

COMOX STRATHCONA WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes from the meeting held on November 18, 2021 by Zoom 2, commencing at 1:34 pm

PRESENT:

K. Shaw, Director of Public Works	City of Courtenay
M. Thatchell, Chief Administrative Officer	Village of Tahsis
R. Crisfield, Manager of Operations	Village of Cumberland
D. Hadfield, Director of Operations	City of Campbell River
S. Ashfield, Director of Operations	Town of Comox
T. McLean, First Nations Coordinator	SRD
J. Warren, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer	CVRD
M. Rutten, General Manager of Engineering Services	CVRD
V. Schau, Senior Manager of CSWM Services	CVRD
S. Valdal, CSWM Diversions Coordinator	CVRD
S. Willie, Solid Waste Engineering Analyst	CVRD
L. Fraser, External Relations Advisor	CVRD
C. Wile, Manager of External Relations	CVRD
A. Yasinski, Manager of Bylaw Compliance	CVRD
K. Douville, Manager of Financial Planning	CVRD
K. Morro, Engineering Services Assistant	CVRD

ITEMS:

Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes of the October 7, 2021 Comox Strathcona Waste Management Advisory Committee meeting and one minor edit updated.

Draft staff report: CSWM approach to FN Engagement and Territorial Acknowledgement Recommendation

C. Wile introduced T. McLean, First Nations Coordinator from the SRD. The CSWM service has been working with the SRD to explore a shared approach to First Nations engagement given the overlap of our service areas, to provide a consistent point of contact for First Nations for ease of engagement. T. McLean provided an overview of territorial and treaty acknowledgments and the importance of respectfully recognizing the 10 First Nations that the CSWM service operate within.

Advisory comments:

Advisory supported the recommendation.

Draft staff report: Bylaw Dispute Adjudication System

A. Yasinski provided an overview of the staff report for the Bylaw Adjudication System and the Draft Bylaw for ticketing in CSWM, this includes scavenging and illegal dumping. Overview of the benefits of the adjudication system versus the Municipal Ticket Information (MTI) system currently in use. Unlike the current MTI process, the adjudication system allows a ticket to be presented in person, followed by mail if needed. The adjudication process is much more streamlined, cost effective, and efficient for both the local government and the public, while taking the process out of Provincial Court entirely.

M. Thatchel explained that the Village of Tahsis' bylaw enforcement is carried out by the SRD Bylaw officer and inquired if this new approach gives them the same authority for bylaw enforcement and if new ticket books will be provided for use in Tahsis?

A. Yasinski advised that anyone with ticket books now will be provided new ones and there will be training provided. The adjudication ticketing bylaw will need to be adopted first before authority to ticket.

Advisory comments:

Advisory supported the recommendation.

Draft staff report: Final Report – Remote Communities Composting Pilot Program

S. Valdal provided an overview of the staff report and thanked the communities and staff that participated in the organics composting pilot program.

M. Thatchel inquired about what will happen to the existing composting programs now that the pilot has come to an end and how they will be supported moving forward with organics?

S. Valdal explained that it is not the intention to end composting in Tahsis however given the results of the pilot and low uptake, it warrants a meeting with Council to discuss other options and the amount of staff effort that would be required to manage a successful composting program. Ultimately, it will be up to the Village and CSWM Board as to how they wish to proceed.

Advisory comments:

Advisory supported the recommendations with a minor edit within the report from the City of Campbell River.

Draft staff report: CSWM 2022 Community Education Program Initiatives

L. Fraser provided a presentation and an overview of the staff report regarding the 2022 CSWM Community Education Program Initiatives. For 2022, the community education program is going to focus on rural and urban audiences, as well as the focus in schools, which will help to make the most effective use of the CSWM education resources. These programs, along with their mobility, provide for the most broad reach and impact across the CSWM area rather than through any fixed geographic locations.

Advisory comments:

Advisory supported the recommendations.

Draft staff report: Recycling on Quadra Island – Final Report

S. Valdal reported a very successful ERP clean up event on Quadra Island at the beginning of October, along with an illegal dumping clean up and extensive recycling outreach this past summer, all part of the board approved engagement plan for the proposed Recycle BC depot conversion. There has been significant support from residents for the conversion of the existing non staffed depot to an authorized Recycle BC depot on Quadra Island, which will service all of the Discovery Islands.

Advisory comments:

Advisory supported the recommendations.

Draft staff report: 2022 – 2026 Preliminary Financial Plan Solid Waste Services Function 391-393

V. Schau provided a presentation and an overview of the 2022 – 2026 Preliminary Financial Plan Solid Waste Services Functions 391-393. Deadline for plan approval is March 31, 2022. The annual tax

requisition has been maintained at \$5 million for 2022, consistent with the September 10, 2020 COVID-19 Response and Renewal report. However, in order to meet ongoing capital funding needs for the service, the tax requisition will require step increases starting in 2023 and 2025 to build back up to a \$6 million tax requisition. Solid waste tipping fees will remain at current levels of \$140/tonne for 2022 but is under review for 2023 to account for CPI increases. Operational expenses are projected to increase, largely attributed to increased waste volumes from Campbell River and the rural and remote sites, personnel costs, support costs for the capital expenditures and minor capital for facility improvement work. Capital expenditures continue to be significant in 2022 with the closure of the Campbell River landfill, expansion of Cell 2 in Cumberland and the construction of the organics facility. Looking forward, the next wave of capital projects are coming in 2024 – 2026 with the closure of the remote landfills and construction of transfer stations. Based on the updated financial modelling and given the available airspace at the Tahsis, Zeballos and Gold River landfills, staff are exploring the delay of these closures and transfer station construction projects to provide some relief from both a financial and resourcing perspective, and to provide staff the necessary time to conduct fulsome first nation consultation in these communities as part of the siting assessment.

K. Douville noted a potential small reduction in support services which is currently being finalized.

M. Thatchell commented that the \$500,000 assessed property value is common on east Vancouver Island but not reflective of property values on the west side. Would like to see a range of property values to capture the differences across CSWM service area. Also, what kind of closure timelines are being contemplated?

V. Schau will update the presentation to board to reflect a range of property values. As for the closure timelines, it is dependent on the available airspace which staff will have a better understanding once the survey comes back in December.

K. Shaw inquired about the value of the GHD contract that the in house technician will displace and the impetus for the change.

V. Schau explained the reduction in contracted services will amount to approximately \$170,000 per year. The in house environmental technician will undertake the 'boots-on-the-ground' sampling work, coordinate the analysis work and continue to work with GHD on the interpretation of the results and annual reporting work.

Verbal Draft staff report: Management Report Action Items Summary

V. Schau went over several of the outstanding items on the CSWM Board management report. This report is intended to provide a status update/resolution to a number of outstanding items.

The draft staff report will be sent out for review and comment following this meeting with comments open until Thursday November 25, 2021.

Verbal Update: Construction and Demolition Waste AVICC resolution

Included in the draft Management Report Action Items Summary.

Verbal Update: Beach Access Receptacles AVICC resolution

Included in the draft Management Report Action Items Summary – this has been resolved at both the CVRD and SRD board and removed from the report.

New Business:

V. Schau provided an update on the CSWM operations as it relates to the recent flood events in BC. Operations remains largely unaffected for now but Recycle BC has indicated they will not be able to pick up/ process glass and foam due to flooding and highway damage. Staff will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as they become available. All remote facilities have been advised and signage has been sent out.

GENERAL:

The proposed 2022 Comox Strathcona Waste Management Advisory Committee meetings schedule will be sent in December.

TERMINATION:

The meeting terminated at 3:04pm.

Recorded by:

K. Morro

K. Morro
Engineering Services Assistant

Certified correct:

V. Schau

V. Schau
Senior Manager of CSWM Services