-

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CCRD ITEM (i)

household waste and we have installed a point of sale machine to help give customers different payment options.

4. We are requiring fridge and freezer doors to be removed now prior to disposal. Freezers and fridges were being dropped off with food contents in them and bears were attracted to these items. This poses a safety risk for bears and humans.
5. The public has been informed that deposit bottles collected at the Thorsen Creek Recycling Depot will be donated to a different non-profit cause every 2 months. Interested parties were invited to notify the CCRD of their interest. Interest to date has been limited.
6. The first full truckload of recyclables was sent out of the Valley on July 25<sup>th</sup>, and as of Sept 4<sup>th</sup> we have not received payment. We have been in contact with MMBC and Green By Nature to resolve this.
7. The Recycling Depot continues to grow in popularity. Volumes of cardboard jumped dramatically during the fire ban.
8. The upgrades to the Free Store have generated many positive comments.
9. Significant Expenditures: Monty Mitchell was retained to undertake an Archaeological Overview Assessment at a cost of \$1242.27.

## RECREATION FACILITIES

1. **Walker Island & Snootli Parks:** Renovation of the softball infield is complete. Mid-Valley Loading Ltd. completed the field prep work and the installation of the new material under hourly contract.

Installation of the new well and standpipe was completed by Bella Coola Backhoe and is helping with sprinkling of the infield. This work was completed under hourly contract.

Topsoil and seeding of lawn areas was completed by Mitch Lorimer under hourly contract

Caroline Granander continues to supervise this repair work on a volunteer basis.

2. **Centennial Pool:** The pool has had a very successful summer and continues to operate into September under restricted hours.

Some minor upgrades have been undertaken in the pump house to improve the furnace operation.

3. **Nusatsum Park:** Mitch Lorimer was hired under hourly contract to remove sod from around the playground area, spread and level sand around the playground equipment and install a new bear proof garbage bin.
4. Significant Expenditures: Mid Valley Loading undertook all phases of the ball field renovation at a cost of \$6827.50 before taxes. Bella Coola Valley Backhoe completed the new well installation at a cost of \$2357.25 before taxes.

### **BELLA COOLA TOWNSITE WATER SYSTEM AND FIRE PROTECTION**

1. One request for a new hook-up was received and the CCRD water system contractor is in the process of coordinating this work.
2. Fire Chief Fred Sorensen has identified a used fire truck for sale that would be well suited to replace the existing truck which needs to be retired from service. It is recommended that the Board of Directors endorse the purchase of a replacement fire truck and issue approval for Fred Sorensen to negotiate for the purchase of this truck subject to budgetary constraints.

### **BELLA COOLA AIRPORT**

See Transportation Report.

## **STRATEGIC PUBLIC WORKS INITIATIVES**

### **DENNY ISLAND / SHEARWATER WATER SYSTEM**

Earlier in the year, John Motherwell, P.Eng was engaged by the CCRD to undertake a Engineering Design Brief to identify costs for the development of a water system to service the Shearwater area. Mr. Motherwell has spent the first week of September in Shearwater completing field work related to identifying specific requirements of a potential water system. The CCRD Public Works Manager joined Mr. Motherwell on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> to review the existing Shearwater Marina and Resort water system to help establish its potential viability as a source of water for a new water system.

### **TOWNSITE WASTE WATER**

A letter was received from Environmental Health Officer Phil Muirhead expressing concern over the current sewer disposal methods on the Bella Coola Townsite; specifically "a couple of large commercial operations in the Townsite which are currently having a challenge with the issue of onsite sewage disposal." Mr. Muirhead recognizes the challenge of gaining public support for a costly waste water system but recommends that" the CCRD explore the opportunity to have

some form of a community sewer system for the Townsite". The full letter is attached to this report for your consideration.

The Nuxalk Nation has been providing regular updates on their waste water system project and will be moving into full design phase this fall.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken McIlwain, RPF  
Public Works Manager



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August 29, 2014

RECEIVED

Ken McIlwain  
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AUG 29 2014

Central Coast Regional District

**RE: Sewer System for Bella Coola Townsite**

Ken, the intent of this letter is to reference our telephone discussion a couple of weeks ago and restate Vancouver Coastal Health's (VCH's) position on the issue of sewerage in the Bella Coola Townsite.

The Nuxalk Nation is in the planning stages for a community sewer system to service the Bella Coola Village portion of their lands. The Central Coast Regional District (CCRD) have been invited by the Nuxalk to have the Townsite portion of the Bella Coola area serviced by the sewer system but the preliminary infrastructure costs to install the sewer pipes around the Townsite are higher than the CCRD is prepared to invest at this time. The annual operating costs for maintenance of the system and use of the Nuxalk's treatment and disposal facilities have not been calculated. The Capital Project Manager for the Nuxalk has expressed a commitment to allocate funds to have the Bella Coola General Hospital property serviced by the community system.

When VCH began servicing the Bella Coola region back in 2002 one of the first areas of concern our office expressed to the CCRD CAO at the time and other since was the issue of onsite wastewater for the community. It only took a walk around the community to see that many commercial facilities have very little or no land to properly support on site wastewater treatment. Since then there have been a number of septic related situations which support our concerns as well as a change to the regulations governing onsite sewerage which impact property owners.

We are aware of a couple of large commercial operations in the Townsite which are currently having a challenge with the issue of onsite sewage disposal. One facility is disposing of their wastewater into a disposal system on a neighbouring property, by an agreement that could end at any time, due to a lack of any space on their own property. Another large scale facility is disposing its wastewater into an area inadequate in size and inappropriate in location and when their system fails, which may already be occurring, the ability to get a replacement field in place will be both extremely challenging and costly. There has also over the years been sewage related complaints in the low lying South West portion of the Townsite related to both commercial and private properties.

As you mentioned Ken one of the biggest challenges in dealing with the sewage concerns within the Townsite is obtaining public support from the approximate 100 property owners into the reported \$2.8 million dollar infrastructure project. One type of sewer system that might work well for the Townsite area is something called an Effluent Sewer System. Effluent sewer systems are a hybrid system between an onsite septic system and a full community sewer system. Normally on a large scale installation, like the whole community, the maintenance of all of the individual septic tanks on

each property over-shadows the benefits of this type of system but the circumstances of the Townsite might make an effluent sewer system a feasible option.

Earlier this year at the BC Water and Wastewater Associations Annual Conference there was a presentation on effluent sewer systems. Below is a website from the presenter which gives more details about these hybrid type of sewer system but please note that we are not recommending, endorsing or even suggesting the use of this company or the system they discuss. The purpose of providing this link is solely to help explain the details of effluent sewer systems:

[http://www.orengo.com/systems/wastewater\\_collection.cfm](http://www.orengo.com/systems/wastewater_collection.cfm)

In closing, VCH strongly recommends that the CCRD explore the opportunity to have some form of a community sewer system for the Townsite even if the system only serves the areas in the Townsite that have the greatest potential for having a serious issue with sewage disposal. With the Nuxalk Nation in the process of developing a sewer treatment collection system and treatment plant for their lands and the willingness to have the Townsite served as well, this is the perfect opportunity for the CCRD to invest in the economic stability and physical health of the people in the Bella Coola Townsite.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact the undersigned by phone at 604-983-6756 or email at [phil.muirhead@vch.ca](mailto:phil.muirhead@vch.ca).

Sincerely,



Phil Muirhead, CPHI(C)  
Environmental Health Officer  
Central Community Health Centre  
Vancouver Coastal Health

cc: Darla Blake; COA, CCRD Bella Coola  
Archie Pootlass; Capital Projects Manager, Nuxalk Nation  
Paul Martiquet; Medical Health Officer, VCH-Gibsons  
Steve Chong; Environmental Health Manager, VCH-North Vancouver