



DISCUSSION SYNOPSIS
Public Meeting #1
June 1st, 2010
Vernon Council Chambers

The City of Vernon hosted its first public meeting for the Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) Update in Council Chambers Tuesday, June 1st, 2010.

The final exercise of the meeting was to engage participants in discussion about potential values and principles that could guide the development of the LWMP. Participants were seated at five tables, each of which included representatives from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the Local Advisory Committee (LAC), the project team, the City of Vernon, and the general public (see sidebar). Each table had a scribe and/or facilitator. Participants' names and comments were recorded on a customized worksheet that asked specific values-related questions. Comments were documented by Alliance Communications, and are presented in this synopsis.

As explained on the worksheet, there are three non-negotiable bottom lines associated with the LWMP Update.

Environment: The plan's primary purpose is to protect the environment, and all options must at least meet the minimum levels required by legislation.

Social: The plan should benefit the community.

Economic: The plan must be financially sustainable in the long term.

Within each of these areas we can develop guiding principles and identify priorities to guide the evaluation process. To that end, the following questions helped stimulate discussion about guiding principles and priorities.

1. **How can we best minimize green house gas emissions and our carbon footprint within the framework of the LWMP Update? Options? Priorities?**
2. **How can we best maximize effluent re-use? Options? Priorities?**
3. **How important are wastewater management costs relative to other factors (e.g., environmental and social issues)?**

GROUP 1:

*Bill Morrison, LAC
Buffy Baumbrough, City of Vernon
Greg Thompson, City of Vernon
Jason Kelder, LAC
Shaun Mitchell, Resident
Vic Jensen, Ministry of Environment*

GROUP 2:

*Andrew Marr, City of Vernon
Bill Poremsky, LAC
Dan Huang, Urban Systems Ltd.
Dianne Winter, Resident
Huguette Allen, LAC
Mike Carlson, TAC
Clark Brewer, Resident*

GROUP 3:

*Alanna Dean, TAC
Chris Van der Molen, LAC
Harold Sellers, LAC
Randy Schellenberg, Resident
Shirley Koenig, City of Vernon*

GROUP 4:

*Casey Neathway, TAC
Garry Haas, LAC
Jennifer Miles, LAC
Les Townsend, LAC
Mike Georgetti, Resident
Peter Gigliotti, Urban Systems Ltd.*

GROUP 5:

*Ehren Lee, Urban Systems Ltd.
Glen Bouey, Resident
Jaime Dickinson, LAC
Jim Bodkin, LAC
Mark Dowhaniuk, City of Vernon
Nicole Kohnert, TAC*

Facilitator: Joanne de Vries

Question #1: How can we best minimize green house gas emissions and our carbon footprint within the framework of the LWMP Update? Options? Priorities?

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce energy requirements 2. Capture energy already in system 3. Reduce demand (flow to plant) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce flow to plant ▪ Use biosolids energy ▪ Find global solutions 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce water volumes to transport wastes to treatment plant 2. Return highly treated water to Lake Okanagan 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Burn methane to produce electricity 2. Reduce water consumption 3. Choose system with low power consumption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase pump efficiencies 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use alternative power (wind, solar) 2. Manage grey-water innovatively 3. Use wetlands where possible (Swan Lake) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lower elevation for distribution ▪ Control sources ▪ Explore the use of digester gasses 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capture and use methane 2. Reduce trucking 3. Optimize mechanical equipment (pump efficiency) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Explore heat exchangers ▪ Minimize number of pump stations ▪ Explore the use of solar and wind power ▪ Look at district energy systems

Question #2: How can we best maximize effluent re-use? Options? Priorities?

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand land use base (recreational, municipal, agricultural) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recycle greywater 2. Extend land base (Coldstream Valley) 3. Extend uses to industrial applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use to recharge local water bodies 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brainstorm multiple options and measure using triple bottom line <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reuse greywater ▪ Look at using other treatments (constructed wetlands, living machines) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maximize effluent uses (street cleaning, gravel washing, dust control) 2. Identify industrial operations that could use greywater 3. Use McKay Reservoir for snowmaking to control level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve public perception of greywater use ▪ Supplement low stream flows to enhance fish habitat 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify consistent annual needs and users 2. Use effluent for fire suppression and interface protection barriers 3. Create and recharge wetlands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use effluent for watering green roofs on commercial buildings

Question #3: How important are wastewater management costs relative to other factors (e.g., environmental and social issues)?

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine integrated life cycle costs ▪ Consider impacts (social, environmental, economic) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Understand that the most expensive option may not be the best ▪ Consider that each LWMP scenario is but one solution 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Environment is #1 ▪ More expensive to fix problems, therefore plan and design to prevent future problems 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake full-cost accounting (cost of dealing with drought should be included in assessing benefits of wastewater reuse) 2. Determine cut-off point for cost to do the "right thing" (is reclaiming all water for other uses worth the infrastructure costs of purple pipes?) 3. Understand that the willingness to pay more to "do the right thing" increases with education on benefits (triple bottom line benefits) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake research to better understand the true value of water and wastewater 2. Analyze the balance between social and environmental needs vs. the costs of dumping into the lake