

DATE: October 15, 2021

FILE: 5360-30

TO: Chair and Directors
Comox Strathcona Waste Management Board

Supported by Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

R. Dyson

RE: September 2021 Solid Waste Management Plan Roundtable Summary

Purpose

To review and summarize the Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) Board input received at the September 9, 2021 board meeting with respect to the future of the CSWM service within the context of the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) and a future review.

Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:

THAT staff report back to the February 2022 board meeting with a comprehensive report and schedule including resource requirements for the Comox Strathcona Waste Management Solid Waste Management Plan update.

Executive Summary

- The two annual round table sessions were established following direction from the Board at its September 4, 2019 meeting, to provide directors collaborative opportunities to engage in more in-depth dialogue and share thoughts on possible improvements to the CSWM service and its offerings.
- On September 9, 2021, staff hosted the second round table session to provide an opportunity for all directors to identify issues and opportunities for improvements in the upcoming SWMP review, with the goal of reaching the provincial performance targets of 80 per cent of the population having access to organics management and a disposal rate of 350 kg/person/year goal.
- SWMP are mandated by the Province through the *Environment Management Act* for regional districts to develop plans for the management of municipal solid waste (MSW) and recyclable materials. Once the SWMP is approved by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MoECS), it authorizes a regional district to manage MSW and recyclables in accordance to the plan, including any conditions set out in the operational certificates, permits or local bylaws. The approved SWMP is a blueprint for the management of municipal solid waste and recyclable material in the region that identifies regional issues for the next 20 to 25 years while planning for the next 10 years, taking into consideration system financing.
- The current CSWM SWMP was completed in 2012 and received MoECS approval in 2013. Per MoECS requirements, the CSWM service undertook a five effectiveness review of the current plan in 2018 to analyse the plan's implementation and effectiveness.
- Per the 2016 MoECS *A Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning* document, the current SWMP is due for an update at the 10 year mark.

- A SWMP review is comprehensive and requires staff and contract resources, public input and support of municipal staff. Timing of the SWMP will consider other engagement projects and respect the directors' term of office.
- The proposed SWMP review process, specifically the staff resources required and timing of the review, was discussed at the October 7, 2021 CSWM Advisory and was supported by municipal staff given its significance and impact to the management of solid waste in the region. Municipal staff provided input on the SWMP Advisory Committee structure to best streamline administrative efficiencies while ensuring a balance of public and technical input to the CSWM solid waste planning and operations.
- The SWMP update will be conducted in three stages. A possible timeline is as follows:
 1. Stage 1 Existing System Review – 2022
 - Review and analysis of current solid waste management system, action status of the 2012 Plan, and identification of issues and opportunities for improvement;
 2. Stage 2 Identification of Strategies and Options – 2022/2023
 - Identify and review options to address the region's future waste management requirements, select preferred options and prepared report presenting the findings; and
 3. Stage 3 Consultation and Plan Adoption – 2023/2024
 - Prepare a draft amended SWMP, carry out a public review of the draft plan, incorporate changes from the public review and finalize the plan for Regional Board and Ministerial approval.
- The CSWM service needs to establish new goals and strategies to reduce the amount of waste going into the landfills by diverting recyclables and organics. As part of the Stage 1 process, staff will need to engage the public/stakeholders, pre-election, who may be impacted by or have an interest in the review and update of the SWMP. The recommended timing of this first round of public engagement is to be conducted pre 2022 election with the scope of the SWMP review to be adopted by the next board. To guide the survey development, the board was asked for their feedback on their vision for the future of waste and their priorities for short, medium and long term goals.
- Appendix A provides a summary of the feedback received during the September 9, 2021 SWMP round table session. Common themes include advocacy, education, focus on source separation in particular for multifamily and the industrial, commercial and institutional sector, curbside collection service, accessibility to recycling and organics and enforcement.
- The directors identified a number of improvement opportunities that will require significant work to fundamentally shift how waste is traditionally viewed and managed going forward.

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Attachment: Appendix A – September 9, 2021 SWMP Roundtable Feedback

Appendix A

The following is a summary of the feedback, paraphrased for clarity, regarding the challenges and opportunities that the directors feel the CSWM service could focus on in its upcoming SWMP update. The common themes in the feedback are as follows:

- advocacy for legislation to advance diversion at the provincial and federal level
- advancing the work on removing construction and demolition waste from the waste stream
- improvements to curbside collection services
- role of private depots
- education for residents and businesses to better understand how and what can be recycled, as well as the issues associated with contamination
- enforcement of material bans at the landfill to encourage diversion
- organics diversion for multifamily dwellings and small/remote communities
- the need for increased source separation, in particular for multifamily dwellings and the industrial, commercial and institutional sector
- having an ambitious but realistic diversion targets for the new SWMP
- concept of waste stream licensing to ensure private landfills are operating within regulatory compliance

Theme		Term
Advocacy	Advocate for legislation to reduce single use materials, increase recycling systems and EPR's, move towards circular economy through Provincial and Federal policy changes by lobbying other levels of government.	Medium term (5-10 yrs)
Advocacy	Given the volatility of the recycling market, focus should be turned to advocating for legislation to mandate phasing out hard to recycle packaging and or plastics.	Medium term (5-10 yrs)
Advocacy	Need to lobby the provincial government for improve accessibility to recycling depots. The removal of the CSWM unmanned depots leave south Campbell River and rural electoral area residents with little option	
Construction and Demolition	De-construction is very important. Support deconstruction of waste as opposed to demolition. How do we make this happen?	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Construction and Demolition	Need to de-incentivize demolition. The demolition of the old Lake Trail School Gym is a prime example where the building was tore apart, old growth hardwood floor disposed of at the landfill. If there had been the opportunity and the luxury of time, the flooring could have been salvaged and repurposed. Important to consider liability issues and if going the deconstruction route, to ensure they carry insurance and conform to WCB regulations.	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Curbside Collection Services	Municipal collection to be changed to bi-weekly garbage and weekly organics/recycling.	Short term (1-3 yrs)

Curbside Collection Services	Introduce a once per month pickup of all the “other stuff” not currently accepted in the curbside blue box – soft plastic, chip bags, foam.	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Curbside Collection Services	Municipal service review for possible inclusion of glass at the curb to increase diversion.	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Curbside Collection Services	Municipal waste bans on organics and recyclables	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Curbside Collection Services	Stickers that can be placed on a blue bin are helpful in ensuring the right material are deposited to educate residents regarding contamination. Education could be mailed out by municipalities with tax notices or other mail.	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Curbside Collection Services	Education to deal with contamination issues with ‘wishcycling’ of non-recyclable items like oil or cooking oil left at the bins.	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Curbside Collection Services	Recycling needs to be even more convenient and at the curb	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Curbside Collection Services	Explore a public collection service for all service areas to have better control of the level of service and to ensure staff are getting paid a living wage. In favour of funding for feasibility study to determine viability of such service.	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Curbside Collection Services	Need to a strategy to deal with opposition to government intervention in areas of waste management	Short to medium term (1-10 yrs)
Depots	Increase rural diversion opportunities – access to EPR programs & centralized drop off locations	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Depots	Many residents dread going to the Return It depots – although they are full service, they are often crowded, messy, smelly, sticky, etc.	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Depots	Reinstate all unmanned depots, get back to basics	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Depots	There are not enough outlets for glass	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Education	Possible expansion or changes to existing garden education center to promote rural composting	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Education	Educational videos are helpful for sorting. A director referenced an excellent video that they recently saw explaining how to sort all the multitudes of soft plastics and chip bags which was very helpful.	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Education	Increased education – depot only items, know what is recyclable and where. Focus on what can be recycled outside of blue box programs.	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Education	Need to educate business on “how to make my business better at recycling”. Need to work hand in hand with these businesses. Offer direct support to businesses	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Enforcement	Ensure diversion practices are equal across the board and maintained at private landfills to meet Provincial targets.	Medium term (5-10 yrs)
Enforcement	The ICI sector needs to be held more accountable to ensure that they do recycle and	Short to medium term (1-10 yrs)

	compost property. A combination of education and enforcement. ICI should be responsible for managing organics just as construction industry should be accountable for recycling waste (rather than disposing of it).	
Organics Diversion	Rural Composting rebates for composters & workshops/education for residents.	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Organics Diversion	Concern that the new organics composting facility is not large enough for ICI and multifamily.	N/A
Organics Diversion	For remote communities like Tahsis, consideration for small “Gore” like passive composting facility within the community, built using used goods and building products much like what used to happen at their landfill.	Medium term (5-10 yrs)
Organics Diversion	Provide a rebate for composters to encourage backyard composting for rural and remote communities	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Organics Diversion	Food waste is a huge opportunity in the rural areas. Explore partnerships with organizations with the systems in place to enable food wholesalers, retailers and producers to divert their unsaleable food away from landfill and towards those in community that can use it to higher and best use.	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Other Jurisdictions	Has the other CVRD experienced illegal dumping due to their high tipping fee?	N/A
Other Jurisdictions	What is the other CVRD doing to make them the best recycler in the province with the lowest disposal rate in BC? We should learn from them?	N/A
Source Separation	Institute landfill bans for recyclables and organics and let the marketplace figure it out	Short to medium term (1-10 yrs)
Source Separation	Consideration for the amount of fossil fuel needed to transport waste and recycling from remote communities.	Medium term (5-10 yrs)
Source Separation	We need to make it far easier for the public to recycle rather than our present policies that they perceive as closing sites and making it increasingly difficult.	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Source Separation	Free store/reuse store at Regional landfill – particularly for building materials. Working with existing non-profits like Habitat	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Source Separation	The progressives in climate public discourse movement indicate the effects of pronounced and the international global supply chains are failing them. There is value in keeping, reusing, recycling closer to home.	Short to medium term (1-10 yrs)
Source Separation	Lack of recycle and organics in multifamily. Lots of multifamily development happening now. When will they be able to join the organics program?	Short term (1-3 yrs)

Source Separation	Hazardous waste programs are great but better if there was a way that those products to be reused	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Source Separation	Recognize the difference in needs between rural and urban areas; may need a tailored solution.	Short to medium term (1-10 yrs)
Source Separation	There is value in waste and we may see “mining landfills” in the future. Will there be challenges faced by the municipalities regarding Multi-Family recycling. Concerns around vandalism and contamination might be big issues going forward.	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Source Separation	Support repair cafes to encourage residents to repair rather than throw away	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Source Separation	In the smaller communities, recycling bins are often overflowing.	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Targets	Targets need to be realistic and achievable. If we have an objective of “zero waste” there needs to be a clear path with achievable goals	Short to medium term (1-10 yrs)
Waste Stream Management Licensing	Private landfills can offer better value but needs to be review to ensure compliance	Medium term (3-5 yrs)
Other Considerations/ Opportunities	Review new technologies for WTE to be reported out by the SWAT committee. Continued review of Sustane with the understanding that Ministry mandated a 70% “diversion floor” before WTE options could be considered	Short term (1-3 yrs)
Other Considerations/ Opportunities	May be difficult during COVID recovery to introduce more stringent requirements. Be mindful.	N/A
Other Considerations/ Opportunities	Explore opportunities for employment of the homeless or other marginalized groups	Short to medium term (1-10 yrs)
Other Considerations/ Opportunities	Appreciate the remote community “community clean up days” these are well used and very effective	N/A
Other Considerations/ Opportunities	Would like to see more partnership in the 2022 SWMP.	Short to medium term (1-10 yrs)
Other Considerations/ Opportunities	Positive messaging about all the good things that are happening and the improvements being implemented. Need to celebrate and acknowledge successes along the way.	Short to medium term (1-10 yrs)