

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO  
REGIONAL SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2016  
BOARD CHAMBERS**

**Present:**

|                     |                            |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Alec McPherson      | Chair, RDN Director        |
| Bill McKay          | Deputy Chair, RDN Director |
| Jan Hastings        | Non Profit Representative  |
| Derek Haarsma       | Business Representative    |
| Wally Wells         | Business Representative    |
| Dean Jones          | Waste Management Industry  |
| Craig Evans         | 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            |
| Geoff Goodall       | 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 |
| Randy Alexander  | General Manager, RCU, RDN         |

**Regrets:**

|                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Charlotte Davis   | City of Nanaimo         |
| John Marsh        | Town of Qualicum Beach  |
| 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      |
| Michael Tripp     | Business Representative |
| Dennis Trudeau    | CAO, RDN                |
| Fred Spears       | District of Lantzville  |
| Stewart Young Jr. | Business Representative |
| John Finnie       | Member at Large         |
| Amanda Ticknor    | Member at Large         |

**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.

**DELEGATES**

Ellen Ross gave a brief presentation on reusable bags that she helped to design and that are now distributed by Loblaw's. Approximately 7 years ago she approached the corporate office at Loblaw's and requested that a standard bag be designed, and it is now available for purchase to help keep plastic bags out of the landfill.

## MINUTES

MOVED J. McTaggart-Cowan, SECONDED B. McKay, that the minutes from the meeting of the Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee regular meeting held February 4, 2016, be adopted. CARRIED

MOVED B. McKay, SECONDED G. Johnson, that the minutes from the meeting of the Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee regular meeting held February 18, 2016, be adopted. CARRIED

## BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

### REPORTS

#### Construction and Demolition Waste – Current State & Future Options (S. Horsburgh – Presentation)

S. Horsburgh gave a presentation on the current state of the Construction and Demolition (CD) Waste and future options and to estimate additional waste diversion potential from the CD sector of the waste stream.

J. McTaggart-Cowan questioned the use of the word items that are “difficult” to recycle but simply because of quantity here in the RDN we don’t have enough to make it profitable for companies to do it. Perhaps we need to find another way to work with other regional districts or Vancouver area to get items over there.

S. Horsburgh commented that in BC there are no new stewardship programs being considered for introduction in the short term. The RDN currently accepts asbestos from the Cowichan Valley at the landfill.

L. Gardner remarked that a significant portion of non-recyclable materials is asbestos, insulation/drywall with asbestos, painted materials, treated wood, and as regulatory requirements are tightening up there are more items coming to the landfill as it is the only option for disposal.

J. Hastings questioned what would the diversion options be if composite or painted wood ends up in the landfill?

S. Horsburgh commented that the mills have less tolerance to accept treated wood and the only alternative at the moment is to landfill.

D. Jones commented that DBL ships ground wood waste to Catalyst mills and they have a 2% tolerance for contaminants. Products that are problematic are wood laminated with other materials such as countertops. These materials along with pressure treated wood are landfilled.

Typically, house demolitions require hazardous materials testing to be conducted to identify if the building contains lead based paints and or asbestos. Removal of these materials requires staff to follow strict handling procedures to meet health and safety regulations.

J. McTaggart-Cowan questioned how much of the self-haul is small industry versus the homeowner?

S. Horsburgh replied that the majority of self-haul customers are residential.

D. Jones commented that the building industry has moved away from lead based paint as people are demanding more environmental friendly products.

C. Evans asked if the wood waste that's received at the landfill was processed for beneficial purposes.

L. Gardner commented that the landfill uses the wood grind to build road bases to move equipment around the site.

C. Evans questioned if that is considered diversion from the landfill?

S. Horsburgh responded that ground wood waste and asphalt shingles are counted as beneficial use as these materials are used in landfill applications.

L. Gardner commented that beneficial use is considered diversion from the landfill. We report to the Ministry of Environment standards but as far as utilization on site we would import one way or another because we need it to operate.

C. Evans asked if there was anywhere in the lower mainland taking old carpets for recycling?

J. Hastings replied to C. Evans that there are two possible kinds of carpet recycling. What's currently being done now is the new carpet because P.E.T. can be recovered for recycling. However, what you are describing is repurposing and grinding up carpet for other uses. There are definitely markets for recycling underlay that can be crushed and reused so this item could be diverted from landfill.

D. Jones remarked on the interpretation of the term beneficial use when wastes used in a landfill application is considered diversion?

L. Gardner commented that the RDN promoted a more restrictive definition of beneficial use but it wasn't supported by the waste management sector or the province. In the end we report as directed and follow rules that are given to us by the province

B. Geselbrecht asked what is the fraction of the percent of the total waste used for the roads?

S. Horsburgh replied it is a very small component of the overall waste stream that is being repurposed on site.

B. McKay mentioned a person in Vancouver that sets up in a warehouse such as Jordan's and carpets/underlay are dropped off and then he takes the product away for recycling. Perhaps a similar initiative could be developed on Vancouver Island and this opportunity could be taken on by a social enterprise?

B. McKay questioned once a permit has been issued, where can we go to ensure that the CD waste is properly being disposed of?

S. Horsburgh replied that this is an opportunity in the future to work with Community Planning and development departments region wide, so a standardized process for including recycling plans as part of issuing demolition permits to demonstrate how the waste is being handled.

G. Johnson remarked that the solution is simple; they should need to amend the demolition permit to include a recycling plan?

L. Gardner answered that we could ask for a recycling plan but we could not enforce the plan without additional authorities. If we ask for permission, in the SWMP, to say we would like to regulate the conditions in the building permit, and if the province agreed, then we could proceed.

J. McTaggart-Cowan questioned what is needed or what is the new authority to ask for to step up and get control on the demolition permit?

L. Gardner replied if we can get a mandate from the RSWAC and it gets Board support we would create a draft bylaw. If there is no interest at this stage we wouldn't pursue further.

### **GROUP EXERCISE**

L. Gardner introduced the group exercise and the Committee broke off into groups to discuss the topics that have been topics of interest with the committee. A summary of the chart was distributed to committee members on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Based on the summary, as well as discussions during the exercise, the following themes emerged and required further discussion:

- Education
- Enforcement/Regulatory Tools
- Zero Waste
- Economic Drivers/Incentives to drive diversion
- Residual Management

### **ADDENDUM**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Time: 7:37 pm.

  
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CHAIRPERSON