



TOWN OF SIDNEY

REPORT TO COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council

FROM: Mike van der Linden, Manager of Engineering and Environmental Services

DATE: December 17, 2018 **FILE:** 5240-20

SUBJECT: REAY CREEK POND & DAM: DECEMBER UPDATE

PURPOSE:

To provide Council with an update on the latest developments on the Reay Creek Pond and Dam remediation projects.

BACKGROUND:

Transport Canada has accepted responsibility for the cleanup of contaminated sediments in Reay Creek Pond and is conducting testing to determine the extent of the contamination and studying options for this remediation project, which is expected to occur in 2019.

Meanwhile the Town is considering options for addressing safety issues with the Reay Creek Dam. It is expected that the dam safety issues will not be completed at the same time as the pond remediation. Earlier this year, Sidney hired consultants to conduct the following studies:

- Preliminary Geotechnical Options Assessment (Thurber Engineering Ltd.)
- Fish Habitat Assessment (LGL Limited).

DISCUSSION:

Both of the above studies have been completed and the findings are summarized below:

Geotechnical Report

- Estimated cost to remove existing dam is \$143,000
- Estimated cost to remove existing dam and replace with new dam is \$520,000
- Further work (estimated fees \$25,000) is required to determine if the dam can be upgraded instead of replaced
- Costs to maintain a new dam will be significant and ongoing

Fish Habitat Report

- Pond represents important rearing habitat for Cutthroat Trout and Coho Salmon juveniles
- Adult Cutthroat Trout and Coho Salmon are also using the pond for holding on their upstream spawning migration
- A fish ladder should be added to the dam so that the dam is passable during various stream water level conditions
- If the dam and pond are removed, 225m of channel improvements (pool-riffle sequences and large woody debris placements) could be constructed to provide spawning and rearing habitat
- Removal of the dam could potentially lower the creek water level and create a fish passage barrier to fish migrating up stream

Next Steps:

Engage Thurber Consultants to complete bore hole drilling of the dam to determine dam core and subsurface geotechnical conditions. This will answer the question if any of the dam is salvageable for renovation work to meet the provincial Dam Safety Regulations. Renovation of the existing dam is believed to be more economical than a complete rebuild of the dam.

The following table outlines the process that staff recommend for arriving at a decision on the Reay Creek Dam:

Step	Description	Completion Date
1	Make public the Engineering Study by Thurber	January 2019
2	Make public the Fishery Study by LGL	January 2019
3	Engage Thurber Consultants to commence borehole analysis of the dam	February 2019
4	Community Engagement Process – This should be significant and an approach report will follow.	March/April 2019
5	Staff Report to Council with recommendation on the dam	June 2019
6	Dam removal/renovation/reconstruction	Summer 2020

As part of any work by Transport Canada to remediate the pond, consultation with First Nations is required. It is assumed that this will also be completed in 2019, and that Council will then be able to consider options and budget amounts in 2020.

Staff believe that it may be more practical from a project management/construction perspective to allow Transport Canada to remediate the pond prior to the start of any dam removal/renovation/reconstruction work by the Town.

RECOMMENDATION:

That staff report back to Council regarding a proposed strategy for engaging the community and receiving feedback on the dam options.

Respectfully submitted:

Mike van der Linden,
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Environmental Services

Randy Humble,
Chief Administrative Officer