



**MINUTES OF THE AVICC  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT  
HELD AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO  
Thursday, March 5, 2020**

**REPRESENTATIVES:**

Director Denise Blackwell, Capital  
Director Dennis Buchanan, Mount Waddington  
Director Charlie Cornfield, Strathcona  
Director Ben Geselbracht, Nanaimo  
AVICC Past President Edwin Grieve, Special Committee Chair  
Director Arzeena Hamir, Comox Valley  
Director Lori Iannidinardo, Cowichan Valley  
Director John McNabb, Alberni-Clayoquot  
Director Leonard Lee, Sunshine Coast  
Director CaroleAnn Leishman, qathet (by phone)

**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  
Larry Gardner, Manager, Solid Waste Services, Nanaimo  
Dean McKinley, CAO, Sunshine Coast  
Wolfgang Parada, Senior Manager, Engineering Services, Strathcona  
Russ Smith, Senior Manager, Environmental Resource Mgmt, Capital  
Rob Williams, GM of Environmental Services, Alberni-Clayoquot

**DELEGATION:**

Wilbert Yang, Senior Waste Management Engineer, Solid Waste Practice, Tetra Tech

Chair and AVICC Past President Edwin Grieve called the meeting to order at 11:00 am, and thanked members for attending today's meeting. Attendees introduced themselves.

**MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 2019 MEETING**

On motion by Director McNabb, seconded by Director Buchanan,  
That the draft minutes of the March 25, 2019 meeting be amended to change "Hazir" to "Hamir" on page 5, and that the minutes of the March 25, 2019 Special Committee meeting be adopted as amended was CARRIED

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

Brian Carruthers provided a review of the history of the Special Committee and its accomplishments. He noted the meetings with Minister Polak and Minister Heyman, the waste leakage analysis for fees and bylaw comparisons, the review of illegal dumping bylaws for enforcement and prevention, the investigation of solid waste advanced technologies, and the work of the communications group on joint campaigns.

On motion by Director Cornfield, seconded by Director Iannidinardo,  
That the report on the historical context of the Special Committee be received was

CARRIED

### **UPDATES ON SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOCUS AREAS**

Larry Gardner reviewed the comparison tables on organics management and on single-use items distributed with the meeting package. The comparisons were compiled from a survey of the member regional districts.

#### **Organics Management**

The comparison covered how organics are managed in each regional district for:

- Food Waste (curbside collection, ICI collection, depot drop off, tipping fees)
- Yard and Garden Waste (curbside collection, ICI collection, depot drop off, tipping fees)
- Clean Wood Waste (whether accepted at RD facilities and/or at private facilities, tipping fees)
- Composting Facilities (details provided for each RD)

Mr. Gardner commented that 5 of the Regional Districts have some level of organic composting facility.

#### **Single-Use Plastics and Replacement Compostables**

The comparison covered the status of initiatives in each regional district for addressing single-use items.

Mr. Gardner commented that BC has advanced Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs. He also advised that the Supreme Court had recently dismissed the City of Victoria's appeal of the lower court's ruling on single-use plastic bags. Wilbert Yang from Tetra Tech advised that there would be a report coming soon from CSA on standardizing packaging at the federal level.

The Committee members discussed various issues around these focus areas including: the role that local governments could play in packaging design; challenges of collection in rural areas; organic matter quality and regulation; how to police a plastics ban and possible negative side effects; addressing plastic waste generated from fisheries operations; and the work of the Ocean Legacy Foundation in collecting and converting plastic waste from remote areas.

On motion by Director Cornfield, seconded by Director Hamir,

That the comparison report on the two focus areas of organics management and single-use items be received was

CARRIED

#### **Long-Term Disposal Options**

Russell Dyson reviewed the comparison table on long-term disposal options. The comparison analysis noted whether or not each regional district had a regional landfill, and identified:

- Remaining Capacity (m<sup>2</sup>)
- Remaining Capacity (tonnes)
- Remaining Capacity (years)
- Potential Expansion
- Potential Expansion Capacity (years)
- Whether Out-of-District Waste is Accepted
- Whether Asbestos is Accepted
- If Waste is Shipped out of District, and Where
- Long term Disposal Options being Considered

Mr. Dyson updated the Special Committee on the work being done by Comox Strathcona Waste Management, Cowichan Valley RD and the RD of Nanaimo on solid waste alternative technologies. These groups are working together on this issue, and have retained Morrison Hershfield engineers. They are reviewing Sustane Technologies. Director Cornfield was identified as the Chair of the Solid Waste Alternative Technologies Committee of Comox Strathcona.

The Special Committee members discussed whether a contract with Sustane would require a minimum level of residuals required. There was concern that some plastics could become recyclable in the future but the regional districts might be locked in to providing minimums in the contract with Sustane. This is an area for negotiation in the contract.

The Special Committee also discussed the Cowichan Tribes with regard to their work with WasteAway, a Tennessee based provider of solid waste alternative technologies. This operation would require source material that could come from private and public operators. This may be source material that could otherwise be removed from the waste stream. Director Cornfield advised that CSWM had looked at WasteAway and felt that Sustane's process was superior.

On motion by Director Cornfield, seconded by Director McNabb,  
That the comparison report on the focus area of long-term disposal be received was CARRIED

*The Special Committee paused for a lunch recess. On return, a motion to vary the agenda was introduced.*

On motion by Director Iannidinardo, seconded by Director Blackwell,  
That the agenda be varied to deal next with agenda Item 7, the Metrics Comparison of 2018 data to be presented by Tetra Tech was CARRIED

**TECHNICAL GROUP: 2018 METRICS COMPARISON**

Wilbert Yang, Senior Waste Management Engineer, Solid Waste Practice, Tetra Tech presented a technical memo with updated comparison metrics based on 2018 data. The last update in 2017 used technical data from 2016, and the original 2015 report presented 2014 data.

All regional districts that are part of the Special Committee were contacted by Tetra Tech as part of the research project to develop comparable data and information regarding the current state of waste management in each regional district. The data was summarized, and aggregate totals and averages were calculated to update statistics about AVICC solid waste management programs.

The Special Committee members considered the differences in disposal per capita and the impact of more rural areas. There was also discussion about whether relative costs could be added to the future comparisons. In response to a question, Brian Carruthers advised that the metrics are a useful tool for staff to look at the numbers and see how they are trending, whether they are going in the right direction.

Chair Grieve thanked Mr. Yang for his time in travelling to Nanaimo for the presentation.

On motion by Director McNabb, seconded by Director Iannidinardo,  
That the Technical Memo with a Comparison of Metrics from 2018 data presented by Tetra Tech be received was CARRIED

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Liz Cookson referred to her report on funding and spending to date distributed with the meeting package. She noted that AVICC provides secretariat support to the Special Committee and also covers costs like catering and teleconference expenses. In 2015, AVICC contributed \$15,000 to the support of the Special Committee, and in 2016 AVICC contributed a further \$5,000. These amounts are separate to the contributions by the regional districts.

Liz Cookson advised that there had been two contributions from the regional districts, one of \$20,000 in 2016/17 and the second in 2019/20 of \$12,250. Both were based on a funding formula endorsed by the Special Committee with a flat fee of \$500 for each member and the remainder based on % of waste disposed. The RD contributions have been used to fund specific projects approved by the Special Committee: the two Tetra Tech technical memos, and the communications campaigns. AVICC is currently holding \$14,406 from the \$32,250 to fund future projects.

On motion by Director Cornfield, seconded by Chair Grieve,  
That the financial update report be received was

CARRIED

## **COMMUNICATIONS GROUP: Recycle Right at Home Analysis**

Larry Gardner presented the summary report on the Recycle Right at Home campaign. This campaign had been developed by the Communications Group based on direction from the Special Committee. The summary covered the communication tools used, the outreach statistics, feedback from residents, costs and deliverables (which are the five videos adapted for each regional district):

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

The evaluation indicated the campaign was informative and a successful sharing of ideas between staff and building inter-organizational staff connections. It also leveraged and aligned messaging from EPR programs. The campaign could be relaunched, and the videos remain available as resources on each regional district's website.

Future campaigns could be developed with the funding already contributed by the regional districts, and being held by AVICC.

Larry Gardner passed around sample "compostable" items such as take-away containers, straws and bags that are being identified by manufacturers as compostable. He advised that these items are not actually that compostable in the machinery the RDs use, and are causing issues. The items are a challenge to process, and some are creating residue. RD staff will be working with the Coast Waste Management Association (CWMA) on this issue.

The Special Committee members discussed options to address the compostable materials. They felt that clarification was needed on how to define a single-use plastic, and Larry Gardner advised that clarification may come out of the work that is being done on packaging at the federal level. Communication with both industry producers and residents will be required.

On motion by Director Geselbracht, seconded by Director Iannidinaro,  
That the update on the Recycle Right at Home campaign results and the presentation on replacement  
compostables be received was CARRIED

#### **FUTURE OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE**

Brian Carruthers provided background on discussions held with the CAOs and technical staff at a meeting in January. He advised that staff had identified that they see value in working together, and the January meeting was particularly useful for sharing information on what each regional district was working on, and ways to address common issues. He noted that staff at the meeting had identified an issue around what role the Special Committee can play when it does not have the authority to direct staff.

At the January staff meeting, two possible options were identified for the future operation of the Special Committee:

- a) CAOs and staff meet twice a year to discuss current issues, new and emerging issues, areas of overlap with opportunities for collaboration. Staff would report back on meetings to their respective RD Boards.

OR

- b) The Special Committee term be extended with clarity of role and objectives.

Chair Grieve went around the table to give staff and elected officials an opportunity to voice their opinions. There was support for both option a and option b together, rather than having these as either/or alternatives. Members expressed support for continuing the Special Committee with clarity of role and objectives, as well as having CAOs and staff continuing to meet and reporting back to their regional district boards.

Both staff and elected officials thought there was value in sharing information, economies of scale in working together, and in leveraging communications. There was a mix of views on whether the elected officials should meet annually or meet more than once a year, and this could be addressed in updated terms of reference. Director Geselbracht and Director Hamir supported adding circular economy to the Special Committee's vision and purpose. Director Geselbracht would like to have a focussed discussion on process at the next meeting.

Chair Grieve confirmed that the updated terms of reference would need to go to the AVICC Executive for approval as it is a Special Committee created by the AVICC. He will update the AVICC Executive on the discussions at today's meeting.

On motion by Director Cornfield, seconded by Director Blackwell,  
That the term of the AVICC Special Committee on Solid Waste Management be extended with clarity of role and objectives;

That CAOs and staff meet twice a year to discuss current issues, new and emerging issues, areas of overlap with opportunities for collaboration, and staff report back on meetings to their respective RD Boards; and

That the next meeting of the Special Committee be scheduled for November/December was CARRIED

**RESOLUTIONS FOR 2020 AVICC CONVENTION**

The Special Committee discussed the resolutions related to solid waste management that were received by AVICC for debate at the 2020 AGM & Convention in April. Members would prefer to try and get the resolutions, or at least the topics for the resolutions, sent through to the Special Committee for the November/December meeting to review and provide their input before they are finalized as Convention resolution submissions.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 2:15 pm on motion by Director McNabb, seconded by Director Cornfield,  
That the meeting be adjourned was

CARRIED

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

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Liz Cookson, AVICC Secretary-Treasurer