

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO  
REGIONAL SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2015  
BOARD CHAMBERS**

**Present:**

Alec McPherson	Chair, RDN Director
Jim Kipp	Deputy Chair, RDN Director
Frank Van Eynde	Member at Large
Derek Haarsma	Business Representative
Jan Hastings	Non Profit Representative
Jim McTaggart-Cowan	Member at Large
Craig Evans	Member at Large
John Finnie	Member at Large
Gerald Johnson	Member at Large
Michele Green	Member at Large
Amanda Ticknor	Member at Large
Larissa Coser	Community Representative
Stewart Young Jr.	Business Representative

**Also in Attendance:**

Maureen Young	RDN Director
Larry Gardner	Manager of Solid Waste, RDN
Rebecca Graves	Recording Secretary, RDN
Sharon Horsburgh	Senior Solid Waste Planner, RDN
Meghan Larson	Special Projects Coordinator, RDN
Dennis Trudeau	GM, Transportation & Solid Waste Services, RDN

**Regrets:**

Chief & Council	Nanoose First Nation
Chief & Council	Snuneymuxw First Nation
Glenn Gibson	Island Heath
Al Leuschen	Ministry of Environment
Karen Muttersbach	Environment Canada
Michael Recalma	Qualicum First Nation
Fred Spears	District of Lantzville
Michael Tripp	Business Representative
Wally Wells	Business Representative
John Marsh	Town of Qualicum Beach
Ed Walsh	Waste Management Industry
Ellen Ross	Member at Large
Charlotte Davis	City of Nanaimo
Jeff Ainge	Zero Waste Coordinator

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM and respectfully acknowledged the Coast Salish Nations on whose traditional territory the meeting took place.

## DELEGATES

### **Darlene Arksey, Administrative Assistant, Woodgrove Centre**

D. Arksey gave a verbal presentation on Woodgrove Centre's Corporate Sustainability Policy and their recycling program. In the spring, a company comes to the Centre and performs a waste audit. Woodgrove facilities staff provides education to their retail tenants however, their biggest challenge is trying to get customers, retailers and staff on board with recycling. Retailers are concentrating on selling not sorting recyclables and the majority of stores lack the space for storing recyclables for collection. The Centre has 30 – 95 gallon totes for organics which are changed out twice a week or more if needed. The loading bays have 6 blue bins for recycling and organic bins are available in the back hallways in the food court for tenants to dispose of their organics. Garbage is gathered from retailers and is sorted through, pictures are taken and then the retailers are approached to review what could have been recycled.

J. McTaggart-Cowan asked if she is aware of the recycling efforts in other malls.

D. Arksey responded she is unsure of the level of recycling at Nanaimo North and Country Club Mall.

C. Evans questioned if the expansion plans for Woodgrove Centre include resolving the lack of space or storage issue?

D. Arksey explained that the Centre is not expanding but renovating which includes new tile and lighting changes, etc.

J. Hastings questioned if it was mandatory or optional for the businesses to recycle?

D. Arksey replied that the Centre tries to make it mandatory when new leases are signed. There are strict rules but enforcement doesn't occur as they don't have the staff to enforce.

J. Hastings enquired if one of the options was to have local government regulate businesses and what do you think it should look like to be useful?

D. Arksey replied that the attitude is that once the recycling is put into the Centre's bins it is no longer the retailer's responsibility and even if legislation was put into place it would be hard to enforce. The fact that the Centre's diversion rate has increased shows improvement.

D. Haarsma enquired if their shopping mall in Alberta was actually recycling or landfilling?

D. Arksey commented she wasn't sure but would find out and forward that information to him.

J. McTaggart-Cowan commented that his observation on EPR is that it is not working because the retailers are part of the production side and EPR is producer responsibility not consumer responsibility. The retailers aren't recognizing that part of their business is to manage materials put out there that end up as waste.

J. Kipp stated that Nanaimo malls are the biggest tax payers as well as large generators of waste and have the potential to recycle more and should be receiving assistance from the City or the region.

**Larissa Coser, Zero Waste Nanaimo**

L. Coser from Zero Waste Nanaimo provide a Presentation on how Zero Waste works and the Zero Waste Hierarchy. Some principles and practical steps towards zero waste include:

1. Adopt the Zero Waste definition of ZWIA
2. Establish targets and a timeline
3. Engage the whole community
4. Demand decision makers manage resources not waste
5. Educate residents, businesses and visitors
6. Build Residual Separation and Research Facilities
7. Develop New Rules and Incentives to move towards ZW
8. Remove government subsidies for wasting
9. Support Zero Waste Procurement
10. Expand Zero Waste Infrastructure
11. Challenge Businesses to lead the way to Zero Waste.

L. Coser described Zero Waste in Action which includes community engagement and education within businesses, waste management at events, product and packaging information for the public and being the voice of Zero Waste to local government. Industrial, commercial and institutional sectors produce more than half of our waste and one question is how can we change the behavior of these large waste generators and help them get to Zero Waste? This would include waste audits, toolkits, Green Teams, Industry experts and consultants and education that supports regulations & bans.

G. Johnson questioned what cost would the community be willing to bare to achieve zero?

L. Coser replied that 69% surveyed were willing to pay more and if we know our goal is zero waste we know how to target our resources.

G. Johnson mentioned he believes we should be looking at introducing a grant application process for community groups and other organizations like Zero Waste Nanaimo, and consider it as a recommendation.

J. McTaggart-Cowan questioned what rules are there within the RDN to make sure the RDN is only purchasing recyclable/returnable items and avoiding generating waste?

D. Trudeau replied that the RDN does not have a formal purchasing policy for purchasing recycled/returnable items but rather our polices ensure, on the financial side, that we are giving value to the taxpayers and making sure we use the competitive bid process.

J. Kipp commented that zero waste has always been a vision for the community and it is an ethical decision to aim for 100% waste diversion.

L. Coser questioned if it would be possible to put a vote forward on using zero waste as a road map for the decisions made in the Committee?

A discussion ensued around the topic of zero waste and how it should be included in the future Solid Waste Management Plan.

D. Trudeau advised the committee that a staff report will be prepared outlining the RDN's current zero waste plan and brought forward to the next meeting.

## MINUTES

MOVED J. McTaggart-Cowan, SECONDED G. Johnson, that the minutes from the meeting of the Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee regular meeting held November 26, 2015, be adopted. CARRIED

J. McTaggart-Cowan requested that his comment regarding adding a status quo option for the in the electronic polling exercise be reflected in the November 5, 2015 minutes.

L. Gardner commented that minutes would be amended accordingly.

## BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

G. Johnson conducted some independent research on glass recycling in the US and shared the following findings with the committee: glass is being used as a component in aggregate, in concrete and asphalt and also as glass pellets for sandblasting. G. Johnson requested that the RDN do further research and find similar ways to use recycled glass content.

A. McPherson noted that the RDN does not have a highway facility and this research would fall under Ministry of Transportation's jurisdiction.

## COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

MOVED G. Johnson, SECONDED J. McTaggart-Cowan, that the following communications / correspondence be received. CARRIED

NextUse Presentation to RDN Letter July 2015.

Residual Management Scope of Work Staff Report Nov. 2015.

Solid Waste Management Plan Community Consultation Summary Report.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### REPORTS

#### **Technical Memorandum: Share Shed Programs at Regional District of Nanaimo Solid Waste Facilities. (S. Horsburgh)**

S. Horsburgh introduced a slide presentation on Share Shed programs at Regional Waste Facilities. Share Sheds give customers the opportunity to set aside items in good condition for re-use by others instead of landfilling as this may result in higher waste diversion.

Installing Share Sheds would have a number of short term costs including site preparation, engineering, buildings and signage and capital costs at the two facilities could be approximately \$13,000. It is estimated that annual operating costs could be approximately \$190,000 per annum for the two sites.

The RSWAC made the following comments on the presentation:

- agreed that a Share Shed type program is an excellent idea but not to be located at regional facilities.
- Nanaimo already has other options provided by social service organizations in the community.
- A share Shed at a Regional facility should not be operated by the RDN but possibly operated by a non-profit organization.

**Technical Memorandum: EPR Materials at Regional District of Nanaimo Solid Waste Facilities.  
(M. Larson)**

M. Larson presented a slide presentation on the RDN introducing EPR recycling program at the Regional Landfill and CRTS for products such as packaging, cell phones, & batteries.

Currently, there are several for-profit and non-profit depots in the Nanaimo and Parksville areas where EPR items are accepted. Taking on EPR at the regional facilities could negatively impact revenue at these facilities that depend on the materials collected from EPR programs. Collection rebates are offered by some programs, and help to offset the costs of providing this service.

The introduction of EPR programs at the sites would have a number of short term costs including site preparation, engineering, new equipment, buildings and signage. The preliminary cost is estimated at \$250,000 to accommodate increased recycling. Over the long term there would be additional labour costs in providing two additional personnel. It is estimated that there would be an additional cost of \$380,000 per annum to staff the expanded recycling at both regional facilities.

Discussion on this item will take place at the next RSWAC meeting under unfinished business.

**ADDENDUM**

J. McTaggart-Cowan introduced the topic of challenges with source separation faced by the IC&I sector that hasn't been addressed. Given the nature of the size of the sector the need for a report with solid statistics on categories, breakdowns of the IC&I sector, and classes of the groups involved is needed.

L. Gardner replied that staff report is currently developing a report and it will be sent out in advance for the next meeting.

D. Haarsma's comments on the IC&I sector will be presented at a future meeting.

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED J. McTaggart-Cowan, SECONDED G. Johnson, that this meeting be adjourned.

  
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CHAIRPERSON