

Regional District of Fraser Fort George

Subject: West Lake Sewage system

The Board approved a rate increase of 18.88 % effective February 2025 and further increases of 7% per year to the year 2029. By year 2029 we would be paying nearly 56% more than we are currently paying. We find this unacceptable. A meeting was held at the Community hall on Feb 19th with Director Lara Beckett and a staff member Gina. The reason for the increases were explained but it was pretty much a one sided discussion, citing the board approval in January. We feel the board approval was with little consideration on the impact to local residents.

Within the document presented to the residents on Feb 19th was a list of reserves deemed necessary for future maintenance and contingencies. The current reserves amount to \$227,808 (in 3 categories). The West Lake system is fairly new and was designed for 29 properties. There are currently only 19 connections and potential for another 4 (cabins not currently connected) It seems very unlikely there would be any significant maintenance or replacement requirements for a long time in the future

We think and we ask that the board consider cost savings for this system. Currently staff from RDEFG travel out and do inspections, take samples and do spray irrigation. By having local people do some or all of this work, considerable cost savings can be realized. Many of the residents are familiar with the system having watched the construction and ongoing maintenance. By having local residents do some or all of this work either by volunteer or by contract, considerable savings can be realized. Most businesses contract out seasonal work rather than staff up to accomplish this.

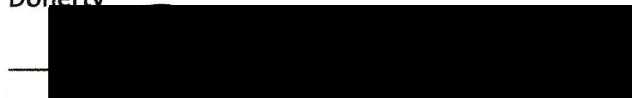
Another area of concern is the unfair system of user fees. Most of the residents are on grinder pumps but there are several that were told they have to use the 2 compartment concrete tanks and pump only liquids to the lagoons. They were not given any choice in this matter. These folks then have to pay extra to have a pumper truck come out every 3 – 5 years to pump their septic tanks. Those on grinder pumps don't have this additional cost yet pay the same user fee.

There was also an indication that the parcel tax may extend beyond 2033. The parcel tax was to build the system, beyond that it is a maintenance item. It seems the easiest solution is to raise rates rather than look for savings. We respectfully ask that you reconsider the decision and look for cost savings as outlined earlier

Signed West Lake residents on the Community sewage system



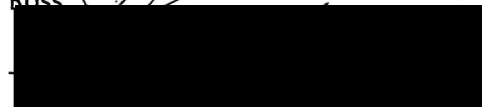
Doherty



Grayson



Ross



Matthe

[REDACTED]
Monroe

AWAY BUT CONFIRMED SUPPORT VIA TEXT MESSAGE

Paulson [REDACTED]

Thompson [REDACTED]

NOT AVAILABLE BUT SUPPORTED VERBALLY

Hotell [REDACTED]

Harrison [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Metcalf [REDACTED]

Aspinall [REDACTED]

Haessel [REDACTED]

Kwitkoski [REDACTED]

Seel [REDACTED]

Komlos [REDACTED]

Abison [REDACTED]

Friend

NOT AVAILABLE

Fortier