

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
REGIONAL SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2014
BOARD CHAMBERS**

Present:

George Holme	Chair, RDN Director	Michael Recalma	Qualicum First Nation
Frank Van Eynde	Member at Large	Al Cameron	Town of Qualicum Beach
Jeremy Jones	Business Representative	Fred Spears	District of Lantzville
Wally Wells	Business Representative	Charlotte Davis	City of Nanaimo
Jan Hastings	Non Profit Representative		
Jim McTaggart-Cowan	Member at Large		
Kevin Arnold	Waste Management Industry		
John Finnie	Member at Large		
Craig Evans	Member at Large		
Ellen Ross	Member at Large		
Brian Dietrich	Member at Large		
Gerald Johnson	Member at Large		
Michele Green	Member at Large		
Amanda Ticknor	Member at Large		
Rod Mayo	Institutional Waste Generator		

Also in Attendance:

Larry Gardner	Manager of Solid Waste, RDN
Sharon Horsburgh	Senior Zero Waste Coordinator, RDN
Jeff Ainge	Zero Waste Program Coordinator, RDN
Paul Thorkelsson	CAO, RDN
Maureen Young	RDN Director, Area C
Ted Greaves	City of Nanaimo
Geoff Goodall	City of Nanaimo
Jim Kipp	City of Nanaimo

Regrets:

Chief & Council	Nanoose First Nation
Chief & Council	Snuneymuxw First Nation
Al Metcalf	City of Parksville
Karen Muttersbach	Environment Canada
Glenn Gibson	Island Health
Ed Walsh	Waste Management Industry
Al Leuschen	Ministry of Environment

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

INTRODUCTIONS

Larry Gardner welcomed the new members and round table introductions were done by individual committee members.

RSWAC TERMS OF REFERENCE & MEETING STRUCTURE

Sharon Horsburgh gave a presentation which gave an overview of the purpose, background and roles and responsibilities of the committee.

Frank Van Eynde asked if the general public could contact/call the committee? S. Horsburgh replied that the public is welcome to contact us whether by phone, email or attending meetings. This is all part of our consultation plan so the more feedback the better.

Gerry Johnson questioned the procedure that has to be followed to receive delegations? S. Horsburgh explained that individuals or groups can contact herself or Corporate Services and arrangements to appear as a delegation at future RSWAC meetings.

Craig Evans enquired on the role of the Select Committee? S. Horsburgh explained that there is the Terms of Reference for the Select Committee. Any work done by the Advisory Committee, whether it is a plan or policy statement, would be reviewed by the select committee. The Select Committee provides feedback to the RSWAC that may require further analysis or review prior to recommendations going forward to the board.

Larry Gardner commented the Select Committee is a sub-set of the Regional Board. The Select Committee provides an opportunity for the board to keep tabs on what we (the RSWAC) are doing and make sure we are on track. The purpose of the RSWAC is to inform the board and so that they may make informed decisions.

Gerry Johnson asked if the Select Committee was required by Ministry of Environment (MOE) or was it additional to the RSWAC?

Larry Gardner explained that the Select Committee is in addition to the MOE requirements for public consultation. The RSWAC is a blended committee as it is a public and technical committee. Sign off of the new plan will be done by political level, the Regional Board; the Select Committee is a sub-set of the Board

Charlotte Davies asked about a slide in the presentation and if the 80% is realistic and what is the background on that figure?

Sharon Horsburgh explained that when the RDN conducted its 2012 waste composition study we looked at existing regulations, participation in the residential and commercial food waste program as well as upcoming EPR programs, these areas provide opportunities for teasing out additional volumes of recyclables from the waste stream and could boost our region wide diversion rate. Based on the data from the waste composition that identifies what is still going into the landfill and future potential programs 80% is a realistic future target.

Jan Hastings questioned if we increase public accessibility and opportunities to have input to the RSWAC, is the Select Committee a vetoing board or a clarifying role?

Larry Gardner explained that the process works when you get a diverse group together that put forward a concerted effort and present good balanced information to our political leaders', good decisions result from it.

Paul Thorkelsson commented on role of Select Committee vs role of Advisory Committee. The Select Committee is a typical model that's used at the RDN for almost all service areas. Any of the public planning processes that the RDN undertakes, eventually there is a political reality about adoption of bylaws that go along with it. That job rests with the elected officials and that will be the role of the Select Committee to make sure that what the committee brings forward has the best chance of final adoption.

Larry Gardner held a brief discussion on future proposed times for the meeting. There was a variety of different suggestions. i.e. keep proposed time, earlier before dinner hour, Sunday meetings.

RDN SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Larry Gardner gave an overview of Solid Waste in the RDN. The presentation included the economics of waste, tipping fees, illegal dumping, solid waste plan and alternatives to RDN disposal including stewardship programs.

Jim McTaggart-Cowan questioned the difference between self-haul vs. curb-side and enquired with self-haul what portion is garbage vs. yard waste? Has staff done any analysis of the number of trips and the amount of trips from the self-haul? Larry Gardner commented that the yard waste is not covered in the numbers shown in the presentation and no analysis has been done of the self-haul trips.

Gerry Johnson asked if we can you translates the tax requisition into dollars per ton? Larry Gardner will get back to him on that.

Jan Hastings questioned if it is true that the zero waste initiative was funded from a shrinking budget? Larry Gardner confirmed that it was and he will review the topic in the upcoming presentation.

Paul Thorkelsson commented that the Solid Waste budget is a fixed cost budget and declining is the tipping fee revenue which has implications going forward.

The question was raised if staff can perform a benefit cost analysis and Larry Gardner replied that the RDN has skilled staff that could do an analysis but if it's something more specific or detailed we can go outside RDN.

Craig Evans questioned the need to adjust the timetable as there are only 10-11 weeks left in the year? Larry Gardner commented that he would like to start off with an aggressive schedule and if we need to defer. Wally Wells questioned to what degree waste is actually waste, a lot of wood products that were considered waste years ago is actually recyclable? Larry Gardner commented that tracking the transition from waste to commodity is always a challenge. The province is requiring that regional districts use per capita disposal as a performance measure.

Charlotte Davies asked if the RDN could do a survey on the self-haul and how closely is it policed when a customer shows up at the landfill? Larry Gardner commented that there is an opportunity to do a study and put some thought to it. As far as how well it is policed the CRTS and RL staff are diligent about tracking what is going in and giving advice as to where customers can take other materials and encouraging beneficial use of materials brought to the site. Jim McTaggart-Cowan questioned if we have a good handle on the curbside vs residential multi-family homes that aren't in the curbside program? Charlotte Davies commented that the City of Nanaimo doesn't have the figures to show which buildings are providing which services to their residents but we do know that 21% residents live in multi-family dwellings. Jan Hastings mentioned that MMBC program has failed multi-family and they don't have a suitable program to work with. Sharon Horsburgh stated that in 2011, the RDN conducted a field study of all multi-family the buildings and stratified properties to identify the level of service provided by private sector haulers to multi-family residences. This information is contained in a data base and provides baseline information. The Stage 1 Report and the 2012 waste composition study quantify the volume of waste collected from the Multi-family buildings. Kevin Arnold replied that there is strong interest by multi-family residents for organics collection but there is an extra costs associated with that. Ellen Ross commented that the education and demographics need to be considered i.e. elderly vs younger generation.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW PROCESS

Sharon Horsburgh gave a presentation on the review process and engaged the committee members on their input and noting that with this process we can restructure the way we look at waste, how it's generated and also managed. The Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) is a tool that will help create a sustainable and integrated waste management system that fits the needs of our community. The committee broke into groups for a table top discussion and asked to identify issues and opportunities around the following topics:

1. Residual Management

- I. Don't generate garbage in the first place*
 - Education to the people and commercial sector
 - Bans for certain products
 - Don't sell plastic bags
 - Energy from waste such as Thermal energy, pyrolysis

- II. Breaking bags*
 - Recovery before landfill
 - Multi Material recovery facility

- III. Define "Zero"*
 - ZWIA Definition? RCBC Definition?
 - Stop residuals at the source
 - Penalties and bans before landfill

- Extend producer responsibility
- Standardize facilities such as ICC

2. RDN “Zero Waste” Plan

I. *Organics Diversion Strategy*

- Green Bin

II. *Issues and Opportunities*

- C+D strategy Wood Waste ban: Conflicting strategies for wood waste → Permits ahead issues with recycling wood.
- Lack of education and programs → RDN’s Deconstruction policy
- Multi residential organization- Diversion → Develop building codes with all of this
- Incentives → Provide some help such as subsidized compostable bags
- Waste collectors and resident issues → Get them together as well as strata meetings to problem solve.

3. Multi Family Residents

I. *Multi Residential – All aspects of recycle should be available*

- Commercial
- Hotels
- Restaurants
- Office buildings
- Health facilities
- Care homes

II. *Deconstruction*

- Policy and reuse → Policy Permit
- Educational training

III. *Disposal – US - Elimination*

4. - Regulation & Enforcement

I. *Illegal dumping*

- Ship waste out of RDN – Bylaw 280
- 2 sides to the issue
 - More bang for our buck if flow control exists
 - Slippery slope trying to control what resources can leave the RDN
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- Organics Restaurants – should be investigated
- Multi family recyclables and food waste
- Investigate and recommend solutions
- “Zero Waste Hero or Garbage Bum?”

- Carrot or stick approach
- Enforcement

5. Public Education& Outreach

I. Issues

- Confusion: What's in/What's not and where
- Non-Participants: don't care
- How do we reach people who don't care
- Lack of public understanding of the solid waste process, costs and impacts
- Pressures of a Throw away consumer society

II. Opportunities

- Education / in form
- Education of kids via school programs
- KISS
- Peer pressure
- Competitions/contests

6. Direct Responsibility Partnerships

- Partner with recyclers to manage "hard to recycle" materials
- Promote re-use facilities
- Partner for education programs CBSM (community based social marketing)
- Help entrepreneurs – for example provide research and support Cost Benefit Analysis for business plans to recycle hard to recycle materials or products that have no local market for glass, household recyclables, gypsum, tires
- Costs of:
 - Disposal
 - Recycling
 - Education
 - Not acting
- Partner with media to promote purchase of re-use, re-purposed, upcycled stuff
- Consumerism/capitalism don't really co-exist with "Reduce"

The committee reconvened and each group gave a review of the outcomes of the topics.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

CHAIRPERSON