

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO  
REGIONAL SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2016  
BOARD CHAMBERS**

**Present:**

Alec McPherson	Chair, RDN Director
Bill McKay	Deputy Chair, RDN Director
Derek Haarsma	Business Representative
Wally Wells	Business Representative
Jan Hastings	Non Profit Representative
Michael Tripp	Business Representative
Jim McTaggart-Cowan	Member at Large
John Finnie	Member at Large
Ellen Ross	Member at Large
Gerald Johnson	Member at Large
Amanda Ticknor	Member at Large

**Also in Attendance:**

Randy Alexander	General Manager, RCU, RDN
Larry Gardner	Manager of Solid Waste, RDN
Rebecca Graves	Recording Secretary, RDN
Jeff Ainge	Zero Waste Coordinator, RDN
Sharon Horsburgh	Senior Solid Waste Planner, 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
Charlotte Davis	City of Nanaimo
Geoff Goodall	City of Nanaimo
Frank Van Eynde	Member at Large
Michele Green	Member at Large
Craig Evans	Member at Large
Stewart Young Jr.	Business Representative
Meghan Larson	Special Projects Coordinator, RDN

**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.

**MINUTES**

MOVED J. McTaggart-Cowan, SECONDED G. Johnson, that the minutes from the meeting of the Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee regular meeting held January 14, 2016, be adopted. CARRIED

## DELEGATES

### **Derek Haarsma, Haarsma Waste Innovations Inc. re Management of Solid Waste in the Multi-Family & IC&I Sector.**

D. Haarsma gave a verbal presentation on region wide recycling options available to the multi-family & Industrial Commercial & Industrial Sector (IC&I). Multi-family recycling is not a mandatory program and there is the perception that by introducing recycling programs this will lower garbage fees. This has led to varying levels of recycling in the Multi Family and ICI sectors. In regards to IC&I, steel containers are made available for recyclables. Haarsma reduces contamination by sorting recycling into bags so when materials are received at the facility sorting is done much faster. Source separation requires haulers to run more trucks a week to service sites and this doesn't make sense due to the level of contamination in bins.

A discussion occurred in regards to the management of solid waste including topics related to the RDN making recycling mandatory region wide.

L.Gardner outlined that the Regional District has the ability to introduce mandatory collection similar to how we introduced curbside service as a utility. This is a mechanism we have that could ensure ICI buildings comply with recycling programs.

G. Johnson asked if the RDN made recycling mandatory for all multi-family how would it affect your business and how would it increase recycling?

D.Haarsma stated his customer base almost everyone has a recycling program. Depends on size of building, garbage is picked up weekly, recycling every two weeks. Commercial is pretty up to speed on recycling. Not much issue with compliance and buy in. Multi-family buildings are looking for the low cost option. If a mandatory system was in place haulers could still exist the way we do.

M. Tripp commented that his customers business in town have two containers. ICI is 60% of sector, 40% would be residence. The business community is recycling. The is staying afloat with changing technology and competing with other haulers that ship export waste. The Parksville stratas are included in the RDN collection program. Nanaimo handles only curbside and any strata's are outside of the City's curbside collection program and these are handled by private haulers. There is no hard and fast regulation telling an apartment owner or condo owner that they must recycle. If there was more regulation recycling services would increase dramatically. This would create a level playing field as all haulers would have to abide by the same rules.

J. Hastings highlighted that 95% of residences in the MF sector have access to same service, what is the barrier to that service being the same?

MMBC poses a different challenge as containers have to be kept in a separate location and paper removed from packaging. MMBC does not give haulers w funds to educate the MF sector and this would be beneficial as it would help reduce contamination as there is a strict threshold of 3% contamination.

J. McTaggart Cowan asked if it is only paper making money. Is MMBC not paying you properly for that recycled material? D. Haarsma replied that for multi-family its ½ the fee of curbside. ICI that includes the schools is not captured under the MMBC program so we rely on what the market rate is for recyclable commodities. The City and the RDN receive payment to provide residential education programs.

J. Finnie made the observation that Strata's are a legal entity and many have taken on the responsibility of introducing recycling. What would be a better approach to apt buildings?

D. Haarsma responded that when he signed on as an MMBC contractor it was under the impression that the entire Multi Family sector had to comply. As it's rolled out that's not the case. If there was regulation through the RDN, then there would have some teeth to the program.

J. Hastings stated that it isn't right that a private hauler has to provide education. We want to focus efforts on increasing diversion for the ICI sector, and especially for multi-family. I would like to see ICI as the cornerstone for the new plan and designed under the umbrella of Zero Waste. To do that, we need an operational definition of Zero Waste for the purpose of the SWMP.

D. Haarsma commented that education is important, as a hauler we do not have the resources to provide education. This should be the responsibility of RDN or an agency that specializes in education programs so they can do a proper job. It is time consuming and there needs to be consistent messaging and refreshers.

G. Johnson suggested looking into grant programs for providing education as the commercial sector finds complying with MMBC challenging as there is not sufficient funding for education.

#### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

##### **Technical Memorandum: Multi-Family & IC&I Recycling in the RDN. (L. Gardner – Presentation)**

L. Gardner introduced a slide presentation summarizing Multi-Family & IC&I waste stream. There are two potential diversion strategy scenarios which would include Scenario 1: increased education/enforcement at regional facilities with a diversion potential of 3% and Scenario 2: additional regulatory authority with a diversion potential of 7.9 -11%. Multi-family recycling rates are estimated to be between 16-18% compared to 30% for single-family and approximately 44% of the waste stream is compostable. L. Gardner provided an overview of the various Regulatory Authority Options which included Waste Source Regulation, Flow Management, Mandatory Waste Collection Service, Waste Hauler Franchise and Waste Haulers as Agents.

A discussion ensued regarding the regulatory authority options and if any should be included in the SWMP. What options are there for targeting the paper and plastic that makes up 25% of the IC&I sector waste stream? Which regulatory authorities would be most effective; mandatory waste collection service for all waste generators, franchising, source regulation, haulers as agents?

J. McTaggart-Cowan questioned how do we need to reduce ICI waste? What is needed to achieve 25%? L Gardner clarified that the diversion potential is up to 11% of the total waste stream and explained the waste composition percentages.

J. Hastings stated that there are municipalities that do mandatory waste collection service, how would it put free enterprise into jeopardy?

L Gardner explained that mandatory waste collection would be set up the same as the residential curbside program, where the RDN contracts the service to a single waste hauler. The contract would be awarded through a tendering process. There wouldn't be any opportunity of others to subsequently compete for business..

J. Hastings asked why can't we have mandatory service and then let the hauler do it? I don't see barrier.

L Gardner outlined a mandatory collection service by, or on behalf of local government can be introduced. The RDN needs additional authorities from the province if, instead, a regulation requires people to obtain their own recycling service. J. McTaggart-Cowan commented the objective is to reduce amount of material going into the landfill to achieve zero waste.

L. Gardner commented to achieve zero waste there would be implications on taxation. Waste generators that send waste outside of the region don't contribute money to the region's waste management function. We could try to get cost of disposal down and recover the shortfall in revenue through taxation. We've intentionally put costs high to create an incentive to divert material to the private sector facilities for recycling.

A. McPherson commented we need to make sure everyone is paying for education through the tipping fees in order to cover the education programs so that everyone using the regional system is contributing.

J. McTaggart-Cowan commented we should look at the business and encourage them to redesign by pushing back to the design phase. The business sector should be involved in putting forward what the haulers need with respect to education and regulation. He also suggested that if we're going to set diversion targets, we need to have a target and identify what measures will be implemented to achieve it. Decide what strategies we are going to include so we can measure our progress to see how we are achieving our goal. The RDN needs to become a model of zero waste.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE**

**Jan Hastings**, re Zero Waste Definitions.

J. Hastings reviewed the zero waste definitions and principles from each of the below agencies:

- Zero Waste International Alliance
- National Zero Waste Council
- Zero Waste BC
- Recycling Council of BC
- BC Ministry of the Environment
- London Remade.

**Jim McTaggart-Cowan**, re RSWAC Motions & Questions.

A. McPherson introduced and suggested that the motions, as presented, will provide an opportunity for the Committee to discuss what options they wish to see in the SWMP.

J. McTaggart-Cowan commented that the purpose of the motions was to provide a structure and to focus on what information is needed to make decisions.

J. McTaggart-Cowan asked if D. Haarsma, M. Tripp and staff could provide information on what is needed to regulate and to create a level playing field.

**REPORTS**

**ADDENDUM**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Time: 7:29 pm.

  
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CHAIRPERSON