

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, May 12, 2022

PRESENT: Chair Mark Fisher

Directors Gladys Atrill – via Zoom
Shane Brienen
Chris Newell
Jerry Petersen
Gerry Thiessen

Director Michael Riis-Christianson
Absent

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer– via Zoom
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Janette Derksen, Waste Diversion Supervisor
Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Others Clint Lambert, Electoral Area “E” (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)
– left at 3:35 p.m.
Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle – via Zoom – left at 3:27 p.m.
Sarrah Storey, Village of Fraser Lake– via Zoom – left at 3:27 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fisher called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Brienen
Seconded by Director Newell

WMC.2022-5-1

“That the Waste Management Committee Agenda for May 12, 2022 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Waste Management
Committee Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2022

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Brienen

WMC.2022-5-2

“That the Minutes of the Waste Management Committee for April 14, 2022 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

Chair Fisher provided an update regarding:

- Attended teleconference calls with the Waste Management Association
 - o Discussed tires in the region and across the province not being picked up for recycling on a consistent basis
- Attended the Northern Working Group Meeting for the Coast Waste Management Association
 - o Good cross section of members
 - o Heard consistent message regarding collaboration and sharing information across northern BC.

Verbal Report – Chair Fisher – Welcome Youth Members

- Not able to attend today's meeting
- Chair Fisher has scheduled a Zoom meeting with youth members May 17th to provide an overview and preparation for a future Waste Management Committee (WMC) Meeting.

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC) UPDATE

Verbal Report – Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services – First Meeting Date

- First Meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 14, 2022
- Staff have drafted a welcome e-mail with upcoming meeting date – not yet sent to members
- Staff will provide an update at the next WMC Meeting.

POLICY REVIEW

None

DIVERSION & RECYCLING

None

MISCELLANEOUS

Review of Cost Recovery and the RDBN

The following was discussed:

- Other groups unable to capitalize on cost recovery initiatives
- Polluter paid principle
- Implementing recommendations outlined in the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP)
- Incentives for diversion
- Resistance from rural residents
- Largest operating expense to implement cost recovery is staffing
 - o Each additional weigh scale will require additional staffing
- Unfunded liability for landfill closures – ensure incorporation in all planning and implementation of diversion initiatives moving forward
- Looking at diversion – if do not have a model that is fair and equitable across the region
- Balance and combination of fees/property taxation
 - o Shift/move the industry subsidization from one property class to another property class
 - o Some individuals will pay more, and some will pay less
 - o Those that continue to landfill rather than divert waste will continue to pay
 - o User pay model
 - Complete cost recovery through tipping fees – no taxes
 - Large urban centres can do full cost recovery
 - o Rural demographic – challenging to eliminate taxation
 - o Operation costs a consideration in reducing taxation
 - o Board to determine model

MISCELLANEOUS (CONT'D)

- Shifting responsibility to the individual
- Require updated Waste Characterization and Recycling Feedstock Inventory
- Addressing municipal waste pickup to incentivize diversion
- Addressing illegal dumping
 - o Impact to backcountry
- Innovative ideas to encourage diversion
- Residential recycling is Recycle BC's mandate
- Challenges with commercial waste
- Education campaigns and communication
- Amount of recyclable beverage containers being landfilled
- Organics diversion
 - o Methane gas recovery
 - o Currently operations do not generate large enough methane gas amounts to use on a large scale
 - o Small scale Bio-digesters
- Staff will bring forward proposed implementation plan for consideration.

Waste Characterization and Recycling Feedstock Inventory Update

Discussion took place regarding:

- The Study providing information regarding potential material that can be diverted
 - o Assist in developing cost recovery model
 - o The number and timing of field sampling events
 - o Cost and funding of the waste characterization and recycling feedstock inventory
 - o Full field-based waste characterization study
 - o Adjusting the scope of the project
 - o Determining a baseline of waste being disposed at RDBN facilities
 - o Real time data
 - o Difference across the region.

Waste Characterization and Recycling Feedstock Inventory Update Moved by Director Atrill
Seconded by Director Thiessen

WMC.2022-5-3

"That the Board approve XCG as the consultant for conducting the Waste Characterization and Recycling Feedstock Inventory in 2022/2023 based on the proposed project budget of \$125,000 to be funded through general operations within the Environmental Services budget."

Opposed: Director Newell CARRIED

(All/Directors/Majority)

Verbal Update – Highlights of the SWANA (Solid Waste Association of North America) Zero Waste Conference

Mr. Eriksen and Ms. Derksen outlined highlights of the SWANA Waste conference:

- In person conference was beneficial
- Good seminars and networking opportunities
- Connections with contractors to move forward waste initiatives
- Received updates regarding stewardship programs and waste
- Toured a tire recycling plant, metal recycling facility and zero waste facility.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Verbal Update – Knockholt Capacity and Waste Re-routing Plan Update

Mr. Eriksen provided an update regarding Knockholt capacity and waste re-routing. Weather dependent, the Knockholt expansion is scheduled to begin in June 2022. There is currently two months of space existing at the landfill before having to adjust for capacity.

Verbal Update – Department Activity

Mr. Eriksen noted that the Department is planning and moving forward with its capital projects and budgeted items for 2022.

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

- Recycling Depot Discussion – May 2022
- 2m3 Rule Discussion – Strategy, Challenges, Enforcement – June 2022
- Daily Cover Material – Considerations for Sawmill waste (Hog fuel) – June 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Brien

WMC.2022-5-4

“That the meeting be adjourned at 4:11 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Fisher, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of
Corporate Services