

COMOX STRATHCONA WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes from the meeting held on August 26, 2021 by Zoom 2, commencing at 1:32 pm

PRESENT:

G. Garbutt, CAO	City of Courtenay
J. Wall, CAO	Town of Comox
D. Hadfield, Director of Operations	City of Campbell River
J. Humphreys, Environmental Services Coordinator	Strathcona Regional District
C. Postings, CAO	Village of Cumberland
S. Veselinovic, Manager	Hornby Island Recycle
S. Ashfield, Director of Operations	Town of Comox
R. Dyson, CAO	CVRD
M. Rutten, General Manager of Engineering Services	CVRD
K. Douville, Manager of Financial Planning	CVRD
K. Garrett, Manager of Procurement	CVRD
V. Schau, Senior Manager of CSWM Services	CVRD
C. Makinson, Manager of CSWM Capital Projects	CVRD
S. Willie, Engineering Analyst	CVRD
J. Lee, Manager of CSWM Operations	CVRD
S. Valdal, Services Coordinator, CSWM	CVRD
K. Morro, Engineering Services Assistant	CVRD

ITEMS:

Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes of the May 27, 2021 Comox Strathcona Waste Management Advisory Committee meeting and no errors or omissions were noted.

Draft staff report: Solid Waste Asset Management Plan

V. Schau provided a verbal overview of the drafted staff report staff are working on regarding asset management for solid waste services.

Advisory comments:

G. Garbutt proposed this report to go to next CSWM Board on October 21, 2021 to allow the Advisory to review a written staff report at the October 7, 2021 Advisory meeting. D. Hadfield second this proposal.

CSWM staff agreed to finalize the report and present at the next advisory.

Draft staff report: Regional Organics Compost Project Budget Amendment and Update

C. Makinson provided an overview of the staff report through a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the current budget and the need for a budget amendment given the higher cost bids received largely due to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic with increased construction costs. Provided an update on permitting approvals, outcome of the procurement process and outlined construction plans for the new facility. Still working through what the Organics tipping fees will be, hoping to have more concrete prices for October, 2021.

Advisory comments:

D. Hadfield, not sure if Campbell River will be ready to roll out organics in 2022 but will be for yard waste. Possibly moving to having yard waste year round as planning organics to be year round. Provides an opportunity to start a stock pile starting earlier.

Discussions around procurement options and processes. V. Schau highlighted synergies of the existing transfer station and organic facilities which CSWM staff are further considering.

Advisory supported the recommendations.

Draft staff report: Reasonable Access to Recycling for Residents

S. Willie provided an overview of the staff report regarding the revised accessibility criteria for where Stewardship Agencies of British Columbia (SABC) site facilities, which is quite vague at this time. SABC group is an informal alliance of industry product stewardship organizations that represent the many products accepted at the depots.

The BC Product Stewardship Council, a coalition of regional districts which the CSWM is a part of, highlighted omissions from the most recent Guidance on Accessibility document update, which SABC prepared without a formal consultation process. For the CSWM service, the updated document does not satisfy the ‘reasonable’ clause and we would like to provide our feedback, specifically, a commitment for improved accessibility for remote communities and to support the Regional District of Nanaimo’s proposed use of the Remoteness Index rather than ‘distance circles’ to effectively determine levels of service required to meet a communities’ needs.

Advisory comments:

Advisory supported the recommendations.

Draft staff report: Quadra Community Engagement and Recycling Transition - Update

S. Valdal provided an overview of the staff report which includes an update on the community consultations and survey completed, both of which had successful participation and support for improved recycling opportunities. Additional town hall meetings will be completed later in the fall and will follow all COVID-19 protocols.

Advisory comments:

Advisory supported the recommendations.

Verbal Update: Single use plastics update

S. Willie provided a verbal update discussing single use plastics as the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan continued to move forward at the Provincial level and proceeded with changes to the *Community Charter*. Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy has approved nine municipal single-use plastic ban bylaws over the past year i.e. plastic bags, straws, plastic utensils, packaging.

If municipalities previously approved Single Use bylaws prior to the above *Community Charter* changes, they are encouraged to seek legal counsel on the validity of those bylaws.

Moving forward, any interested municipality can implement bylaws to ban certain single-use items following the requirements set out in the amended Regulation, without the need to submit for Ministerial approval.

Propose a joint meeting with municipalities to discuss what resources the CSWM can provide to support, such as communication material development and template bylaws, potential synergies, and discuss roll-out approaches taken by other communities.

The Ministry will be holding a webinar for local governments September 23 (tentative date) to provide additional information and an opportunity to respond to questions.

Propose we hold our meeting the day before, Wednesday September 22.

Advisory comments:

J. Wall: Comox council wants to see this at next council meeting. Wanted to let the municipalities know that after the bylaw is adopted, there is a six month grace period before enforcement can proceed.

C. Postings: requested that the CVRD forward the information sent from Environment Canada to the Advisory.

Verbal Update: Construction and Demolition waste June roundtable update and next steps

S. Willie provided a verbal update on the June roundtable which was very well received. Continue to work with stakeholders and the board before proceeding with implementing any changes.

Proposing virtual meetings separately with each of the larger municipalities involved in issuing building permits. Meetings to be focused on planning and development teams and those who procure construction and demolition of municipal assets. For smaller communities, proposing to meet together as a group. Meeting purpose is to identify stakeholders in the community and each organization, understand challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Bring back report October 7 to Advisory, October 21 to CSWM Board

Advisory comments:

G. Garbutt: highlighted the need to speak with construction community as it's vital to understand what implications would be for them. S. Willie confirmed they are indeed are key stakeholders in this conversation.

Verbal Update: Municipal curbside collection

V. Schau provided a verbal update of the challenges all local governments have been facing with missed and/or delayed curbside pick-ups. Emterra has sent a letter acknowledging the deficiencies and providing their plan to rectify. Looking to get a better timeline for these changes from Emterra.

J. Wall: need to be prepared that we may have this instability into the fall. Communications regarding collection updates with Emterra has been lacking. Closure of the unstaffed CSWM depots has put increased pressures on the remaining depots, in particular for Comox, the Comox Bottle Depot has made a business decision to stop taking most recyclables at this time. The owner of the Comox Bottle Depot is working to identify an alternative location that would better suit their recycling operation.

CVRD is currently working on a system review of all recycling options in the CSWM service to provide accessible recycling options within the region.

J. Wall: Any potential at reinstating the Canex location?

It is a consideration but if it comes to this, it would have to be a fully staffed depot and only on a temporary basis as owners have other plans for that area. We are looking for a longer term, regional solution.

Municipalities willing to help the CVRD on looking at finding solutions for the recycling problems.

G. Garbutt: City has received the worst service delivery and has been given the impression Emterra is prioritizing other service areas over them especially since they have taken action to service their routes through municipal employees.

Do private haulers pay more to bring loads to the landfill? J. Lee: this is dependent on what items are brought in, the tipping fee bylaw outlines the scale charges. All municipal solid waste is charged at \$140/tonne, regardless of who brings the material in.

Elected officials are concerned about waste diversion. The longer this goes on, residents may be inclined to dispose of their recyclables in the regular waste stream if the convenience of curbside recycling is not available.

D. Hadfield: Campbell River (CR) collection schedule is 3 streams a week, haven't missed recycling or garbage but currently a day behind on yard waste collection. CR has not experienced the same challenges working with Emterra, their communication has been regular and delayed collections has been notified on a timely basis.

G. Garbutt: municipalities working together on this has been great but we also need to look at how we can support Emterra getting back on track.

NEW BUSINESS:

R: Dyson discussed the letter received from the City of Courtenay requesting that CSWM waive tipping fees for residential yard waste. Letter sent to the Advisory following this meeting. Short staff report on this topic will be provided to the board at their next meeting.

GENERAL:

The next Comox Strathcona Waste Management Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2021 at 1:30 pm.

TERMINATION:

The meeting terminated at 2:50pm.

Recorded by:

K. Morro

K. Morro
Engineering Services Assistant

Certified correct:

V. Schau

V. Schau
Senior Manager of CSWM Services