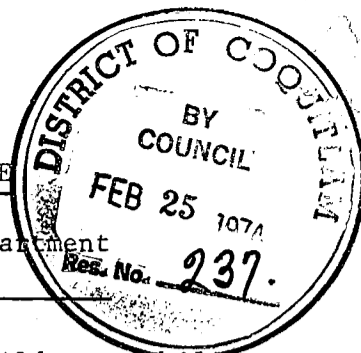


INTERMUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMM.

INTERMUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Report on Meeting with Water Resources Department
In Victoria - Wednesday, January 30, 1974



The City of Port Coquitlam authorized former Alderman Phil Meyers to attend this meeting as their representative along with Alderman Len Bewley from the District of Coquitlam. Mr. Howard Paish accompanied the two municipal representatives at his own expense.

Your committee met with Mr. Ben Marr, Associate Deputy Minister of Water Resources, and Mr. Norman Pearson, executive assistant to Mr. Williams, Minister of Water Resources. The meeting took place in Mr. Marr's office at 2:00 p.m.

Your committee in its presentation, gave the following materials and information to the Department of Water Resources.

- (a) copies of the Paish Report
- (b) copies of the District of Coquitlam Soil Removal By-Law
- (c) copies of the Recommendations of the Coquitlam River Valley Committee
- (d) maps and other technical information supplied by Howard Paish and Associates
- (e) a brief history of the intermunicipal environment committee, its efforts, frustrations and achievements
- (f) a formal request for a management authority for the Coquitlam River.

The presentation was graciously received, however both Mr. Marr and Mr. Pearson felt that it is desirable to achieve our objectives through existing machinery if at all possible. They felt that if our objectives cannot be achieved through present machinery then the Water Resources Department would consider the establishment of a Management Authority. The objectives we are striving for are:

- (1) Flood control on the Coquitlam River
- (2) Management of the water in the Coquitlam River
- (3) Control of discharges into the Coquitlam River
- (4) Co-ordination of activities of all agencies concerned with the Coquitlam River
- (5) Establishment of Recreational use as a high priority in the Coquitlam River Valley.

Mr. Marr and Mr. Pearson stated that regulation and zoning on the Coquitlam River are being well handled by the two Municipal Councils concerned. As to water quality, they made 3 observations:

- (i) Advances have been made by the District of Coquitlam in its Soil Removal Bylaw. In fact, it was stated that this bylaw is being used as a model in other parts of the province.
- (ii) There is an absence of any positive action by the Pollution Control Branch.
- (iii) Where the province has jurisdiction they should be prepared to exercise it.

We presented a strong case for flow control in the Coquitlam River. The department officials recognized that this is an area needing immediate attention, but pointed out that the Water Resources Branch is presently concluding a study relating to flow control on the Coquitlam River (an updated Pollard Report). Mr. Pearson also pointed out the desirability of flood plain zoning throughout the river valley. Mr. Pearson also stressed the sanctity of water licenses (absolute documents). He did concede, however, that they were documents created by the provincial government and could be changed by legislation.

In the end, Mr. Pearson promised to reply to our presentation by writing each municipality responding to each point raised in our brief. He urged, in the interim, that each Council study the updated Pollard report as soon as it is received. We have assurance from Mr. Marr that he will meet with us on any technical aspects.

In conclusion, we have begun negotiations to achieve the objectives of flow control and river management, etc. The Coquitlam River Management Authority is one way of achieving these objectives, but was rejected in favour of utilizing existing means if at all possible. We have been promised a letter from the Department of Water Resources that will summarize our discussions to date and point the way to future actions. We feel that the meeting (which incidentally lasted from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.) was well worthwhile and has paved the way for continuing negotiation which should lead ultimately to the achievement of our objectives for the Coquitlam River.

Yours respectfully,

Phil Meyer - City of Port Coquitlam

Ald. L. A. Bewley - District of Coquitlam