



Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Workshop #1 – System Assessment Minutes

Wednesday January 24, 2018

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

RDBN Board Room, Burns Lake BC

RSWAC Members Present:

Cindi Pohl (Waste Management),
Mickey Philips (Saik'uz First Nation),
Tim Bancroft (School Districts #54 & #91),
Jon Solecki (Agriculture—Lakes District Cattlemen's Association),
Dave Christie (Village of Fraser Lake),
Trinda Elwert (Nechako Waste Reduction Initiative),
Garth Schienbein (Burns Lake),
Earnie Harding (Smithers and Area Recycling),
Shelley Wall (Cheslatta Carrier Nation),
Dale Ross (Village of Burns Lake),
Sharon Smith (Village of Granisle),
Genevieve Paterson (Smithers),
Roger Smith (Town of Smithers),
Bernard Patrick (Lake Babine Nation)(left at 1:30 pm),
Sheila McCutcheon (District of Vanderhoof)(via teleconference)
Jerry Petersen (Electoral Area 'F'—Vanderhoof Rural),
Eileen Benedict (Electoral Area 'E'—Francois-Ootsa Lake Rural),
Mark Fisher (Electoral Area 'A'—Smithers Rural)

Staff Present: Janette Derksen (Deputy Director of Environmental Services), Rory McKenzie (Director of Environmental Services), Melany DeWeerd (Chief Administrative Officer), Elaine Wiebe (Environmental Services Assistant)

Consultants Present: Lauren Quan (Tetra Tech), Carey McIver (Carey McIver & Associates)

Welcome and Housekeeping (Rory McKenzie)

Rory McKenzie welcomed everyone to the meeting and summarized housekeeping (fire exits, washrooms, breaks, and cell phones).

Introductions (Rory McKenzie)

The consulting team, committee members, and staff introduced themselves.

BC Solid Waste Management Planning (Carey McIver)

- Carey McIver summarized the process to update the plan:
 - A four step process will be used.
- BC can be proud of ourselves. Per capita waste is one of the lowest in North America.
- The plan is powerful. A plan approved by the Minister of Environment allows the region to borrow money without going to referendum. For plan approval there must be good and meaningful public consultation. This committee is part of that consultation and will aid in setting the plan direction.

Terms of Reference Review and Approval (Carey McIver)

- Carey McIver summarized the draft terms of reference.
- Genevieve Paterson asked if the committee would have input on the public consultation. Carey McIver replied that the consultants will propose what could work and the committee will get to approve that.
- No committee members indicated issues with the Terms of Reference.

Chair Election (Carey McIver)

- Carey McIver described that previous committees have chosen a board member as chair as they have experience, and provide a direct link to the board.
- Rory McKenzie nominated Eileen Benedict as the chair. Mark Fisher seconded it. CARRIED.

Solid Waste Management in RDBN (Lauren Quan)

- Lauren Quan discussed the current system analysis.
- Genevieve Paterson asked about the difference between an electoral area and a municipality. Carey McIver answered that a municipality has an elected council that has a budget and provides services. An electoral area only pays for the services they want. The province used to provide services to rural residents. They wanted to transition that out so they created Regional Districts. The RD is responsible for ensuring there is a plan for residual management.
- Dave Christie asked about wood waste at the transfer stations. Rory McKenzie replied that when it's hauled, it is put across the scale and weights are tracked.
- Stewardship programs are intended to make those who produce materials responsible for their end of life management.
- Recycle BC is the stewardship program for packaging and printed paper. The provincial Recycling Regulation establishes a minimum 75% recovery rate for programs. Jon Solecki asked what the funding model was for Recycle BC. The Consultants explained that it is funded through point of sale levies. Producers and consumers pay for the system. Genevieve Paterson asked if there was an organizational chart to show the hierarchy. Carey McIver referred her to the Ministry of Environment website. Mark Fisher pointed out that our RD has a number of communities that are not part of the Recycle BC program. Also, they are not collecting ICI materials, which is 65% of the waste stream. Earnie Harding asked about Recycle BC's surplus. Carey McIver responded that the organization has historically carried a surplus to address risk due to price fluctuation in material markets.
- Two RDs (RDBN is one of those) in the province don't fund a significant portion of their system through tipping fees. 50% of RDBN operating costs are covered through taxation.
- Genevieve Paterson asked about RecycleBC's contribution to the RDBN budget. Carey McIver answered that the biggest cost is residual waste in RD. Not waste diversion. Janette Derksen clarified that the RD does not receive any money from Recycle BC as the Regional District doesn't have any contracts with them.

12:00PM: Lunch and Discussions

Issues and Opportunities in Managing Solid Waste (Lauren Quan)

- Group Activity: The committee was split into small groups and asked to provide thoughts on the solid waste management in RDBN answering three questions. (What should we keep doing? What should we start doing? What should we stop doing?)

- A summary of group responses follows.

Group #1: Jerry Petersen: Need to balance public and private. It is important to encourage the public and private sector to offer services and encourage individuals to recycle. Genevieve Paterson: Education is key. Making sure that people know what they can do as individuals to make a difference. So much recycling is the packaging. Stop being separated by Governance and funding.

Group #2: Shelley Wall: Need to talk to our recycling depots. Bins aren't available at the transfer station anymore. The recycling depot in Burns Lake was closed over the holidays. People will throw things away if they can't get to the depot. Start with the kids. If you want to change behavior, put it into the schools. Dave Christie: Area D Transfer Station is 5 km out of town. Recycling needs to be convenient (ideally in town). Small businesses in our communities can't take their recycling to the Recycle BC depot but they won't fill up a WM bin (and can't afford it). What else can you do?

Group #3: Mark Fisher: We need access to various things. Information and materials. Processes that different communities can tap into. How to improve their system. A clear process on that. Roger Smith: maybe it should be the RDBN negotiating with Recycle BC. 700 households in Smithers (Township) that they can't service because they don't fit the criteria. Earnie Harding: Could you provide the info from Boundary/Kootenay with Recycle BC? They do a pick up throughout their RD.

Lauren Quan reminded the group that this is looking at the system as a whole. Not just recycling and Recycle BC.

Group #4: Eileen Benedict: They discussed a composting facility. How that could be done. Could save a lot of things going to the landfill. Plastics on the farm. What to do with it?

Dave Christie: In Fraser Lake, they can only recycle paper and cardboard. But Vanderhoof can do more. The RD has to keep it consistent across the board.

Group 5: Rory McKenzie: On the staff wish list: composting is at the top of our list. You can control from the beginning to the finished product. The RD can gather that all up, turn it into a usable product and sell it cheaply to farms or others that can use it.

Janette Derksen: would like to see this plan address connectivity. Know what other municipalities are doing and work together for solutions for a common goal.

Group 6: Garth Schienbein: In Burns Lake, there are three sizes of garbage cans for residents, but there is no incentive to not produce that much garbage or have a smaller can.

Resident Survey (Lauren Quan)

- Lauren Quan provided a brief overview of responses from the RDBN SWMP public survey.
 - 258 responses were received from 10,000+ mail outs.
 - The goal was to collect general feedback about existing services and priorities for potential programs.

Issues and Opportunities (Carey McIver)

- Carey McIver summarized the System Gaps and Opportunities identified in the Current Solid Waste System Assessment Report emailed to the committee before the meeting.

Guiding Principles (Carey McIver)

- Carey McIver summarized the Ministry of Environment's 8 Guiding Principles that are recommended to provide direction for the plan and planning process.
- Group Activity: The committee was split into several groups. The groups discussed whether each principle fits for RDBN and identified the most important and least important principles for the plan.
 - Groups noted some connectedness between different principles. There was general support for most of the principles. The consulting team will compile feedback provided by the RSWAC and present proposed guiding principles at the next meeting for approval. .

Next Steps and Next Meeting

- The next RSWAC meeting will be a Webinar on February 21st. One member indicated a conflict with this meeting. RDBN staff will coordinate timing and request that communities host nearby committee members for the webinar.
- Next in person meeting March 7th.

Adjournment ~ 2 pm