

NEWS RELEASE

Distributed July 16, 2014

Council receives update on work of the Colliery Dam Technical Committee

Summary

At its regular meeting held July 14, Council received an update detailing the work carried out by the Colliery Dam Technical Committee. The Technical Committee was established by Council on October 21, 2013 with a mandate to review existing data, direct the collection of additional data, develop options for remediating the existing Lower and Middle Colliery Dams that will be minimally invasive and cost effective while satisfying the requirements of the Province's Dam Safety Section and develop plans for short-term physical alterations to the dams in 2014 to provide necessary time to carry out a long-term strategy (if required). The Technical Committee had two preliminary meetings in 2013 and met 12 times in 2014. Membership on the Committee was comprised of representatives from the Colliery Dam Park Preservation Society, Snuneymuxw First Nation and the City of Nanaimo. In addition, Golder and Associates were hired as the Committee's lead engineer and Katherine Gordon as the Committee's facilitator.

Strategic Link: Taking Responsibility to be an excellent municipal government; Asset Management

Key Points

- Council has directed staff to release the Colliery Dams Technical Committee Minutes to the public.
- Council has directed staff to schedule a public information meeting on the Colliery Dams, to be held in the coming weeks - date to be announced. (Note: Council declined the proposed date of July 22 in favour of more time for scheduling and review).
- Council has directed staff to return to Council with a report outlining next steps and funding options at a future meeting, likely to be held in September.

Quotes

"Council has received a thorough update on the recent work undertaken by the Colliery Dam Technical Committee, including study results and new information that was not previously available. Time will now be taken to review the information provided before we proceed to a decision later this year. As the public's review of the information remains critical to the process, all currently available information produced by the Technical Committee has been released on the City's website."

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