



**MINUTES OF THE AVICC  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT  
HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE  
FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2015**

**REPRESENTATIVES:**

AVICC President Barbara Price, Ex-officio  
Director John McNabb, Alberni Clayoquot  
Director Judy Brownoff, Capital  
Director Rod Nichol, Comox Valley  
Director Ian Morrison, Cowichan Valley  
Director Alec McPherson, Nanaimo  
Director Stan Gisborne, Powell River  
Director Jude Schooner, Strathcona  
Director Ian Winn, Sunshine Coast  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Edwin Grieve, AVICC

**ALTERNATES AS OBSERVERS:**

Director Roger Kishi, Comox Valley  
Director Sonia Furstenau, Cowichan Valley  
Director Jim Kipp, Nanaimo  
Director CaroleAnn Leishman, Powell River  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Mary Marcotte, AVICC

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

Russ Smith, Capital Regional District  
James Warren, Corporate Legislative Assistant, Comox Valley  
Marc Rutten, Engineering GM, Comox Valley  
Wilbert Yang, Consultant, Tetra Tech EBA  
Avery Gottfried, Consultant, Tetra Tech EBA  
James Mathers, Sr. Manager, Comox-Strathcona Waste Mgt Services  
Tauseef Waraich, Mgr, Recycling & Waste Mgt, Cowichan Valley  
Paul Thorkelsson, CAO, Nanaimo  
Dennis Trudeau, Gen Mgr, Trans & Solid Waste, Nanaimo  
Robyn Cooper, Mgr, Waste Reduction & Recovery, Sunshine Coast  
Iris Hesketh-Boles, AVICC Executive Coordinator (Recorder)

**UNAVAILABLE PRIMARY REPS:** Director Dennis Dugas, Mount Waddington

Interim Chair AVICC President Barbara Price called the meeting to order at 11:15 am, welcoming all those in attendance, and thanking attendees for making the time to participate in today's meeting and workshop. In a go around, each participant introduced themselves.

**MINUTES OF MAY 29, 2015 TELECONFERENCE MEETING**

On motion by AVICC 1<sup>st</sup> VP Mary Marcotte, seconded by AVICC 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Edwin Grieve,  
That the minutes of the May 29, 2015 teleconference meeting be adopted was

CARRIED

## **SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Two nominations for chair were received and both members let their name stand:

- AVICC 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Edwin Grieve was nominated by AVICC 1<sup>st</sup> VP Mary Marcotte
- Nanaimo Director Alec McPherson was nominated by Nanaimo Director Jim Kipp

AVICC President Price declared that an election would be held with ballots being distributed. On request by a member, AVICC President Price offered each nominee the opportunity to address the members of the Committee. The ballots distributed prematurely were then collected.

On motion by Cowichan Valley Director Ian Morrison, seconded by AVICC 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Edwin Grieve,  
That the pre-mature ballots be destroyed was CARRIED

Each of the nominees took the opportunity to address delegates. A new set of ballots were distributed, marked, collected and counted by staff. AVICC President Price advised that AVICC 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Edwin Grieve was elected as Chair and requested nominations for Vice Chair.

AVICC 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Edwin Grieve then nominated Nanaimo Director Alec McPherson. There were no further nominations and AVICC President Price declared that Director Alec McPherson was acclaimed as Vice Chair.

On motion by Cowichan Valley Director Ian Morrison, seconded by Nanaimo Director Alec McPherson, That the ballots be destroyed was CARRIED

AVICC President Price expressed congratulations to the Chair and Vice Chair and thanked them for accepting this important leadership role in an exciting and important process. She also thanked members of the Committee and staff for their participation and contributions to date.

AVICC 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Edwin Grieve then assumed the Chair thanking AVICC President Price for providing leadership to the Committee to this point.

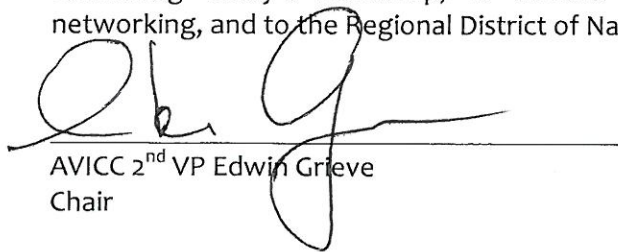
## **NEXT MEETING**

On motion by Cowichan Valley Director Ian Morrison, seconded by Strathcona Director Jude Schooner, That the next meeting be scheduled for 9:00 – 10:00 am, Friday, July 10, 2015 via teleconference was CARRIED

## **WORKSHOP**

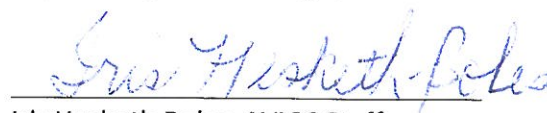
Wilbert Yang and Avery Gottfried, Consultants with Tetra Tech EBA facilitated a workshop that included an overview of the solid waste management system; a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis for the Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities; an examination of the trends in solid waste management; and identification and prioritization of potential solutions including the issues and challenges. The PPT notes and minutes from the workshop are appended to these minutes.

The workshop wrapped up at 3:45 pm with AVICC 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Grieves thanking Wilbert and Avery for facilitating today's workshop, to elected and staff in attendance allowing for face-to-face networking, and to the Regional District of Nanaimo for providing the meeting space.



---

AVICC 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Edwin Grieve  
Chair



---

Iris Hesketh-Boles, AVICC Staff  
Meeting Recorder





## MEETING MINUTES

**MEETING TIME:** 11:15 am – 4:00 pm **DATE:** June 19, 2015  
**LOCATION:** Board Chambers, Nanaimo Regional District Office **FILE:** 704-ENVSWM03638-01  
6300 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo  
**ATTENDEES:** Avery Gottfried, Wilbert Yang – Tetra Tech (Presenters)  
22 total from AVICC and 8 of the 9 regional districts (Capital, Cowichan Valley, Nanaimo, Alberni-Clayoquot, Comox Valley, Strathcona, Powell River, Sunshine Coast)  
**ABSENT:** Mount Waddington

*This 'Issued for Review' document is provided solely for the purpose of client review and presents our interim findings and recommendations to date. Our usable findings and recommendations are provided only through an 'Issued for Use' document, which will be issued subsequent to this review. Final design should not be undertaken based on the interim recommendations made herein. Once our report is issued for use, the 'Issued for Review' document should be either returned to Tetra Tech EBA or destroyed.*

### 1.0 INTRODUCTIONS & EXPECTATIONS

- Ian Morrison – Cowichan Valley RD – Great opportunity. Currently ship garbage to the US. We have a high diversion rate and a high cost. Issues include rural services and illegal dumping. Looking at new technologies and ideas to make them happen. Collaboration to get new opportunities. Deal with our own waste closer to home.
- Ian Winn – Sunshine Coast RD – Get new board up to speed on plan as there are a lot of new faces, how to implement all 24 ideas in the plan, and how to prioritize them. Want high diversion rates but how to get there. Prioritization and how to collaborate, and what can be achieved.
- John McNabb – Alberni Clayoquot RD – Mixed system, diverse due to spread out location. Available life of landfill can change quickly if land claims and other issues come up. Want to improve their diversion, and future diversion solutions. Don't want a new landfill site in the future. Look at options beside landfills. What has been unsuccessful elsewhere and learn from it so we don't make the same mistakes.
- Stan Gisborne – Powell River RD – Ship waste to US. Just went to RFP for new compost site. Best way to deal with their waste as it is expensive. Have looked at shipping to the Island before and that is costly. Spent 5+ years trying to find a new landfill site and were not able to identify any.
- Edwin Grieve – AVICC – Moving target with the Ministry. New "guidelines", want for 70% organics diversion for 2020. Who knows if they are rigid or flexible in meeting the new guidelines?
- Jude Schooner – Strathcona RD – Really wants more diversion, best way to help financial situation as landfilling is only getting more expensive. Wanted to extend the landfill life in Tahsis but too expensive. Regulatory – BCMOE – find a way to get infrastructure funding for ideas from the AVICC and overall collaboration between regional districts.

- Judy Brownoff – Capital RD – Solid Waste Management Plan update and local organics management have been the issue, along with liquid waste management. All caught up in long issues for the past year. Biggest issue is landfill life and solid waste finances (more diversion results in less revenue for balancing budget). Proud that tipping fees pay for everything – but now the financial sustainability is at risk as not enough revenue from tipping fees, may need taxation to level out the cost.
- Alec McPherson – Nanaimo RD – How to cover the cost for solid waste management is the main issues. You pound down in one area and the problem pops up elsewhere. Best idea for you may not be best for all, and let's be aware of that. Is there consensus in the community for what way to go – can diversion go to 80%. Biggest issues with landfill fixed costs. Need province to allow them to delegate the responsibility, such as flow control, the way they want to manage their waste. More diversion is key, but it gets more expensive. Saw a presentation recently for Multi-Family dirty material recovery facility (MRF) – but could cost \$10 million dollars. Hard job to see what current reality is. What are the best solutions for the island, given the current systems, and how to change our current systems so that we can get there? Wilbert has a tough job to make this happen.
- Rod Nichol – Comox Valley RD– Likes what he saw at the waste to energy (WTE) facility in Edmonton, other facilities use and recycle ash to make building products. Also there is a new wood waste, drywall and slaughterhouse waste processing facility in Malaysia that is a great WTE facility. If we have the tonnage we can help make these technologies happen.

#### **Expectations Summary from Flip Chart:**

- Island Solution
- Understand what other are facing
- Learn from others
- Other options outside of landfills
- Ways to achieve more diversion
- Learn about funding opportunities
- Financial sustainability
- How can a AVICC catchment are solid waste management system work
- Manage solid waste in a manner that island residents are proud of.

## **2.0 SOLID WASTE SYSTEM OVERVIEWS AND TRENDS**

- Slide 9 – Map of all landfills and composting operations.
  - Comment: Idea – Each region becomes an expert and managing a product and finds a way to deal with it.
  - Discussion – Given the projected closures in the short term (Comox Valley and Sunshine Coast) there will eventually only be 4 larger landfills, 1 Demolition and land clearing waste landfill and 7 small landfills remaining for the entire AVICC region. Show this on the map.

- Slide 10 – Disposal per capita. Slide has been updated. (Axes labels were shifted.)
- Slide 11 – Disposal capacity. Slide Updated.
  - Question: did we compare landfills to show which ones are actually meeting the Ministry standards?
    - Answer: no we are not going to that level of detail for this study.
- Slide 15 – AVICC Overview – Organics. Slide updated with clarification to food waste or yard waste composting facilities.
  - Comments: We currently collect only food scraps without yard waste, which makes a low carbon compost with high nitrogen. It's hard to make a marketable product this way. If we focus on the product we want to make, we would take yard waste as well to help solve this problem. Private landscaping compost operations take the yard waste as it makes good quality compost and we not are stuck with the difficulty of dealing with food scraps.
  - Feedback: Include in the report: info that shows current collaboration that has happened. For example, the WTE tri-regional study.
- Slide 16 – Alberni Clayoquot – currently have 2 SWMP related documents under development. Updated. Plan implementation and review is underway.
- Slide 21 – Comox Strathcona – building a regional composting facility in Campbell River or Comox
- Slide 34 – Trends – Recycling
  - Comment – glass in BC is doing well due to California legislation that requires a specific amount of recycled glass content in new wine bottles. This legislation helped create the market for the recycled product.
- Slide 35 – Trends – Organics
  - Comment – Comox Valley RD finished a pilot for organics collection with two different collection systems:
    - Every other week garbage, weekly organics in Campbell River – very high organics uptake and 70% participation
    - Weekly garbage and organics in Comox – less uptake 40% participation
- Slide 40 – Trends – WTE
  - Comment: Capital costs for these big systems such as gasification. In the range of \$95-\$130/tonne. How will this align for different costs at different disposal locations? Comox has undergone a large amount of work to determine what a universal tipping fee rate should be which takes into account many different parts of the system.

### 3.0 SWOT ANALYSIS

Additions to ideas presented in the PowerPoint slides:

**Strengths:**

- Good public knowledge and involvement in existing programs. The public is keen to do more diversion.
- # Items accepted for recycling at some depots.

**Opportunities:**

- Unified solid waste management plans
- Decrease reliance on landfills

**Weakness:**

- Multi-family waste management. Poor diversion and involvement overall.
- Rural/urban divide and providing service to everyone in a region, or across the AVICC

**Threats:**

- Challenges around emerging technologies. They take a long time to plan, cost a lot, and come with a lot of risk.

**Identification of Ideas for Break-Out Group Discussion and Prioritization:**

A long list of opportunities, issues and challenges was created by the group and can be found in the table below. In total 9 collaborative opportunities, 4 challenges, and 5 issues were identified. For the opportunities, 3 key themes emerged and so the 9 ideas were consolidated and grouped into 3. (The original list of 9 is provided below and the 3 that were included in the short list for discussion are in the table). Each member was given 5 dots to prioritize options list in the Table below.

**Collaborative Opportunities:** regrouped the long list of 9 into the 3 in the table below.

- Plan for Waste to Energy
- Coordination of landfill capacity to use by other regional districts
- Unified solid waste system and the management of risk and liability between all parties
- Consistent Messaging for practice of solid waste
- Collaboration on specific waste streams (e.g. Organics and garbage)
- Involvement of the private sector in this conversation
- Unified approach to laws and requirements (e.g. Disposal bans, building design (deconstruction))
- Combined lobbying efforts (including the zero waste council)



**Table: Items for Breakout Group Discussion**

Theme	Discussion Topic	Score
Opportunity	Long term disposal capacity options; coordination of sharing existing disposal capacity.	8
Opportunity	Unified approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Disposal bans</li> <li>– Accepted materials</li> <li>– Building design (deconstruction)</li> <li>– Combined lobbying efforts</li> </ul>	13
Opportunity	Consistent education and messaging. Leading by example	14
Challenge	Financial stability and alternative financial models for solid waste budgets. Including private funding and involvement.	12
Challenge	Management of hazardous waste materials by the private sector	1
Challenge	Enforcement of illegal dumping laws (Construction demolition waste and contaminated soil ending up in Cowichan Valley RD – hard to control but now have a large number of contaminated sites they must clean up)	7
Challenge	Time frame to develop emerging technology	0
Issue	Reduction of materials not cover by EPR	0
Issue	Non-recyclable packaging (laws to ban this)	6
Issue	Getting MMBC to accept recyclable materials that are not packaging in the blue box program or depots.	4
Issue	Time frame required to amend solid waste management plans	0
Issue	Having multiple regional districts develop coordinated waste management plans	11

## 4.0 IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES DISCUSSION

From the above ideas and general discussion during the workshop, we grouped a number of issues and participates decided to focus on the following 3 key priorities:

### 1. Financial Models and financial stability. Including alternative funding opportunities.

- Can we have a high level summary of the unified rate cost study that was done in Comox Valley RD

- Opportunity for external GMF funding if projects are done in partnership across regions
  - Note that sharing budgets is difficult, need each municipality involved as well – example is a curbside program where the budgets are all ok, but other aspects of the waste program are struggling. It's not possible to shift money from one to the other without each municipality voting to agree to this.
  - What fiscal frameworks exist that go beyond using Tipping fees for revenue?
  - Reminder – We first need to determine what we fundamentally want to do with solid waste, determine the core values such as organics bans. Then we will know what kind of financial models we may need. We are not just going for the cheapest system here, we want the best system.
  - Be wary of the moving target – costs can double in a short period of time for infrastructure.
- 2. Unified approaches and having multiple regional districts develop joint solid waste management plans**
- Unified approach to laws and material bans (or also ensuring they all accept specific materials for recycling)
  - Consistent education and messaging across regions
  - Sharing landfill capacity
  - Consistent laws and enforcement
- Best opportunities will come from a unified approach
  - Reach out to the Province, we will need resources to get this process started, and how to get more resources
  - We can use AVICC to lobby EPR on a joint, unified approach, same with MMBC and the Province.
  - Can start to pilot some ideas come next year as the first step
  - This can help make sure that materials don't keep jumping from region to region, depending on who has a ban in place or who has weaker enforcement or control.
- 3. Long – Term Capacity and sharing of existing disposal capacity**
- Need to get to 70% diversion before ideas like WTE can even be presented to the Province
  - Seen as an end goal, not the first issue to tackle