

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
REGIONAL SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2016
BOARD CHAMBERS**

Present:

Alec McPherson	Chair, RDN Director
Frank Van Eynde	Member at Large
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
Amanda Ticknor	Member at Large
Michael Tripp	Business Representative
Wally Wells	Business Representative
Geoff Goodall	City of Nanaimo

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	CAO, 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
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
Jim Kipp	Deputy Chair, RDN Director
Derek Haarsma	Business Representative
Michele Green	Member at Large
Larissa Coser	Community Representative
Stewart Young Jr.	Business Representative

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM and respectfully acknowledged the Coast Salish Nations on whose traditional territory the meeting took place.

DELEGATES

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

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

M. Larson reviewed her slide presentation from the Nov. 26, 2015 RSWAC meeting giving an overview of EPR collection practices in the Region.

Currently, there are several for-profit and non-profit depots throughout the Region that accept stewardship items as well as return to retailer options. Taking on EPR at the regional facilities could negatively impact revenue at these facilities that depend on the materials collected from EPR programs. EPR collection at both Regional Facilities could result in an estimated 0.2-0.5% waste diversion. No additional authorities would be required for the RDN to introduce EPR collection at both regional facilities, however, it would require RDN Board approval. Things to consider for the SWMP are convenience, cost implications, diversion impacts, current regulatory framework and impact on other depots.

J. McTaggart-Cowan questioned if the EPR Stewardship agencies in the region felt that coverage was adequate?

M. Larson replied that the RDN did speak with EPR agencies and on average they do have high user rates for local depots. Northern regions there are not so many options for depots.

S. Horsburgh responded that the RDN is a member of the BC Product Stewardship Council and discussions do occur with Ministry of Environment on the topic of stewardship programs in Regional Districts.

J. Hastings commented that she would much rather see collection for hard to recycle items than already stewarded items that would compete with existing depots.

W. Wells questioned why compete with existing programs and rather subsidize or find mechanisms to deal with existing programs and keep jobs in private sector?

The discussion demonstrated a low level of support to proceed with EPR collection at regional facilities.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

REPORTS

Technical Memorandum: Jurisdictional Scan Regarding Waste Diversion Programs. (L. Gardner – Presentation)

L. Gardner introduced a slide presentation on waste diversion programs in Edmonton, San Francisco and the UK reviewing disposal rates vs. diversion rates. It was concluded that it is virtually impossible to derive valid comparisons of waste disposal rates from elsewhere in the world. The jurisdictional scan suggests that the RDN has one of the lowest disposal rates within the developed nations of the world.

J. McTaggart-Cowan questioned where Edmonton's materials end up that aren't acceptable into the composting or metal recycling?

L. Gardner replied that their new system assumes a 90% diversion target. The remaining 10% is either landfilled or is gasified.

G. Johnson questioned how enforcement in San Francisco occurs?

L. Gardner replied that the generator is regulated by San Francisco and fines can be applied at source.

Technical Memorandum: RDN's Zero Waste Plan. (S. Horsburgh - Presentation)

S. Horsburgh presented a slide presentation on the RDN's Zero Waste Plan which included guiding principles, zero waste strategy, key policies, performance objects/metrics and future opportunities.

The RDN has achieved 68% waste diversion and an annual per capita disposal rate of 347 kilograms which is one of the lowest disposal rates in Canada. The RDN and Cowichan Valley Regional Districts are believed to have the lowest per capita disposal rates in North America. With continued promotion and enforcement of our Zero Waste programs, we could see continued improvements in diversion rates.

G. Johnson enquired if the role of local government is to make money, breakeven or can chances be taken and venture into investments and develop markets and then have an entrepreneur take over?

L. Gardner replied it is to provide services and utilities that the community would like to see.

J. Finnie remarked that local government is here to provide services that the Province imposes, at a reasonable cost to the taxpayer. Regional Districts are the most accountable level of governments and need to get Electoral support for funding mechanisms.

M. Tripp described the investments in recycling equipment made by his company demonstrates their commitment in improving recycling in the RDN.

J. McTaggart- Cowan questioned what is needed from the RDN to make it more profitable?

M. Tripp remarked that capital investment is needed to make businesses profitable. Access to capital is tight due to fluctuating markets. MMBC made the Nanaimo operation profitable.

J. McTaggart-Cowan commented that we need EPR on mattresses and we need to pressure industry to make producers responsible for residuals. The provincial government has a role to implement more EPR programs. We have talked about working with the generators, what authorities does the RDN need to give you the capability to enforce?

J. McTaggart-Cowan requested staff draft a bylaw.

L. Gardner commented if there's a desire to go down that path we can include the draft in the SWMP.
A. McPherson replied that if the draft bylaw goes into the plan it will be forwarded to the Province for approval.

J. Finnie felt it's bigger than the RDN and industry is a powerful lobby group and will oppose increased government regulation. We need to get together with other regions to go forward.

L. Gardner replied that our requirement is to produce the SWMP with a Zero Waste component. There are strategies and continued efforts to reduce our waste. Our current strategies are specific corner stones and we need to identify our next targets.

Technical Memorandum: Multi-Family & IC&I Recycling in the RDN. (M. Larson - Presentation)

M. Larson gave a presentation on the Multi-Family and IC&I recycling in the RDN. The IC&I and Multi-Family sectors waste stream contain significant amounts of recyclable material and compostable organics despite landfill bans being in place for various recyclable materials and commercial organics. These sectors provide the greatest opportunity for further waste diversion in the RDN.

The IC&I sector represents 63% of landfilled waste at the Regional Landfill. Examples of waste generators in this sector include businesses, industries, or commercial operations including stores, offices, hotels, hospitals, schools, restaurants, construction companies, factories etc., and the Multi-Family housing sector. In the RDN, the IC&I sector (including Multi-Family) is serviced by private waste haulers. Outreach has been done to promote diversion in these sectors and has largely relied on voluntary compliance with the landfill bans and applying fines. Increased effort in both outreach and enforcement consistent with the current strategies can achieve a moderate increase of about 3% in overall waste diversion. It is believed that the provision of authorities available through the SWMP can provide additional regulatory and economic tools to drive very high levels of diversion up to a 10% increase in overall waste.

J. Finnie questioned if there was a blend of these two options that would be more efficient?

M. Larson commented that each new program will require some level of education and outreach.

M. Tripp commented that scenario one with a more blended pro-active approach is the way to go and relaunching the program for 10th Anniversary is beneficial to his company to get the organics out of the waste stream.

J. McTaggart-Cowan questioned how many are not MMBC haulers and why are we allowing that?

M. Tripp replied that just because a hauler is not an MMBC hauler it doesn't mean we're not doing the right things.

ADDENDUM

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

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



CHAIRPERSON