



**MINUTES OF THE AVICC
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
HELD AT REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
Monday, March 25, 2019**

REPRESENTATIVES:

Director Dennis Buchanan, Mount Waddington
Director Ben Geselbracht, Nanaimo
AVICC President Edwin Grieve, Committee Chair
Director Arzeena Hamir, Comox Valley
Director Lori Iannidinardo, Cowichan Valley
Chair John Jack, Alberni-Clayoquot
Director Leonard Lee, Sunshine Coast
Director CaroleAnn Leishman, qathet (by phone)
Director Brad Unger, Strathcona
Director Geoff Young, Capital

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Randy Alexander, GM, Regional and Community Utilities, Nanaimo
Phyllis Carlyle, CAO, Nanaimo
Brian Carruthers, CAO, Cowichan Valley
Liz Cookson, Secretary-Treasurer, AVICC
Russell Dyson, CAO, Comox Valley
Meghan Ebueza, Solid Waste Planner, Nanaimo
Larry Gardner, Manager, Solid Waste Services, Nanaimo
Andrew McGifford, Senior Manager, Comox Strathcona Waste Mgmt
Tom Watkins, Manager, Environmental Resource Mgmt, Capital
Rob Williams, GM of Environmental Services, Alberni-Clayoquot
Tauseef Waraich, Manager, Recycling & Waste, Cowichan Valley

Chair and AVICC President Edwin Grieve called the meeting to order at 10:00 am, and thanked members for attending today's meeting.

MINUTES OF AUGUST 24, 2018 MEETING

On motion by Director Buchanan, seconded by Director Unger,
That the draft minutes of the August 24, 2018 meeting be amended on page 3 to change "Mount Waddington Director Unger" to "Strathcona Director Unger", and

That the minutes of the August 24, 2018 Special Committee meeting be adopted as amended was
CARRIED

HISTORY OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE & ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

Russell Dyson gave a presentation on the history of the Special Committee and its accomplishments to date. He noted that it was a unique initiative that brings 9 regional districts together to implement a shared action plan.

History

- 2014 a Regional District workshop was held to discuss solid waste issues. Participants:
 - shared experiences and best practices
 - identified uncertainties facing members
 - looked for areas where the RDs could work in common
 - established a desire to work together on regional solutions
- Resolution R8 Vancouver Island Coordinated Solid Waste Strategy sponsored by the City of Campbell River and the Strathcona RD was endorsed by AVICC members at 2015 AGM
- April 2015 the Special Committee was established to:
 - Summarize solid waste management plans;
 - Analyze and review legislative framework to inform joint solutions;
 - Develop a long-term strategy for solid waste management ensuring that the affected local governments have reached consensus;
 - Present the findings and recommendations of the analysis as requested by AVICC;
 - Report out on work of the Special Committee at the 2016 AVICC Annual General Meeting and Convention; and
 - Present a briefing to the Province of BC.
- Initial contribution of \$25,000 from Comox Strathcona Waste Management; \$15,000 from AVICC and RDN providing meeting space
- TetraTech consultant led a workshop that identified issues; SWOT analysis; trends; potential solutions
- TetraTech presented the State of Waste Management Report to the Special Committee; reviewed and discussed in detail
- Special Committee prioritized the report recommendations, established an action plan, presented the action plan to members at the 2016 AGM by resolution, and received endorsement of the resolution and action plan
- Report back annually to members at AGMs

Accomplishments:

- Cost sharing formula for all RDs
- Annually update data tables from the State of Waste Management Report
- Meeting with then Minister of Environment, Mary Polak at 2016 UBCM Convention
- Waste Leakage Analysis (fees and bylaw comparison)
- Illegal dumping bylaw effectiveness review (enforcement and prevention)
- Investigation of solid waste advanced technology
- Communications Group collaboration

Goals

- Meet quarterly
- Develop joint campaigns
- Share education materials
- Ensure consistent messaging

Deliverables

- 2017/18 - Illegal dumping campaign
- 2018/19 – Recycle Right at Home campaign
- Meeting with Minister of Environment, George Heyman at 2018 UBCM Convention
- Commitment of Ministry staff to engage
- CAO meeting with Assistant Deputy Minister
- MoE staff presentation to AVICC January meeting of technical staff and CAOs

REVIEW OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT STEPS

Brian Carruthers presented on the future of the Special Committee. He advised that the CAOs and technical staff met in January 2019, and determined that there is value in having the Special Committee continue with a modified scope. The recommendation from staff is that the participation of elected officials should be focused on policy and advocacy, and that staff should continue to collaborate on initiatives that are operational in nature.

At the February meeting staff reviewed the Solid Waste Management Plans from each RD and looked for commonalities and opportunities for collaboration. Based on the review, the proposed priorities for the Special Committee are:

1. Organics Management

- Shared Service and Cooperative Efforts
- Aligned Tipping Fee Rates and Bylaws
- Advocacy
- Organics Disposal Bans
 - 5 Regional Districts have some level of organics disposal bans
- Organic Material Processing
 - All Regional Districts have some level of processing
 - Audits of RDs show different % of organics in waste streams
 - Mix of Private Partnerships, Private Facilities or Regional District Facilities

2. Long Term Disposal Options

- Shared Service
 - Summary Landfill Lifespans
- Cooperative Efforts
 - Sub-Committee Alternative Disposal Options
- Advocacy – regulations

3. Single-Use Plastics

- Advocacy
 - Regional District authority, don't have same authorities as municipalities to address
 - Summary of existing models
- Alignment benefits
 - Helps public and private sector to understand
 - Mandatory source separation
 - Disposal Bans

Brian Carruthers summarized the operational activities proposed for staff as:

Communication and Outreach

- Alignment
- Cooperative Efforts

Solid Waste Comparative Data

- Tetra Tech – wait for 2018 Data to become available

Varying Tipping Fees

- Alignment

Mandatory Source Separation

- Alignment
- Advocacy

Disposal Bans

- Alignment

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

- Advocacy

Staff proposed a cost sharing of funding based on the same formula as was used for the initial \$20,000 member contribution in 2016/17. The second contribution proposed is \$12,250 with the following allocation by RD:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
AVICC Member	Member flat participation contribution	Total Waste Disposed (tonnes)	% AVICC Total Waste	Participant contribution based on % of waste disposed	Total Member contribution based on \$20,000.00 budget	50% of Column E	2019 Contribution
Alberni-Clayoquot	500.00	21,044	6.40%	992.19	1,492.19	496.10	996.10
Capital	500.00	139,412	42.41%	6,573.06	7,073.06	3,286.53	3,786.53
Comox Valley	500.00	39,427	11.99%	1,858.92	2,358.92	929.46	1,429.46
Cowichan Valley	500.00	23,677	7.20%	1,116.33	1,616.33	558.17	1,058.17
Mount Waddington	500.00	6,172	1.88%	291.00	791.00	145.50	645.50
Nanaimo RD	500.00	51,782	15.75%	2,441.44	2,941.44	1,220.72	1,720.72
Powell River RD	500.00	9,242	2.81%	435.75	935.75	217.88	717.88
Strathcona	500.00	27,723	8.43%	1,307.10	1,807.10	653.55	1,153.55
Sunshine Coast	500.00	10,270	3.12%	484.21	984.21	242.11	742.11
Total	\$4,500.00	328,749	100%	\$15,500.00	\$20,000.00	\$7,750.00	\$12,250.00

COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

Meghan Ebueza spoke on behalf of the Communications Group. She advised that 8 of the 9 RDs in the Special Committee are partnered with the Ministry of Environment on the “Love Food Hate Waste” campaign that aims to reduce avoidable food waste.

Meghan Ebueza also presented the Recycle Right at Home campaign that had been developed by the Communications Group based on direction from the Special Committee. She advised that in selecting the campaign the Communications Group had looked for common themes that all the RDs struggle with. She played the 5 videos that had been developed for the campaign:

1. Get Ready to Reduce
2. Keep it Clean
3. Know Before You Throw
4. Think Before You Throw
5. What is Curbside Contamination?

In response to questions, Meghan Ebueza advised that different versions were made of some videos to accommodate specific concerns in individual RDs e.g. glass collection. She noted that while some

RDs don't have curbside collection in all areas everyone does need to do the same sorting of materials at home, and that the issues of contamination, separation, etc. are common across the RDs. Some footage was reshot for the Capital RD at an additional cost to the budget.

Meghan Ebueza advised that the Communications Group will be meeting by phone to follow up after the campaign launch to share their experiences.

There was general discussion of the videos. Comments included:

- videos can be watched multiple times by people so there is an opportunity to include lots of information in each
- each RD can frame the videos with their specific information or additional messaging
- the videos can be shared through schools at the discretion of each RD
- in some regions the blue boxes are used for transporting recyclables to the depot, and not to the curbside
- messaging in the videos is consistent with messaging from the Province and the EPR programs

On motion by Director Hamir, seconded by Director Iannidinardo,
That the presentations on the Background of the Special Committee, the Future of the Special Committee, and the Communications Group all be received was CARRIED

On motion by AVICC President Grieve, seconded by Director Iannidinardo,
That the current Vision and Goals of the Special Committee as set out in the Ministerial briefing notes included in the meeting package be reaffirmed was CARRIED

The Vision and Goals as endorsed are:

- **Vision:**
That local governments on Vancouver Island, qathet and the Sunshine Coast are working together to address the opportunities and challenges of managing solid waste and our residents are aware of, and support the need to reduce and manage our waste in a sustainable manner.
- **Goals:**
 1. Ensure information is shared between AVICC local governments to encourage best practices in solid waste management and consistent messaging to our residents.
 2. Collect and maintain appropriate and consistent data associated with solid waste management within the AVICC.
 3. Support an informed and unified voice to assist efforts with the Province, NGOs and other partners in developing effective waste management solutions and policies.

RESOLUTION FOR 2019 AVICC CONVENTION

AVICC President Grieve reviewed the history of AVICC Executive resolutions regarding the Special Committee. He advised that the membership had endorsed resolutions confirming the continuation of the Special Committee and its action plans at the 2016, 2017 and 2018 Conventions. He advised that the AVICC Executive could endorse and then submit a resolution to the 2019 Convention on behalf of the Special Committee, and this would not be considered a late resolution under AVICC bylaws.

Committee members discussed incorporating the Vision and Goals they had endorsed at this meeting in to the 2019 resolution. Director Geselbracht proposed adding additional language regarding zero-waste and a circular economy to the resolution. Members considered the definition of circular economy, and suggested that it was already covered in the third goal.

There was general discussion around focusing messaging on common issues that have the biggest impact and that help move people’s mindset along the road to zero waste by encouraging incremental steps. There was support for effective and consistent waste management solutions and policies.

In response to a question about the appropriateness of the Special Committee giving direction to RD staff, Brian Carruthers advised that the goals are focussed on collaboration and cooperation, and are based on individual RD solid waste management plans that reflect the direction of each individual RD.

On motion by Director Iannidinardo, seconded by Director Buchanan, THAT the following changes be incorporated into the Vision and Goals:

- “and to work toward achieving zero-waste in our communities” be added to the end of the Vision statement;
- “and common solutions” be added to the first goal following “best practices”;

AND THAT the Vision and Goals be endorsed as amended was CARRIED

The members proposed drafting a three part resolution with more specific opportunities for collaboration and incorporating the three priorities recommended by staff in the presentation on the future of the Special Committee: organics management, long-term disposal and single-use plastics.

Following a break for lunch, the Special Committee members reviewed a resolution drafted by staff incorporating the morning’s discussion.

On motion by Chair Jack, seconded by Director Iannidinardo, That the proposed resolution be endorsed by the Special Committee and submitted to the AVICC Executive Committee with a request to bring the resolution forward to the 2019 AGM and Convention was CARRIED

The resolution to be submitted to the AVICC Executive Committee reads:

WHEREAS the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities’ (AVICC) Special Committee on Solid Waste Management, with representatives from nine regional districts, was formed in 2015 to research, prepare and present the findings and recommendations to the 2016 Convention on this mandated service;

AND WHEREAS the Special Committee reported out to the AVICC membership at the 2016, 2017 and 2018 Conventions, the membership endorsed the action plans and further directed the Special Committee to report back to the 2019 Convention with outcomes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AVICC endorses and supports the Special Committee's vision and goals as:

Vision:

That local governments on Vancouver Island, qathet and the Sunshine Coast are working together to address the opportunities and challenges of managing solid waste and our residents are aware of, and support the need to reduce and manage our waste in a sustainable manner, and to work toward achieving zero-waste in our communities.

Goals:

1. Ensure information is shared between AVICC local governments to encourage best practices and common solutions in solid waste management and consistent messaging to our residents.
2. Collect and maintain appropriate and consistent data associated with solid waste management within the AVICC.
3. Support an informed and unified voice to assist efforts with the Province, NGOs and other partners in developing effective waste management solutions and policies.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the AVICC endorses and supports the continuation of the Special Committee on Solid Waste Management with areas of work focused on: Organics Management, Long-Term Disposal Options, and Single-Use Plastics;

AND FINALLY THAT regional district staff continue to discuss opportunities for collaboration and alignment related to those areas of work in the following areas:

1. Communication and Outreach
2. Mandatory Source Separation
3. Solid Waste Comparative Data
4. Disposal Bans
5. Varying Tipping Fees
6. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

On motion by Director Iannidinardo, seconded by Chair Jack,
That the proposed contribution of \$12,500 from the member regional districts with cost-sharing as proposed in the presentation on the future of the Special Committee be endorsed was CARRIED

COMMITTEE MEMBER INDIVIDUAL UPDATES

AVICC President Grieve asked for updates from individual members on work being carried out in their areas.

Director Lee: Thanked the Special Committee for its work to date and is looking forward to future involvement as a new member.

Director Buchanan: Advised that the Mount Waddington landfill is going well, staff looking at new sensors to place in the leachate pool to possibly let them turn off one or two pumps to save on hydro costs.

Director Iannidinardo: The new Meade Creek facility is working well, need staffing to direct traffic to let people know what goes where. She appreciates having the Communications Group videos to send out and keep people informed. Likes the idea of spreading the communications to school districts.

Director Young: CRD's landfill has a reasonable capacity. There is some separation by customers at the landfill, but most pickups are at home for curbside collection. Multi-family residential source separation can be difficult. Consistency between the municipalities within the CRD is a challenge. CRD is looking at food waste composting opportunities for renewable natural gas generation or electricity generation.

Director Hamir: Comox Valley moving toward regional organic pick up with Strathcona. They have a fantastic leachate processing facility.

Director Geselbracht: Commented that it is unique for a region to have the kind of collaboration shown by this Special Committee. He is proud of staff's work on the new Nanaimo SWMP.

He is concerned with changes in China that mean some materials will no longer be accepted, and the pressure that this will put on local governments. He would like to advocate for the law being proposed by MP Nathan Cullen to require all packaging to be recyclable, and enquired on the procedure for the Special Committee to bring a resolution forward to the Convention. President Grieve advised that resolutions cannot come from the Special Committee directly, but could come from an AVICC member local government as a late resolution or from the AVICC Executive Committee. The Executive would require background information on the resolution to consider sponsoring it, and an Executive member would be responsible for speaking to the resolution on the floor of the convention.

On motion by Director Geselbracht, seconded by Director Young,
That the Special Committee express its support for a federal law that all packaging be recyclable and request the AVICC Executive Committee consider a resolution at the 2019 AGM and Convention was
CARRIED

Chair Jack: ACRD is currently liaising with the Tseshaht First Nation regarding the landfill.

Director Unger: Gold River has apartments being demolished and looking for options on disposal of the building waste. Looking at new options for enhanced recycling in the region.

ADJOURNMENT

At 1:15 pm on motion by AVICC President Grieve, seconded by Director Iannidinardo,
That the meeting be adjourned was

CARRIED

Edwin Grieve, AVICC President and Chair
AVICC Special Committee on Solid Waste

Liz Cookson, AVICC Secretary-Treasurer