

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
REGIONAL SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2015
BOARD CHAMBERS**

Present:

Alec McPherson	Chair, RDN Director
Craig Evans	Member at Large
John Finnie	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
Larissa Coser	Community Representative
Derek Haarsma	Business Representative
Jan Hastings	Non Profit Representative
Michael Tripp	Business Representative
Wally Wells	Business Representative
Stewart Young Jr.	Business 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
Dennis Trudeau	GM, Transportation & Solid Waste Services, RDN

Regrets:

Al Cameron	Town of Qualicum Beach
Chief & Council	Nanoose First Nation
Chief & Council	Snuneymuxw First Nation
Glenn Gibson	Island Heath
Jim Kipp	RDN Director, Deputy Chair
Al Leuschen	Ministry of Environment
Karen Muttersbach	Environment Canada
Michael Recalma	Qualicum First Nation
Fred Spears	District of Lantzville
Ed Walsh	Waste Management Industry
Frank Van Eynde	Member at Large

CALL TO ORDER

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

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 June 18, 2015, be adopted.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

J. Hastings commented that in the second paragraph where it reads that “in addition RDN activities will be completed by Federal and Provincial reduction initiatives in packaging” this should read “complimented”.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

REPORTS

Overview of Zero Waste Plan. (S. Horsburgh)

S. Horsburgh provided a presentation on the *Overview of the Zero Waste Program* which included the Zero Waste Plan, performance objectives and future opportunities. The 2004 Zero Waste Plan includes WSML, landfill disposal bans and residential food organics collection. The WSML provides a regulatory framework that has enabled private sector investment to establish recycling and composting facilities and provide alternatives to landfilling. Creating the disposal ban has given the private sector the ability to divert material from the waste stream as there are viable markets for the recyclables. The WSML Bylaw helps to protect the environment, encourages private sector investment in the region, sets high standards in the operation of recycling facilities and common regulatory framework that creates a level playing field. The current SWMP advocates collaboration with the Province and Federal government to improve EPR programs.

J. McTaggart-Cowan questioned who is being educated and is there any discussion with retailers regarding reducing packaging?

S. Horsburgh responded that the RDN has a variety of communication tools to educate the residential sector and with the business sector the RDN focuses on restaurants with respect to the commercial food waste diversion program. As the haulers provide collection service to the ICI sector they provide education based on their service levels. Packaging discussions occur at the provincial level and regional districts have an influence in developing policies at that level.

J. Hastings remarked that having the haulers as educator's seemed unfair.

S. Horsburgh commented that for the residential curbside program the RDN takes the leading role in educating and for the commercial sector we provide education in conjunction with the haulers.

C. Evans asked if glass is an EPR material?

S. Horsburgh replied that glass is accepted at recycling depots and deposit glass is under deposit refund. Having the landfill take glass as a convenience could be considered under the plan review.

L. Coser commented that she feels it is important for goal setting to have a definition around zero waste so that the Committee could give feedback.

L. Coser also enquired about the organics in commercial areas and how many restaurants and facilities are involved in this program and what is the target?

S. Horsburgh commented that we could review the diversion rate for the commercial sector and conduct an audit to see how many businesses in the ICI sector subscribe to an organics service. We have the data but it required constant updating due to high turn over of businesses and staff in the retail and restaurant sector.

L. Gardner commented that diversion goals could be improved and the committee has put forward good recommendations and input for waste reduction. RDN staff will look at how to improve programs and will bring forward to the committee some of the ideas.

A. Ticknor enquired of the \$100,000 spent on illegal dumping does that number just include clean up or if signage etc. was included?

L. Gardner replied that the budget was a combination of waiving fees for groups to clean up, enforcement and regulated activities like signage and monitoring sites.

J. McTaggart-Cowan asked if there is an individual breakdown on various elements in single family, multi-family and ICI separately in order to see where the components are coming from?

S. Horsburgh responded that she could produce a slide to show the breakdown towards the end of the meeting.

L. Gardner commented that we receive approximately \$1 million a year from MMBC for collection and they pay us an amount per household which goes towards curbside education.

L. Coser remarked that it would be interesting to hear more about zero waste programs being done in other communities/countries.

Overview of Regulatory Authorities. (L. Gardner)

L. Gardner provided an overview of the authorities that may be granted by the province to the RDN through Ministerial approval of a SWMP.

From an authorities perspective a SWMP is an instrument of the *Environmental Management Act*, it serves to:

- Provide an exemption to gaining another type of authorization for discharges to the environment.
- Not require the assent of electors for adopting a bylaw for implementing a waste management plan.
- Provide regional districts additional powers to manage municipal solid waste.

A. McPherson commented that due to an emergency, the meeting would be adjourned until next meeting to discuss unfinished business.

A. McPherson requested that the presentation be circulated to the committee members for review and if there was any comments in regards to the survey the committee could forward those to RDN staff.

ADDENDUM

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

NEW BUSINESS

Next RSWAC meeting will be held September 17, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

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



CHAIRPERSON