

CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES
COLLIERY DAMS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, 2014-MAR-12 AT 2:30 P.M.
TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL, 455 WALLACE STREET

PRESENT:

Colliery Dam Park Preservation Society:

Jeff Solomon
Geraldine Collins
Leon Cake

City of Nanaimo:

Toby Seward, Director, Social & Protective Services
Holly Pirozzini, Recording Secretary

John McCormick, Facilitator

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m.

2. Survey

Colliery Dam Park Preservation Society (CDPPS) questioned why the survey information for the Colliery Dams has not been supplied from the consultants Golder Associates (GA). It's practical information/factual data of what is there and is not something that should be controversial.

The facilitator explained that GA has stated that all of the data is in draft form (raw field data) and due to internal quality procedures, they are not allowed to issue draft documents such as this. They have been busy completing the field work, testing and analyses and assembling presentations for the Technical Committee, rather than preparing reports. GA will complete a single report which encompasses all work at the end of the process. Will ask GA if the survey results will be included in the final report.

It was suggested that the Committee could provide questions for the facilitator to ask GA for a response regarding the physical dimensions of the dam, such as the actual dimensions of the dam, physical contours, topography, depth of the bedrock and scale of the dam.

City offered to contact GA and pursue survey information for CDPPS.

3. Reclassification of the Dams

CDPPS stated that reclassification of the dams should be pursued because it may be important for the residents in the inundation area respecting their house insurance premiums, in future. The extreme classification may have an effect on property values. Want to ensure that due diligence has been done.

The Technical Committee recommend to the City that reclassification of the dams be pursued.

Question: What is the process to pursue reclassification of the dams?

City responded that a consultant will need to be hired to do the necessary testing to determine if the classification can be changed.

Question: Can the latest data be used?

City responded no, one of the key elements for determining the classification is the fatalities in the inundation area; therefore, a new inundation study on record will be required. The latest information and current hydrology study results will need to be combined. GA has stated that reclassification is only done under the deterministic model and not risk analysis, so a separate study is required.

Question: What's the timing on being able to do a reclassification study?

Answer is unknown.

CDPPS suggested that a recommendation be brought to Council to pursue reclassification of the dams to achieve some comfort in the Harewood community.

City stated that a higher level of comfort will be achieved in the Harewood community due to the remediation work. The consequence rating will not be significantly changed in doing a design for dams with a lower classification, but it would have increased costs significantly if the consultants had focused on the remediation as well as dam reclassification at the same time.

Question: What is the approach / steps to request a reclassification of the dams? City responded that a recommendation could be provided from the Technical Committee to the Executive Committee to request that a review of the consequence rating be undertaken. The classification may change after improvements to the dam are completed.

Agreed: Ask GA about timing and how to pursue reclassification of the dams at the next Technical Committee meeting.

Question: If the dams have a lower classification, will there be less annual inspections?

City responded yes, which would be a cost benefit.

4. Risk Workshop

The City advised that GA has stated that they will try to schedule the Risk Workshop during the first week of April.

5. Public Communication

City stated that public communication should include a public information report, as well as an information report to Council. The next regular Council meeting will be held on March 24, but the Information Report will be distributed to Council and available to the public on March 20.

CDPPS expressed concern that the public and Council should receive an update from the Technical Committee by the end of the week, instead of waiting for the March 24 Council meeting. Suggested providing a positive message to the public, such as the process is continuing and the engineers are working on viable options for remediation of the dams (without including the costs). Also requested a more refined report from GA earlier than April 10, if possible.

Discussion occurred respecting providing an update to the public and there was agreement in waiting until the next regular Council meeting to release the Executive Committee report to the public and to Council at the same time.

Agreed: The Council Report for March 24 will be informative and comprehensive and will include information from the Executive Committee Report.

Agreed: City will provide the draft Council Report to the Technical Committee by Friday, March 14 for feedback by Monday, March 17.

The Executive Committee (Chris Good – SFN, Ted Swabey – City) has received the Technical Committee's report and after their review. They will provide it to both City and SFN Councils.

Question: What is the purpose of the Technical Committee meeting on April 10?
Discussion concluded that while GA will not be providing an update until the end of April. GA could be invited to participate by phone-in for an update on progress and when a report will be ready, which will determine the date for the next mtg.

The goal is to have a meeting the week of April 24 with GA providing an update which will then be taken to the City and SFN Councils.

CDPPS requested that information be received from GA prior to the day of the meeting. City will advise GA of this request.

6. The meeting concluded at 3:30 p.m.