

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
(Committee Of The Whole)

Thursday, December 14, 2017

PRESENT: Chair Mark Fisher

Directors Taylor Bachrach
Chris Beach
Eileen Benedict
Shane Brien
Tom Greenaway
Dwayne Lindstrom
Thomas Liversidge
Bill Miller
Rob Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Darcy Repen
Gerry Thiessen

Director Rob MacDougall, District of Fort St. James
Absent

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Janette Derksen, Deputy Director of Environmental Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Rory McKenzie, Director of Environmental Services
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fisher called the meeting to order at 2:48 p.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Repen
Seconded by Director Beach

WMC.2017-4-1

“That the Waste Management Committee receive the December 14, 2017 Agenda.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Waste Management
Committee Meeting Minutes
-October 12, 2017

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Repen

WMC.2017-4-2

“That the Minutes of the Waste Management Committee for December 14, 2017 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

Solid Waste Management Plan Summary of Work Completed

Rory McKenzie, Director of Environmental Services provided an overview of the memo titled "Solid Waste Management Plan Summary of Work Completed." Staff is currently reviewing the draft Current System Assessment Report provided by the SWMP consultants. Maura Walker, RDBN SWMP consultant attended the Recycle BC consultation process November 15-16, 2017. As a component of the public consultation process, the Solid Waste Management Plan Advisory Committee Expression of Interest Application and survey were distributed and advertised in local newspapers. Staff is currently receiving responses. Staff has provided invitations to First Nations and key stakeholders to participate on the SWMP Advisory Committee. The SWMP Advisory Committee workshop date of January 17, 2018 has been changed to January 24, 2018; allowing the consultant to provide an update to the Regional Board.

Discussion took place regarding the capacity of municipal staff to participate on the advisory committee. Mr. McKenzie commented that participants will be a cross section representation of the region and will not necessarily be from all municipalities.

Staff will provide a report to the Regional Board on January 11, 2018 to review the potential SWMP Advisory Committee members.

Solid Waste Management Plan Summary of Work Completed Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director Bachrach

WMC.2017-4-3

"That the Waste Management Committee receive the Director of Environmental Services' November 29, 2017 memo titled "Solid Waste Management Plan Summary of Work Completed."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recycle BC's Proposed Program Changes

Mr. McKenzie identified that Recycle BC's proposed changes to its curbside programs which require communities to have a minimum population of 5,000 residents will have a significant impact to the RDBN's smaller communities such as Vanderhoof. He mentioned that staff has brought the issue to the attention of Recycle BC and they have indicated they will review Vanderhoof on an individual basis.

Director Miller requested clarification regarding voluntary consolidation. Janette Derksen, Deputy Director of Environmental Services explained that communities are collecting recyclables and consolidating the material to be transported to a material recovery location. She commented that discussion has taken place in regard to communities along Highway 16 utilizing voluntary consolidation. Concerns were brought forward regarding the potential costs for smaller communities to transport recyclables for consolidation to communities to then be shipped to material recovery locations. The Solid Waste Management Plan review process will investigate options for voluntary consolidation. Recycle BC has indicated it intends to invite the RDBN to propose recommendations of locations that would be suitable for depot status such as Fraser Lake. This would allow a location for residents to bring their recyclables to a depot where curbside collection may not be an option.

Director Repen brought forward concerns regarding northern BC residents paying the same fees as residents in southern BC for product recycling and not receiving the same service levels. He noted that Recycle BC is phasing out the use of single use blue bags which is concerning. Ms. Derksen commented that single use blue bags are being phased out due to the product being non-recyclable. Discussions and feedback has taken place in regard to the blue bin and cart with lid collection systems. Director Repen spoke of the challenges associated with the cost to municipalities to purchase equipment to provide recycling services in communities. Frustrations were brought forward in regard to the inequitable administration of Recycle BC's programs to

Recycle BC's Proposed Program Changes (Cont'd)

rural BC with populations under 5000 people. Discussion took place regarding the possible collaboration between municipalities and other Regional Districts to lobby for change for equitable recycling service for rural BC residents.

Ms. Derksen noted that feedback is being collected in regard to Recycle BC's proposed program changes and the RDBN has submitted feedback through the BC Product Stewardship Council. Recycle BC has indicated that the financial changes may not be adjusted based on Recycle BC's data collection and budget being approved by its Board of Directors. The challenges and impacts of the world markets concerning recycling was discussed.

Recycle BC's incentive program for curbside and depot collection was discussed and the possibility for municipalities to collaborate to have Recycle BC collect product to transport to a material collection facility.

Discussion took place in regard to lobbying the provincial government for adequate and equitable recycling in the region. Chair Fisher spoke of the Regional Board developing strategies moving forward and collaborating with neighboring and rural Regional Districts to receive adequate service levels from Recycle BC. Director Liversidge spoke to bringing the issue forward to the North Central Local Government Association. Director Repen mentioned that in meeting with the Ministry of Environment at UBCM 2017 concerns were raised in regard to some of the stewardship programs.

Director Miller noted that the environmental handling fee that is paid by the consumer on purchased products needs to be allocated to recycling initiatives and the producers, Recycle BC and the province need to be responsible and accountable. Chair Fisher spoke of investigating options to find solutions in regard to the inadequacy of service levels in the region.

A number of stewardship programs cover the cost of transportation of their products, if this didn't take place it would be cost prohibitive in the north to transport products to material recovery facilities.

Discussion took place in regard to the transport of products for a number of stewardship programs being paid by the stewards and it would be cost prohibitive to transport products in northern B.C.

Recycle BC's Proposed
Program Changes

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Repen

WMC.2017-4-4

"That the Waste Management Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors direct staff to contact its solicitor to determine the legality of Recycle BC charging a fee and not providing adequate recycling service."

(All/Directors/Majority)

DEFEATED

Discussion took place in regard to contacting neighboring Regional Districts to potentially request a meeting with the Province concerning recycling initiatives in the region.

Recycle BC's Proposed Program Changes (Cont'd)

Advocacy for Recycling Initiatives

Moved by Director Bachrach
Seconded by Director Miller

WMC.2017-4-5

"That the Waste Management Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors direct staff to contact the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine and the North Coast Regional District to explore opportunities for joint advocacy in regard to recycling initiatives."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCUSSION ITEM

Tipping Fees

Discussion took place in regard to reviewing tipping fees for RDBN Solid Waste Management Facilities during the Solid Waste Management Plan review process.

Tipping Fees

Moved by Director Bachrach
Seconded by Director Beach

WMC.2017-4-6

"That the Waste Management Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors direct staff to discuss with Tetra Tech Canada (Consultants) to explore options in regard to tipping fees during the Solid Waste Management Plan review process."

Opposed: Director Benedict
Director Greenaway
Director Liversidge
Director Newell
Director Petersen

CARRIED

(All/Directors/Majority)

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Beach
Seconded by Director Repen

WMC.2017-4-7

"That the meeting be adjourned a 3:39 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Fisher, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant