

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

Present:

Alec McPherson	Chair, RDN Director
Bill McKay	Deputy Chair, RDN Director
Jan Hastings	Non Profit Representative
Wally Wells	Business Representative
Dean Jones	Waste Management Industry
Derek Haarsma	Business Representative
Michael Tripp	Business Representative
Craig Evans	Member at Large
John Finnie	Member at Large
Ben Geselbracht	Member at Large
Michele Green	Member at Large
Gerald Johnson	Member at Large
Jim McTaggart-Cowan	Member at Large
Ellen Ross	Member at Large
Amanda Ticknor	Member at Large
Cam Purdon	Town of Qualicum Beach

Also in Attendance:

Director Young	Electoral Area 'C'
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
Randy Alexander	General Manager, RCU, RDN

Regrets:

Stewart Young Jr.	Business Representative
Charlotte Davis	City of Nanaimo
Geoff Goodall	City of Nanaimo
Chief & Council	Nanoose First Nation
Chief & Council	Snuneymuxw First Nation
Michael Recalma	Qualicum First Nation
Glenn Gibson	Island Heath
Al Leuschen	Ministry of Environment
Karen Muttersbach	Environment Canada
Fred Spears	District of Lantzville

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM and respectfully acknowledged the Coast Salish Nations on whose traditional territory the meeting took place.

Welcomed new member Cam Purdon, representing the Town of Qualicum Beach.

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 March 17, 2016, be adopted. CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

J. McTaggart-Cowan commented that he would like a discussion on the motions that were presented at the February 4, 2016, RSWAC meeting.

A. McPherson replied that issues that have been identified have been documented throughout the process. There will still be time to identify high priority options before the drafting of the SWMP.

J. Hastings questioned why as a committee are we not making a motion to adopt the Zero Waste International Alliance (ZWIA) definition and hierarchy?

L. Gardner commented that for the next meeting, a proposed zero waste definition or the ZWIA definition will be brought forward for discussion by the committee, as well as the guiding principles that are currently in the plan.

J. Finnie clarified his understanding and expectations of the process to draft the next plan that will come back to the committee for review. Our challenge will be arriving at consensus and assigning values and priorities before we advance the draft plan for public review.

R. Alexander highlighted that through this process the knowledge has been gained through the discussions. This has allowed us to identify a number of issues and options. The next step is to determine what the targets and principles and what we want to include in the plan and how we achieve those targets and principles.

J. McTaggart-Cowan questioned the progress of the proposal by Derek, Mike and Larry on options to address the challenges in the IC&I sector?

Derek responded that he would provide a report on the challenges that front end haulers have with multi-family units and offer suggestions.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

REPORTS

Results of Last Meetings Exercise. (R. Alexander – Presentation)

R. Alexander gave feedback from the March 17, 2016 group exercise. Three questions were asked in that session which included;

- Are there topics where more research is required to make a recommendation to the Board?
- Are there topics that need more discussion in order to make a recommendation to the Board, and
- Are there topics where there is adequate information/discussion to advise the Board?

J. McTaggart-Cowan requested more dialogue be done with the IC&I sector before any further suggestions or decisions are made.

J. Finnie commented that a lot of the commercial operations have systems in place and when we talk about getting regulatory authority the concern is who's going to do that and with what? There are no resources to deliver on the systems that we already have in place.

W. Wells recalled in the Stage 1 Report that haulers had been consulted but not the generators in the IC&I sector. There needs to be a discussion with the generators while the plan is being developed.

L. Gardner commented the first step is to narrow down the preferred options and then consult with the business community about what is being considered to get their input.

G. Johnson remarked that he felt the committee should have had representation from the Chamber of Commerce.

Larry Gardner responded that the committee is made up of a range of representatives from different sectors and areas. It is already a fairly large group and it is impossible to cover off all groups.

D. Haarsma stated that on behalf of the business community he felt the haulers have a good understanding of the IC&I sector and what their customers are looking for in regards to waste and recycling removal services. Also, they are sensitive to the marketplace and what options their customers are willing to pay for.

B. Geselbracht commented that he recognizes we can tweak our infrastructure to reduce the waste but if Nanaimo doesn't stand up and advocate on certain waste streams or regulatory items at the Provincial level, waste exports will continually be subsidized.

R. Alexander replied that the advocacy role has been identified but was just not introduced in the presentation.

Levels of Service Matrix Review. (L. Gardner – Presentation)

L. Gardner presented the Level of Service Matrix which captures all the services discussed to date, the scope of service, the RSWAC level of interest in pursuing service levels that include; curbside glass and yard waste collection, curbside compliance & enforcement, share sheds, EPR stewardship programs, ICI & MFD diversion, Zero Waste plan, complementary drop off days, CD Waste, HHW collection, and residual management and landfill options.

M. Tripp remarked that while basic items are covered it's the difficult to recycle items that are challenging. Businesses have tried sorting materials themselves but recovery is low at 5-10%. You would have to create a market and fund it. New markets have to be developed with funding to help make them viable. He would like to see secondary industries and markets created for plastics. Until markets open up we can only do so much.

D. Jones commented that it comes down to customers themselves, there are multi-national clients that achieve 90% diversion rates but they are willing to pay, a lot of industries either can't or won't pay. Does that fall back on enforcement or education or is it the haulers job to fund or support it, who pays for it?

D. Haarsma commented that traditionally when a landfill ban is implemented the hauler notifies the business or property management companies. This puts the responsibility of enforcement on those

haulers that promote recycling services and makes it difficult to compete with haulers not promoting the same level of service, which makes it difficult to compete when it's not a level playing field. Regulation and enforcement has encouraged haulers to put garbage into trailers and ship across the border.

Complimentary Disposal Services at Regional District of Nanaimo Solid Waste Facilities. (S. Horsburgh)

S. Horsburgh gave an overview on Complimentary Disposal Services discussing history, challenges, diversion and financial impact. In the past, the program was popular due to convenience but concerns were raised in regards to traffic control and safety concerns. The service does not support reduce, reuse or the principles outlined in our current SWMP and could increase disposal and loss could potentially losses \$42,500 per day in revenue.

J. McTaggart-Cowan responded that if it's not equitable, what's the purpose of even thinking about it?

MOVED J. Finnie, SECONDED J. McTaggart-Cowan that this committee does not support the Complimentary Disposal Services initiative.

CARRIED

J. Hastings commented she would like to see local government fund a pickup day for items such as hazardous waste.

L. Gardner commented that a number of EPR programs cover a lot of that material and there are communities that provide that service so providing costs can be presented.

G. Johnson questioned if there is a document available that outlines how the Province calculates EPR rebates?

L. Gardner answered that each program provides their own annual reports but doesn't believe there is a single site to review.

M. Larson replied that separate EPR agencies set the price of rebates paid to collectors (i.e. depots). Their financials are audited by the MOE but MOE has no responsibility for setting those rebates.

S. Horsburgh commented that stewardship organizations are required to produce annual reports that include financial statements.

Solid Waste Management Education. (M. Larson)

M. Larson gave an overview of Solid Waste Management Education which included strategy for education, diversion & financial impact, regulatory authority and provided a summary.

M. Green questioned why not find out what the barriers are and address those through education and other programs?

M. Larson replied that cost is a barrier for many people and we do post what the costs are at RDN facilities for waste disposal. When waste is generated then they bear the cost. We advocate that residents reduce, reuse and recycle and all other free options to help relieve the costs of disposal.

Future Residual Disposal (L. Gardner)

Presentation postponed until next meeting.

ADDENDUM

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

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

Time: 7:40 pm.

CHAIRPERSON