

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO  
REGIONAL SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2013  
BOARD CHAMBERS**

**Present:**

George Holme, Chair	Director Electoral Area E
Howard Houle	Director Electoral Area B
Jim Kipp	City of Nanaimo
Ted Greves	City of Nanaimo
Wally Wells	Business Community - North
Dr. Jim McTaggart-Cowan	Environment Community
Frank Van Eynde	General Public - North
Michael Recalma	Qualicum First Nation
Jeremy Jones	General Public – North
Ed Walsh	Waste Management – Private Sector
Jan Hastings	Waste Management – Non Profit Sector
Gary Franssen	City of Nanaimo
Al Cameron	Town of Qualicum Beach
Fred Spears	District of Lantzville
Al Leuschen	Ministry of Environment
Alec McPherson	Director Electoral Area A

**Also in Attendance:**

Dennis Trudeau	GM Transportation & Solid Waste Services, RDN
Carey McIver	Manager of Solid Waste, RDN
Daniel Pearce	Manager, Transit Operations
Sharon Horsburgh	Senior Zero Waste Coordinator, RDN
Jeff Ainge	Zero Waste Program Coordinator, RDN
Maude Mackey	Zero Waste Compliance Officer, RDN
Maggie Warren	Superintendent of Scale & Transfer Services
Maura Walker	Maura Walker & Associates
Dave Willie	Town of Qualicum Beach

**Regrets:**

Karen Mattersbuch	Environment Canada
Al Metcalf	City of Parksville
Chief David Bob	Nanoose First Nation
Chief Douglas White III	Snuneymuxw First Nation

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 4:07 pm.

**MINUTES**

MOVED F. Van Eynde, SECONDED G. Holme, that the minutes of Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee regular meeting of May 16, 2013 be approved.

CARRIED

## EXISTING SYSTEM REPORT

**Maura Walker** presented the Draft Stage One Report to provide the Board with an overview of the existing solid waste management system, which described the key programs, policies and infrastructure along with base line performance data. Maura reviewed the trends in waste generation and how the RDN is the lowest generator of waste in the province. Maura Walker reviewed the waste composition data and talked about the key policy drivers to help Zero Waste and its diversion target. These programs include curbside organics collection yard waste management, recycling depots, future stewardship programs and BC's current Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Programs. The programs, policies, services and infrastructure in the RDN are indicative of an advanced solid waste system.

## DISCUSSION/RSWAC INPUT

**Howard Houle** started the discussion with enquiring about the garbage collection and in regards to one can every two weeks if there have been any stats done on how many extra cans are put out? Jeff Ainge replied that we sell around 10,000 extra tags a year, and that's been a reasonably static number and it does go up but the number of homes has also gone up. **Gary Franssen** commented that the City of Nanaimo does an annual curbside survey on all routes over a two week period, and that the one can limit services the needs. 92-94% of households only put out the one can per 2 week.

**Howard Houle** questioned on the multi-family pick-ups done by commercial haulers, are there any requirements to have the material sorted before it gets delivered to the dump? **Carey McIver** commented that Sharon Horsburgh had worked on the project to create a data base to determine whether there is recycling in place because we have banned paper and plastics and 94% had the services, so the haulers ensured that if they were providing garbage collection they were also providing recycling. There is no individual penalty to each unit, tag limit where multi-family can throw out as much as they want and there is no individual penalty to each unit.

**Jim McTaggart-Cowan** questioned if the RDN had asked residents what the problems were and if we had considered a different approach providing recycling service to multi-family units, something similar to individual family complex's? **Maura Walker** commented in researching and reading information on the multi-family sector, there is a lack of control due to anonymity and also a lack of direct interface with the resident and service provider. With single family dwellings there was a social pressure to participate and that they have blue bins or green bins and there is a social marketing benefit.

**Carey McIver** commented that a large number of multi-family units are ground level town homes. We know that 94% of the units have access to the service. There is less than 20% of the housing stock. Going forward it can be noted that Multi-family dwellings participation is a potential issue to follow up on as part of the SWMP review process.

**Jim McTaggart-Cowan** enquired about the yard waste collection, and historically has the RDN monitored the number of vehicles going in to the facilities? How many vehicles are actually bringing yard waste to RDN facilities, what is the average distance those vehicles are driving, the concern is that this system is not assisting with other environmental issues, what are you tracking as far as greenhouse gases, and the emissions as this approach is forcing people to drive to drop the yard waste off?

**Carey McIver** replied that we do track all facilities. In the waste composite, 2% of waste stream is yard waste and 7000-8000 tons gets diverted and then majority goes to International Composting Corp. (ICC) and it all gets weighed. We know how much was diverted and how many vehicles dropped off. The issue with yard waste is not diversion of yard waste, going forward the issue with yard waste is do single family customers want to pay for the convenience of having it picked up at the curb. **Gary Franssen** commented on the multi-family situation, that it is ownership of the problem and ownership of the cost. If you've got a property managed and not owner occupied, there is a dramatic difference. He also commented on the issue of yard waste collection and transportation that you also need to cover the alternatives which would generate a lot of greenhouse gases.

**Carey McIver** commented in regards to the emissions concern, that if we want to do a pilot for a couple of weeks we could ask scale house staff to monitor the distances. A lot of the long distances are from areas that there is no ban on burning.

**Ed Walsh** commented with recycling at multi-family units, there are economic incentives where the property management or owner of the facility would promote the recycling because it's economically more viable and the education of the resident to describe what is the best practice is needed. As a hauler contamination is significant for them and agrees that education to residents is important. Ed mentioned that he will bring a presentation from Monique Booth, CVRD, on apartment recycling to the RDN staff to review.

**Jim Kipp** questioned Page 27 in the report. How much recycling are we receiving from multi-family and how much is separated when it arrives at the facilities, and how do we educate?

**Carey McIver** commented on commercial loads coming to the landfill with banned material, the commercial hauler would have picked up from different businesses, so it's not easy, but bans on commercial cardboard, etc. As far as the educating, Carey stated that when we did the multi-family database the RDN's role was to provide consistent information to the residents.

**Maura Walker** noted that residential Printed Paper and Packaging (PPP) will be handled by Multi-Material British Columbia (MMBC) beginning May 2014. MMBC is a stewardship organization that is going to set up a new recycling system for all residents across BC and it will work with all local governments and local businesses to improve the recycling collection services. There is so much inconsistency all over the province that one way to improve is to develop one system for everyone across BC. Provincial ads, media TV and commercials will be operated by MMBC.

**Jan Hastings** inquired about WSML Licensing and questioned whether it had encouraged or discouraged private sector involvement in CD or do the WSML procedures have to be looked at all? And is there any feedback from the organizations that have licenses whether it is too costly to implement or is any part of that system is a barrier?

**Sharon Horsburgh** replied that based on the number of licenses (12) issued there is a vibrant recycling industry that through high grading and source separating materials. Neighboring jurisdictions provide have similar bylaws so the regulation creates a level playing field. Without that infrastructure, we would not have the diversion rates we have today. Without the recycling infrastructure we would not have the diversion rates we have today. With combination of bans this regulatory framework has been the driver behind the private sector infrastructure. The WSML bylaw is designed to create a level playing field

which protects the economic interests of local businesses and the enforcement mechanisms ensure a high standard of operation.

**Ed Walsh** commented that he didn't find the WSML licensing too restrictive but gives them a level of comfort. Having a proper licensed disposal site gives them the ability to compete against other haulers.

**Jim McTaggart-Cowan** commented on the collection depots and that when the program started the purpose was to have the collection depots located where people naturally were going i.e. shopping centers. Given that there are a number of EPR programs why is the RDN not picking up EPR materials at the CRTS and the Landfill?

**Carey McIver** replied that once there was an EPR program we banned the material from disposal. When products are under a stewardship program we would not accept it at the RDN facilities. Some local governments that have more room at their facilities and will take EPCOR materials. The RDN decided when those programs were available that we would no long accept those for disposal and direct stewardship materials to private facilities.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

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CHAIRPERSON