Comox Strathcona Waste Management

Minutes

REGIONAL SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes from the meeting held on May 29, 2025, via Zoom commencing at 10:00 am

PRESENT:

D. Baar	Campbell River
D. Birtch	Campbell River
J. Best	Courtenay/Cortes Island
K. Lukinuk	Hornby Island
M. Jeffs	Sayward
A. Milwid, First Nations Liaison	SRD
S. Fisher, Engineering Services Coordinator	SRD
M. Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer	Village of Tahsis
L. Eason, Community Educator	CSWM
V. Schau, Senior Manager of CSWM Services	CVRD
S. Willie, Manager of Solid Waste Planning and Policy Development	CVRD
B. Meagher, Branch Assistant	CVRD

ITEMS:

1. **Introduction**

   S. Willie outlined the purpose of the online meeting today as an informal opportunity to discuss or complete the survey following an "office hours" type of format.

2. **Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) Solid Waste Management Plan Renewal: Short-listed Actions Survey and Discussion**

   Advisory Comments:

   M. Jeffs – Red/green/yellow button format in the survey is straightforward.

   S. Fisher – Have there been an analysis yet or identification of any trends?

   S. Willie – Not yet. Stantec will review survey results. Looking for big red flags and information to bring to the Board. The strategies and fall engagement plan report will be presented to the Board in June.

   S. Fisher – Will CSWM look to implement actions in the 2026 budget?

S. Willie – It will likely be 2027 after the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) is submitted. There are some irons in the fire currently; we had a meeting with School District 71 about organics diversion.

D. Baar – It was good to see the amount of support for repair initiatives, which raises awareness of the role of repair in waste reduction.

L. Eason – Multifamily (MF) waste needs to be separated from industrial/commercial/institutional (ICI) waste in order to address it adequately; it needs to be treated more like single family residential.

S. Willie – If we can separate organics from other waste, it will help us move forward along those lines. Recycle BC is moving towards allowing co-mingled MF and ICI to be picked up. Some jurisdictions have spent money on waste audits specific to MF. We can influence the market but it's hard to direct it.

L. Eason – The staff meeting with the Village of Cumberland went well. They are turned away if they bring items for recycling to the Comox Valley Waste Management Centre (CVWMC), e.g. light bulbs, batteries. Reviewed Recycle BC score card. Discussed encouraging residents to bring items to CVWMC recycling depot. Public event at library was not well attended; it was up to the library to promote it. The library staff enjoyed the landfill video and it sparked some activity ideas.

K. Lukinuk – I made comments in the survey pertinent to Hornby Island. My neighbours had comments about curbside collection. I want a level playing field for the contractor who collects garbage on Denman Island to encourage them to come to Hornby.

V. Schau – These would be separate services.

K. Lukinuk – The contractor says the CVRD would need to okay it.

S. Willie – The Denman contract is with Denman Island Residents Association (DIRA).

V. Schau – We provide an operational grant. The service is administered through DIRA. It wasn't on their radar for service to be added. If the contractor wants to provide a private collection service on Hornby, there's nothing stopping them. The contractor would need to involve the Hornby Island Residents and Ratepayers Association (HIRRA).

K. Lukinuk –HIRRA expressed concerned about cost when the suggestion was brought to them in the past. A roll-off bin costs $2,000 to transport off Hornby Island. There would be a cost savings for the CVRD.

S. Willie – Cortes Island doesn't take the waste off island. It depends on whether the contractor wants to haul the waste back to the CVWMC.

K. Lukinuk – It would be interesting to see how the hauler would get the waste into the bin at the CVWMC, i.e. whether they would need to unload bags by hand. The person on Hornby interested in providing waste hauling services wants to charge $10 per bag, which may be cost prohibitive.

S. Willie – Someone on Quadra Island is charging $10 per pickup.

K. Lukinuk – There would also be a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions compared to people bringing loads individually to the CVWMC. Also, it's challenging for seniors to lift bags over the yellow safety railing at the bins on Hornby. There is no attendant to help people with lift assistance.

V. Schau – The railing needs to be there as per WorkSafe BC requirements. We have a chute at our facility here. We can definitely take a look. It's not a challenge specific to Hornby.

K. Lukinuk – My neighbours don't want to take waste to the depot anymore. Curbside collection options include a local with a pickup truck or the contractor who provides the Denman service.

S. Willie – We're not opposed. However, increasing the convenience for residents by providing a curbside garbage service may impact whether they will take recycling to the depot.

K. Lukinuk – Maybe recycling pickup would be possible in future.

S. Willie – The recycling pickup wouldn't be funded by Recycle BC; the hauler couldn't bring the recycling materials to the depot. Cortes has curbside recycling and garbage collection with a similar depot. The participation in curbside was so low that Recycle BC reduced the funding. Hornby doesn't meet the requirements for being added and it might not be economically viable as curbside pickup. You have a depot culture, but also an aging demographic.

K. Lukinuk – The depot has grown substantially. The free store is still popular. There is resistance to the recycling depot setup with many different types of materials to be separated into different containers. I'd like to pursue garbage pickup with the person on Denman as long as the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) is supportive.

S. Willie – If the contractor would like to provide the service, she can do so.

K. Lukinuk – I was in favour of Strategy 7E to bring curbside pickup to more places. Projects are a great idea, but I'd rather see funds allocated to Hornby for curbside pickup.

J. Best – I would have loved there to be green and bright green buttons on the survey. I agreed with almost all of the actions and wanted to indicate extra stars for some of them. We're rolling out curbside recycling collection to MF households for collectable plastics on the Lower Mainland. We're also rolling out glass collection in the Okanagan. We're working with truck manufacturers to have vehicles with the ability to collect several different streams (containers, glass, paper, flexible plastics).

S. Willie – Large trucks and carts are both challenging for new MF builds where they haven't provided space. The impediment starts with the trucks. It's either a front loader or a thousand carts for MF.

V. Schau – Is there still appetite to use the School District 71 pilot project to trial new services? They've committed to organics for next year.

J. Best – Recycle BC may be interested in working with a school district; they can get in touch with us. Schools are low hanging fruit where it seems obvious to add service. What's the update on the Quadra Depot?

S. Willie – We're working on some recycling depots. The Quadra Depot is in the works.

V. Schau – For the Quadra Depot, we needed to get a budget amendment to cover cost increases from 2022. The foundation and other work will be done this summer with the opening anticipated for the fall. We will be giving Recycle BC a three-month notice of commencement of service.

S. Willie – The recycling bins in Oyster River have a large social media following. It's a popular depot with changes coming.

3. Meeting Adjournment

S. Willie adjourned the meeting at 11:30 am.

GENERAL:

The next Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee is scheduled on Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 10:00 am.

Recorded by:	Certified correct:
B. Meagher	***S. Willie***
Bridget Meagher Branch Assistant – Engineering Services	Sarah Willie Manager of Solid Waste Planning and Policy Development