

RECREATIONAL OFF-LEASH ORGANIZATION (ROLO)

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To: Mayor Don Atchison Fax: 975-3144

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RE: New Proposed Water Intake Facility

Thank you to Council for hearing our concerns regarding Chief Whitecap Park. Our members have been grateful for Council's support of our participation in the CWP master plan process. The process seems to have been put "on pause" because of the proposed new water intake facility.

As city residents, we all support the need for safe drinking water. We expect due diligence regarding the safety of the Saskatoon water supply. Through personal conversation with Mark Keller, City Utilities Department, I learned the planning of the new water intake facility has been ongoing since 2003 and that work towards satisfying federal requirements has taken a lot of time of city administrators on behalf of city residents.

It is surprising to find that there has been no water quality testing data collected in the past three planning years at that specific site. As a biochemist who has worked in the water quality field previously, I find this to lack due diligence. How can the City be months away from tender on this project with no scientific data through a calendar year to predict the level of treatment required to make water from this site safe? One would expect that there would be at least three years of data pertaining to fecal and total coliform counts, pesticide and fertilizer levels, heavy metal concentrations and a measure of organic material in the water at that site. Moreover, how does the City plan to distinguish the contribution of potential contaminants from CWP compared to countless exposures to wild and domestic animals also upstream?

The City's "Process For Developing Master Plan Chief Whitecap Park" document lists "water intake and use of the park as a dog run" as an example of incompatible uses of CWP. This example demonstrates an obvious bias on the part of whoever drew up the process document, and seems to pre-judge the outcome of the master plan process before the water quality study has even been completed. Is it the position of the city that the water intake facility will displace the presence of dogs at CWP because they are incompatible?

The fact that a disagreement among stakeholders of a park upstream of a potential water intake site would bring on such an investigation is shortsighted. Does Council truly plan to make decisions on only a few weeks of data?

We look forward to your replies to these questions.
Respectfully,

Lina Hack, Chair of ROLO

Bill Wallace, Kim Stratemeyer, Michele Antonichuk, Tatyana Onishenko, Nancy Keith, Mary Marino, Michael Tyrrell, Pat Thomas, Paul Panchuk, David Fox.