



**MINUTES OF THE AVICC
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
HELD AT NANAIMO REGIONAL DISTRICT
Friday, March 16, 2018**

REPRESENTATIVES:

AVICC 1st Vice President Edwin Grieve, Committee Chair
Director Judy Brownoff, Capital
Chair Andrew Hory, Mount Waddington (Alternate)
Director CaroleAnn Leishman, Powell River
AVICC President Mary Marcotte, Ex-officio
Director John McNabb, Alberni-Clayoquot
Director Alec McPherson, Nanaimo, Committee Vice-Chair
Director Ian Morrison, Cowichan Valley
Director Rod Nichol, Comox Valley
Director Brad Unger, Strathcona
Director Ian Winn, Sunshine Coast

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Brian Carruthers, CAO, Cowichan Valley
Liz Cookson, Executive Coordinator, AVICC
Michael Dinesen, Bylaw Compliance Officer, Comox Valley
Tristan Evans, Grad Tech Engineering Analyst, Comox Valley
Larry Gardner, Manager Solid Waste Services, Nanaimo
Janette Loveys, CAO, Sunshine Coast
Mark Rutten, General Manager Engineering, Comox Valley
Russ Smith, CAO Designate, Capital
Tauseef Waraich, Manager Recycling & Waste Mgmt, Comox Valley
James Warren, General Manager, Corporate Services, Comox Valley

DELEGATION:

Wilbert Yang, P. Eng., Solid Waste Mgmt Engineer, Tetra Tech

Chair and AVICC 1st Vice President Edwin Grieve called the meeting to order at 11:05 am, thanked attendees for making the time to participate in today's meeting, and welcomed new attendees Chair Hory and Director Unger. Attendance was confirmed.

MINUTES OF MARCH 3, 2017 MEETING

On motion by Sunshine Coast Director Winn, seconded by Alberni-Clayoquot Director McNabb,
That the minutes of the March 3, 2017 meeting be adopted was CARRIED

RECEIVE NOTES FROM STAFF MEETING

On motion by Sunshine Coast Director Winn, seconded by Alberni-Clayoquot Director McNabb,
That the notes from the Administration Group meeting on December 15, 2017 be received was CARRIED

2017 AGM RESOLUTION , REPORT PRIORITIES AND ACTION PLAN TRACKING

On motion by Capital Director Brownoff, seconded by Strathcona Director Unger,
That the background material on the 2017 AGM Resolution, 2015 Tetra Tech Report Priorities and the
Action Plan Tracking of Priorities be received was CARRIED

ILLEGAL DUMPING AND DISPOSAL BANS UPDATE

On motion by Comox Valley Director Nichol, seconded by Sunshine Coast Director Winn,
That the report from the Comox Valley Regional District on AVICC Waste Leakage Data Update be received was CARRIED

Tristan Evans, Grad Tech Engineering Analyst from Comox Valley Regional District presented a report updating data on waste leakage by category of waste between AVICC RDs. He reviewed the history of the report noting that In November of 2016, ComVRD staff undertook a waste leakage analysis project on behalf of the AVICC. The scope of the project involved compiling a comprehensive matrix containing the data from each regional district's tipping fee and regulation bylaw. The data was sent to staff at each regional district for review before being presented to the AVICC Special Committee. The data was subsequently used to determine the potential for the occurrence of waste leakage between neighboring regional districts.

The analysis found minimal tipping fee variance between regional districts for municipal solid waste (MSW), construction and demolition material (C&D) and drywall. This means there is minimal incentive for customers to transport these kinds of waste for disposal to a neighbouring regional district. The analysis found significant differences in the associated tipping fees between the regional districts for a few materials, particularly asbestos. The report notes that the prohibitions in place for waste coming from outside a region and/or the higher fees placed on these materials negate any perceived savings where there is a significant difference in the associated tipping fees.

The intention is for the fees and bylaws comparison to be updated annually and re-circulated to the AVICC regional districts. The most recent update was completed in January of 2018. Continuing to track alterations in the tipping fee and regulation bylaws of the associated regional districts of the AVICC provides a convenient data set that can be utilized to determine the potential for waste leakage between neighboring regional districts. Based on this determination, a regional district can choose to alter their tipping fee and regulation bylaw accordingly to minimize the potential.

1st Vice President Grieve thanked Tristan Evans for the information, and called on the next presenter, Michael Dinesen, Bylaw Compliance Officer from Comox Valley Regional District. Mr. Dinesen presented on the CSWM's illegal dumping prevention program that was implemented following a new bylaw approved by the Board in 2017. He advised that the prevention program follows a proactive approach to follow up on hot spots, mark sites as being monitored, detail data collection, utilize social media for information and tips, and identify illegal dumpers. It involves a coordinated effort connecting bylaw staff, timber companies, police, other government agencies, private landowners and volunteers.

There was an extensive media campaign when the program was launched (online, newspapers, radio ads, new CSWM webpage, TV interviews) and the ad campaign is budgeted to continue each Spring and Fall. Pamphlets were developed for smaller communities with less reliance on online communications.

Mr. Dinesen advised that 13 dump sites have provided some information to trace that resulted in voluntary cleanups by those dumping (rather than face fines). 70,000 kg of waste has been removed, and \$9,000 spent in tipping fee waivers. Bylaw staff throughout the CSWM are now working together utilizing the same bylaw, ticketing system, reporting, signage, advertising and the use of volunteers. New temporary signage for sites and permanent signs at the landfills have spread the message. Temporary signs at sites have been left in place for short periods to gather attention of

locals (clearly noted in online chatter such as community Facebook sites) that bylaw staff are actively pursuing illegal dumping. They have seen a decrease in sites being used again after being marked with signs stating that the area is being monitored.

The Committee discussed prosecution and privacy issues. In response to a question, Mr. Dinesen advised that the police will take tips through crime stoppers but don't have the resources to investigate illegal dumping. 1st Vice President Grieve thanked Mr. Dinesen for his presentation.

TECHNICAL GROUP UPDATE

1st Vice President Grieve introduced Wilbert Yang, Solid Waste Management Engineer with Tetra Tech, and thanked him for the extra effort that Tetra Tech had provided on this project.

Tetra Tech was retained by the AVICC to update the data collected as part of the Solid Waste Management Research Project in 2015. The AVICC Special Committee had previously identified the need for comprehensive and comparable information to meet its objectives. Establishing consistent metrics for comparison helps the Committee to identify collaborative opportunities and work towards developing mutually beneficial long-term solid waste management strategies.

Mr. Yang noted that the 2015 report used data from 2014 since data is not available until the spring for the previous year. Over the summer of 2017 Tetra Tech interviewed staff from each of the regional districts to collect 2016 information including:

- General community information (i.e. population)
- Disposal/residual management
- Recycling
- Organics
- Financial details (revenues)

Prior to collecting the information, Tetra Tech worked with the Ministry of Environment to define terminology and metrics for benchmarks that are comparable among regional districts, and to identify private sector disposal facilities within the AVICC area. They reviewed the standardized definitions in the Re-Trac reporting system developed by Ministry staff and a working group of regional district solid waste managers in 2010-2012.

The updated data includes construction and demolition debris as well as information from the 18 extended producer responsibility (EPR) stewards across BC broken down by regional district. There are still data reporting challenges. Examples of these are inconsistent reporting of waste disposed from First Nations, from medical facilities, and from controlled waste such as suspect asbestos containing material and animal carcasses. In addition, recycling and organics data is not tracked in any consistent way for all regional districts and the data is not comparable.

Mr. Yang presented summaries showing the total waste generated by sector (residential, self-hauled, ICI, etc.) and a comparison of waste streams per capita for each regional districts. He also reviewed the breakdown of revenue sources from tipping fees, permits, utility fees, etc. across the AVICC region. The per capita comparisons and revenue breakdown by regional district are detailed in updated tables originally presented in the 2015 report.

Mr. Yang responded to questions regarding the presentation on revenues, reserves, carbon credits and Recycle BC fee review. In response to a question from 1st Vice President Grieve on whether CRD was satisfied with the technical memo, Russ Smith noted that they were comfortable with the

numbers in the report, but a pure apples to apples comparison is difficult. The CRD measures what comes across the scale, and some materials are captured in organics and diversion programs. He also advised that at the CRD organics revenue is offset by the expenses of the organics program, so that there is no actual increase in revenue. The Committee discussed how the data in the tables will be kept updated in future years, but did not identify a work plan for this item.

On motion by Comox Valley Director Nichol, seconded by Cowichan Valley Director Morrison,
That the technical memo and presentation from Tetra Tech on Solid Waste Research Data Update be received was CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS GROUP UPDATE

James Warren, General Manager, Corporate Services, Comox Valley provided an update on the work of the Communications Group. He referred to the notes of the November 28, 2017 meeting held by the group where several campaign options were proposed, in addition to a relaunch of the illegal dumping campaign. The relaunch would be a one week coordinated blitz that would use the video jointly created by the group for summer 2017, and also leverage Nanaimo's campaign with messaging in social media.

The three possible shared campaigns that were presented to the Administration Group were:

1. A video around wildlife issues with solid waste disposal – reminding people to be bear aware, WildSafe liaison, best practices on timing and containers for putting waste out when wildlife present.
2. How to set up a home recycling system – have been told by recycling depot people that citizens having trouble understanding some of the requirements, e.g. need to wash your recyclables.
3. Social media package of 30-second short videos with recycling tips, depot information, etc. with a communications plan/best practices on producing videos for a consistent approach across the RDs.

The Administration Group discussed the three possible campaigns at their December 15th teleconference, and determined that #2 should be developed for the review of the Special Committee.

Mr. Warren advised that the employee chairing the Communications Group was no longer at the CowVRD, that the home recycling system campaign had not been developed, and that work on the coordinated blitz had not proceeded further. He advised that ComVRD does have scripts that could be shared with other regional districts for other campaigns.

On motion by Cowichan Valley Director Morrison, seconded by Sunshine Coast Director Winn,
THAT the verbal report from James Warren on the Communications Group be received was CARRIED

COMMITTEE MEMBERS INDIVIDUAL UPDATES

1st Vice President Grieve suggested a “once around the table” for each Director to give a verbal update on what's new in the Solid Waste service in their region.

Director Unger spoke on the Waste to Energy Committee that he sits on along with Director Nichol.

Director Nichol expanded on the work of the WTE Committee noting he would be touring a facility in Nova Scotia during FCM that uses technology from Spain to make diesel fuel and is carbon neutral. He also referred to Morrison Hershfield, an engineering firm using waste to energy technology including initiatives to turn compost into fuel pellets. The CSWM will be reviewing options around WTE at a future meeting.

Director Brownoff spoke of the CRD's work with the federal abandoned boat programs with a \$50,000 grant to find end of life best practices. The CRD is also running campaigns around asbestos and residential renovation waste with WorkSafe and their requirements. They are working with transfer stations, hardware stores and private haulers for outreach.

Director McPherson spoke on the disposal of fiberglass boats to help prevent abandoned vessels. Two other issues they are working on are waste hauler licensing and mandatory source separation that may require an amendment to the Local Government Act. Nanaimo is also looking at how to deal with hard-to-recycle goods.

Director Morrison advised Cowichan Valley is looking at landfill capacity. Other projects being worked on are a new drop off facility, a possible solar project, and reviewing means to deal with dumping invasive plants in the woods.

President Marcotte noted that derelict vessels continue to be an issue and that solid waste disposal has a role to play in disposal of old boats. Electoral areas have to go through a process of defining a service area/function in order to get funding.

Chair Hory commented that they have a long landfill life (80 years). The last illegal dump Mount Waddington will be closing soon. The RD received a federal grant for evaluating the effectiveness of bio cover machines to reduce methane emissions.

Director Winn advised the SCRD's landfill has a projected closure date of 2025, and they are adjusting their budget and taxation to cover the pending closure. The RD is also focussing on collaboration with municipalities, organics diversion, and a review of tipping fees (as costs are not being covered). They are also looking at a commercial food waste ban and adjusting pick up schedules for curbside collection. He has been talking to Director Nichol about WTE, and following CSWM's progress as a possible beta site.

Director Leishman advised they have finished their SWMP and submitted it to the Ministry. It is called "working toward solid waste" and is based on 5 year and 10 year targets to reduce per capita amounts. PR is working with Tetra Tech on a resource recovery centre. Other work includes looking at changing to garbage pickup every 2 weeks, a trash bash for each month, 5 different beach clean-ups and working with the youth council on recycling initiatives. Director Leishman advised that the City of Powell River started with Recycle BC in February 2018.

Director McNabb advised of a \$6 million grant from the federal Gas Tax program for developing regional organic-waste diversion facilities including construction of composting facilities and upgrades to transfer stations for material separation. He noted that first nations inclusion at AVRDC with four directors from first nations on the ACRD Board.

1st Vice President Grieve distributed an excerpt from the ComVRD's November 2017 waste composition study showing 54% of the municipal waste audited was divertible. Largest categories of

divertible materials that were found were food waste at 22.6%, paper packaging at 6% and recyclable paper at 4.5%. One take away from the audit is that there is still a strong need for more work in educating residents and businesses on recycling options.

FUTURE OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

There was general discussion about the work that the Special Committee has completed, and next steps. Discussion included:

- impact on local governments of downloading by the Ministry of Environment
- desire from Committee members to have Ministry participation at meetings and other involvement (partnership, consultation, cooperation)
- need to continue updating the baseline data with the metrics developed by Tetra Tech, and to keep the comparison of tipping fees and
- communication between committee members and staff groups has been very valuable
- partnership and outreach of the group has been energizing
- desire to expand initiatives that support environment goals e.g. organic diversion
- communication out to the community is crucial, Committee has a role in shared, consistent messaging across the region
- provincial involvement with disposal of derelict vessels and establishing service areas to establish authority over derelict vessels (high water mark on Vancouver Island is under Islands Trust)

On motion by 1st Vice President Grieve, seconded by Sunshine Coast Director Winn,
That the AVICC Executive bring a resolution to the AVICC Convention supporting the continuation of the Special Committee on Solid Waste Management with areas of work that continue to focus on: Partnership; Advocacy; Long-term Disposal; Regulations and Enforcement was **CARRIED**

MEETING WITH MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT

Building on the discussion on the future of the special committee, members directed AVICC staff to set up a meeting with the Minister of Environment at the UBCM Convention. The meeting will focus on updating the Minister on the work that the committee has achieved through the partnerships around the room, and requesting Ministry involvement and funding to take the work to the next level.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Cowichan Valley Director Morrison, seconded by Sunshine Coast Director Winn,
That the meeting be adjourned at 2:30 pm was

CARRIED

AVICC 1st VP Edwin Grieve
Chair

Liz Cookson, AVICC Executive Coordinator