

NEWS RELEASE

Distributed November 5, 2014

Council provided update on Colliery Dams options

Summary

During its Committee of the Whole Meeting held November 3, Council directed staff to review the Colliery Dams flooding analysis and alternate swale/drainage course options, which will include: review of water distribution in an overtopping situation, review of paths of existing spillway, and review the concept of an alternate swale/drainage course to Harewood Creek.

The work to be undertaken will allow for additional review of the overtopping flow rate and the capacity of the existing spillway, which will form the basis of remediation options that are being considered for the Lower Colliery Dam.

Previously, Council has reviewed remediation options for the dams that include deepening the existing spillway or armouring the embankment downstream of the dam to prevent erosion during an overtopping situation.

Following a recent site visit with community representatives, Golder engineers and City staff, a third option of creating an alternative spillway from the Lower Colliery Dam reservoir to the Harewood Creek (approximately 60-80 metres long) was reviewed.

Strategic Link: Taking responsibility to be an excellent municipal government.

Key Points

- Council has approved additional review of the Colliery Dams remediation options, which included analysis of water distribution and capacity of existing spillway.
- Also, Council approved consideration of an alternate swale/drainage course to Harewood Creek.

Quotes

"Review of an alternate spillway/drainage course will allow Council to consider a remediation option that permits the existing dam and spillway to remain in place, providing this option meets regulatory and permitting approvals."

John Ruttan
Mayor
City of Nanaimo

Quick Facts

- The option for an alternative spillway was previously reviewed in March 2014, but was rejected as too invasive, as it would lead to a clearing of approximately two acres of the park.
- A revised alternative spillway option would be much narrower and deeper than previously proposed, and, if constructed, would be lined with concrete mats and vegetated to prevent erosion flowing into the Harewood Creek.

Continued... Council provided update on Colliery Dams options

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