

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
REGIONAL SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2015
BOARD CHAMBERS**

Present:

Alec McPherson	Chair, RDN Director
Craig Evans	Member at Large
John Finnie	Member at Large
Gerald Johnson	Member at Large
Frank Van Eynde	Member at Large
Ellen Ross	Member at Large
Amanda Ticknor	Member at Large
Jim McTaggart-Cowan	Member at Large
Michele Green	Member at Large
Larissa Coser	Community Representative
Derek Haarsma	Business Representative
Jan Hastings	Non Profit Representative
Charlotte Davis	City of Nanaimo

Also in Attendance:

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
Jeff Ainge	Zero Waste Coordinator

Regrets:

Dennis Trudeau	GM, Transportation & Solid Waste Services, RDN
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
Jim Kipp	RDN Director, Deputy Chair
Michael Tripp	Business Representative
Wally Wells	Business Representative
Stewart Young Jr.	Business Representative
John Marsh	Town of Qualicum Beach
Ed Walsh	Waste Management Industry

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM.

DELEGATES

MINUTES

MOVED F. Van Eynde, SECONDED G. Johnson, that the minutes from the meeting of the Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee regular meeting held Sept. 17, 2015, be adopted. CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from NextUse Recycling Ltd. dated October 27, 2015 re. Mixed Waste Recovery Facility.

MOVED G. Johnson, SECONDED F. Van Eynde, that the correspondence from NextUse Recycling Ltd. dated October 27, 2015 regarding a Mixed Waste Recovery Facility be received.

CARRIED

SWANA Article re. A Comparative Analysis of Source-Separation and Mixed Waste Recycling Systems in Charlotte, NC, and Montgomery, AL.

MOVED G. Johnson, SECONDED F. Van Eynde, that the article from SWANA regarding *A Comparative Analysis of Source-Separation and Mixed Waste Recycling Systems in Charlotte, NC, and Montgomery, AL.* be received.

CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

S. Horsburgh introduced a decision making tool (DMT) which is an online audience polling tool that engages the public's interest and allows for participant anonymity. After each presentation a discussion on the topic will occur and then vote using the DMT.

REPORTS

Curbside Collection Program – Compliance and Enforcement to Improve Diversion. (J. Ainge)

J. Ainge gave a presentation on the Compliance and Enforcement report on possible opportunities to improve diversion rates through the existing curbside collection programs. The residential sector contributes the smallest amount of waste to landfill at 17%. Households receiving curbside collection service throughout the region are achieving a 60% diversion rate through their participation in the curbside recycling and food waste collection programs. Despite this laudable achievement, compostable organic waste still enters the waste stream.

Options to improve curbside compliance and participation in diversion programs include targeted outreach and education activities focusing on organics and other recyclable materials, extending the organics disposal ban to include food waste from residential sources

It was noted that focusing efforts on the commercial sector, along with the multi-family housing sector is likely to have greater impact than targeting curbside collection.

A group discussion followed and there was strong support for enforcement of recycling in multi-family dwellings (MFD). It was clarified that the DMT was only to consider residential collection and the result showed a slight preference to transition to more enforcement acceptable waste types set out at curb (i.e. proper separation of waste, organics and recyclables).

The DMT showed 62% favour in transitioning to more enforcement. It was noted that the DMT should have included a status quo option which would have influenced the result.

Curbside Collection Program – Household Glass Collection. (M. Larson)

M. Larson provided a presentation on the Household Glass Collection report which included a brief history of glass collection in the RDN and options for curbside glass collection.

Household glass containers have not been accepted as part of curbside recycling for several years in this region, and staff are not aware of any glass processors located in the Province who are capable of taking glass and making new glass containers. In 2009, an analysis of the RDN's curbside materials estimated glass containers made up about 5% of the overall recyclables set out for collection. With the advent of the Province's packaging and printed paper stewardship program, operated by the stewardship agency MMBC, household glass containers are considered packaging. Glass containers are accepted at no charge at six depots throughout the region that get paid by MMBC to handle the material.

A change to the curbside recycling collection programs operated by the CoN and RDN would require approval from MMBC, as well as contract changes for the curbside collection contractor. The CoN is contemplating service level options as a new collection system is phased in; this could include glass collection for their customers.

There is limited diversion impact in reinstating glass to the curbside recycling, and any change will come with costs (i.e., two collection trucks estimated at \$190,000/year to serve the RDN curbside routes). Glass collection can be included in contract renewal discussions with the collection contractor and MMBC when the time comes, however no immediate changes as part of the SWMP action items are foreseen.

A group discussion followed and the DMT polling results showed 38% favoured the inclusion of glass in the in the curbside collection program. It was noted that the DMT should have included a status quo option which would have influenced the result.

Curbside Collection Program – Yard Waste Collection. (S. Horsburgh)

S. Horsburgh gave a presentation on the current yard waste management practices; determine if there is an opportunity to add yard waste collection to the curbside program and to calculate diversion benefits.

Support for introducing curbside yard waste collection hovers around 40 to 60% based on surveys completed in the region over recent years. That support drops when respondents are asked about their willingness to pay for such a service. Even without curbside collection, approximately 12,000 tonnes of yard waste is diverted from disposal each year due to residents' use of yard waste drop-off facilities coupled with backyard composting activity. Compare this with less than 3,000 tonnes estimated to enter the landfill, of which only an estimated 225 tonnes is attributed to curbside sources.

The City of Nanaimo reports their intention to conduct public engagement in Fall/Winter of 2015. With the introduction of automated collection in Nanaimo, Council has asked staff to review the appetite of City residents for collection of Yard Waste. Staff and Council in Nanaimo regularly hear from residents that they wish to receive collection of Yard Waste, the question remains as to how much they are willing to pay. At a Council meeting in June 2015 City staff reported to Council that, of the 15 largest Cities in BC (of which Nanaimo is ninth), nine of them collected yard waste. City staff also noted as part of this

report that the average user rate of the 15 largest municipalities in BC is \$197 per household per year, compared to the City rate of \$99.75 per year.

Based on the 2012 waste composition study and data from facilities handling this material, roughly 80% of yard waste generated in the RDN is already diverted from landfill disposal. The collection of yard waste at the curb will not contribute significantly to the region's diversion goals, but the impression is that such a service will provide a much higher level of convenience for the resident generating the waste.

Curbside collection of yard waste is likely to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing vehicle trips to the receiving facilities, but compulsory collection could also result in more yard waste being captured since residents would be paying for the service whether they used it or not. The most significant contribution to the region's sustainability goals associated with the introduction of curbside yard waste collection would be the rationale to extend backyard burning bans to more areas in the RDN.

A group discussion followed and the results from DMT polling indicated 23% supported including yard waste at curbside 23% were unsure of whether it should be included in the program. It was noted that the DMT should have included a status quo option which would have influenced the result.

ADDENDUM

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MOVED G. Johnson, SECONDED J. McTaggart-Cowan, that the minutes from the meeting of the Solid Waste Select Committee meeting held October 7, 2015, be adopted. CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Next RSWAC meeting will be held November 26, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

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

CHAIRPERSON