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Waterfront task force facilitator will help examine options for 3.5-acre site

A company that has worked on two other Vancouver Island waterfront development projects will work with Campbell River's Waterfront Task Force starting in April.

Council has endorsed Cohlmeier Architecture as the facilitator for the task force charged with establishing community-endorsed principles for best uses on the 3.5-acre waterfront site at the corner of Highway 19A and Roberts Reach.

The company has worked throughout Canada and internationally. On Vancouver Island, Cohlmeier Architecture has completed a waterfront project in Port McNeill, the Cowichan Visitor Centre and is involved in a waterfront development currently underway in Comox.

"The Cohlmeier Architecture team brings a wide range of expertise – architecture, community planning and engineering, plus economics and real estate marketing – to help the waterfront task force develop suitable strategies for the future development of this site. Their diverse mix of professional disciplines aligns with the task force's work to engage the community in a comprehensive examination of options," says Mayor Andy Adams. *"Council will continue to collaborate with our First Nations partners, local businesses and associations to ensure that any potential development of the property aligns with the City's plans as identified by the community through the task force."*

"Cohlmeier's role as a professional consultant will be to support, guide and take direction from the Waterfront Task Force in the community engagement process," says Ron Neufeld, deputy City manager and general manager of operations. *"In April, Cohlmeier and the task force will discuss the scope of work assigned, next steps for confirming community appetite and market support for development, and how to put potential future uses into the context of anticipated sea level rise. After that, the community engagement process will begin."*

The community engagement process will build on previous efforts to gather public feedback on proposed uses for the property that complement downtown revitalization.

Dale Bradley, Kenneth Cooper, Dennis Fitzgerald, Gerrit Keizer, Kris Mailman, Bill Matthews, Amanda Raleigh and John Sorenson are members of the Waterfront Task Force.

As part of the community engagement process, the task force will recommend to Council:

- a transparent screening process and regulatory tools for evaluating uses and potential development proposals
- potential public amenities on and adjacent to the site
- a public investment/incentive strategy for potential future development of the site
- a strategy for moving forward with a clear vision for the 3.5 acre site

Council approved a total budget of \$125,000 for this project, of which \$100,000 is available for consulting services.

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