Comox Strathcona Waste Management

Minutes

REGIONAL SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes from the hybrid meeting held on June 27 in the CVRD Civic Room at 770 Harmston Ave, Courtenay and via Zoom commencing at 1:00 pm

PRESENT:

W. Cole-Hamilton	Co-Chair, RSWAC
D. Baar	Campbell River
D. Birtch	Campbell River
J. Ellis	Courtenay
K. Lovely	Cumberland
R. Rowe	CVRD Area B
R. Telegus	Denman Island
K. Lukinuk	Hornby Island
M. Stewart	SRD Area D
C. Thompson, Manager of Solid Waste Services	City of Courtenay
C. Perry, Engineering Manager	Town of Comox
R. Crisfield, Manager of Operations	Village of Cumberland
S. Fisher, Engineering Services Coordinator	SRD
A. Milwid, First Nations Liaison	SRD
M. Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer	Village of Tahsis
T. Shulman, Environmental Consultant	Meimee Consulting Inc.
L. Eason, CSWM Community Educator	Consultant
T. Willard-Stepan, Community Educator	Consultant
L. Bryan, Executive Director	Waste Management Association of BC
M. Rutten, General Manager of Engineering Services	CVRD
V. Schau, Senior Manager of CSWM Services	CVRD
S. Willie, Manager of Solid Waste Planning & Policy Development	CVRD
K. Broughton, Senior Accounting Technician	CVRD
E. Hibberd, Financial Account Technician	CVRD
H. Liu, Solid Waste Project Management Coordinator	CVRD
B. Meagher, Branch Assistant	CVRD

ITEMS:

1. Review of Agenda and Minutes

Co-Chair W. Cole-Hamilton/Baker acknowledged that the meeting is being hosted on the traditional unceded territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, and the Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) service area is located in the Coast Salish, Kwakwaka'wakw, and Nuu-chah-nulth territories. Adoption of minutes moved/seconded

The committee reviewed the minutes of the May 2, 2024, Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee (RSWAC) meeting. Minutes amended to show Jordan Best was in attendance on May 2, 2024. Adoption of minutes moved/seconded. Adoption of June 27, 2024, agenda moved/seconded.

2. Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) and Food Waste Reduction (FWR) Interviews, Findings and Jurisdictional Scan

T. Shulman presented the report on ICI and FWR options.

Key terms Discussed:
EPR - Extended Producer Responsibility)
Food Rescue or Recovery – Donating edible food at risk of being discarded by businesses to charities and non-profit organizations.
FWR – Food Waste Reduction
ICI – Industrial (aquaculture or food manufacturing), Commercial (coffee shop or office), Institutional (hospital or school)
MF – Multi-family (apartments, condos, townhomes)
MSW – Municipal Solid Waste (regulated term for all non-hazardous waste from construction, residential and ICI, not just from municipalities)

Strategy description:
Intent to explore ICI FWR sector with a FWR focus. Aligns with goals of circular economic approach and reduced waste to landfill. Applicable guiding principles are promoting zero waste, supporting seven R's, polluter-pay approach, preventing recyclables/organics from going to garbage, and striving for equity for private and public solid waste management facilities.

CSWM Background:
Economic base is focused on health care, retail, construction, agriculture, natural resources, and tourism. Region has vibrant local food networks. Diversion potential is 60 per cent. Half of garbage comes from ICI sector. ICI waste is hauled primarily by

private sector. Regional district uses tipping fee incentive to encourage diversion. There's effort around waste reduction is universal even if full system isn't in place.

Reported findings of jurisdiction scan with cross-section of stakeholders related to ICI and food. Cardboard is most often diverted followed by mixed recycling. Hard plastics, glass, plastic film, and soft foam recycled less often due to limited commercial options. FWR through small scale food rescue for people and food scraps for farm animals. Electronics and EPR products frequently taken to drop-off locations. A mix of haulers used for collection/transport. Stakeholders aware of the need to manage container types/sizes and collection frequency with price being a concern. Larger businesses had internal bail and backhaul services for some recycling.

Jurisdiction scan found ICI corporate drivers included ESG (environment, social, governance) goals to reduce waste, workplace culture, and local influences. Operations and infrastructure are comprised of rural and island transfer stations accepting garbage and recycling and charging by the volume.

Education efforts could include creating signage to promote recycling. School-based efforts include mixed recycling contracts; there's a desire to divert flexible plastic and plastic film in cooperation with Recycle BC. CSWM maintains school and community educator contract positions, with the community educator doing some business engagement. An estimated 600 metric tonnes of food waste is recovered in the region per year with priority given to feeding people and then animals. Gleaning and grocery pickup efforts overseen by food banks and non-profits. Food hubs would be beneficial to support local producers with linking products to markets and adding capacity during harvest times.

Interview findings highlighted challenges of supporting cultural shift for waste prevention, managing surplus food to match supply/demand, depackaging food for diversion, education around mixed recycling, and the need for ICI access to organics collection and processing. Interview findings highlighted opportunities for advocacy, policy changes, education, technical assistance, business engagement, funding, operations and infrastructure changes, and civic waste minimization and diversion.

Advisory Comments:
M. Tatchell – Will the results be applicable to more remote communities in the service area?

T. Shulman – Some stakeholders in smaller communities were contacted and their input was incorporated into results.

M. Tatchell – Very little ICI waste is produced in remote communities and there are no private waste haulers. The findings don't appear to be applicable to northern municipalities.

T. Shulman – Some of the relevant pieces will emerge as we review the report.

S. Willie – We'll highlight the information relevant for remote communities. We appreciate the businesses are smaller there.

R. Telegus – Noticed local Denman Island bakery was bringing all waste to municipal recycling depot. These rural businesses are probably using the facilities aimed at households.

T. Shulman – Some of this information will come out in the findings. There are pieces built in about getting support and recycling in place for businesses. There's a larger provincial discussion around commercial recycling. It's an imperfect system right now.

S. Willie – There's a lot of discussion provincially around how ICI should be handled under EPR.

T. Shulman – There are gaps in every system and we're looking at how to fill them and meet the broader goals. The tipping fee differential has an impact on increasing diversion.

S. Willie – There's 600 metric tonnes of food waste leaving a grocery store, going to a food bank and being redistributed for humans and animals per year. This diverts methane-producing material from the landfill. FWR is important at the solid waste table because there's overlap. These businesses are relying on government grants and funding from other sources while contributing significantly to our service and the community. Reflecting on T. Shulman's summary, please contribute your comments and experience.

R. Telegus – There was a farm with pigs and they said the insurance is higher if they have pigs, so they don't have them anymore. It's a prohibitive policy for creating a closed loop system.

S. Willie – Pigs are the animals this material usually goes to.

M. Tatchell – It's challenging to do an environmental scan in a diverse area like this. Any recommendations to the SWMP and strategies must apply to remote areas.

M. Stewart – Thanks for mentioning food banks and volunteers. It's a huge process to rescue all the food. The majority of people involved are unpaid. The facilities are often not up to the standards we would want. They're paid for with grant dollars. What would it look like if all 600 tonnes were put through the organics program in Campbell River? Is there capacity?

S. Willie – 7,000 tonnes of yard and food waste came to the facility last year. That number will go up. It's projected to be 11,000 tonnes this year and there's capacity for 14,000 tonnes. We don't want to provide incentives for larger producers to bring food waste to the composting facility and shortcut it going to these other food recovery/hub options.

M. Stewart – We have a vast and diverse region with increasingly high transport costs. People paid to move waste are paid quite well.

A. Milwid – I know an individual able to get a truckload of nearly expired food for his animals. What's required to have a program like that?

S. Willie – If you arrange with some businesses to come to collect food regularly, they have material to give away.

T. Schulman – A lot of this is about relationships and using the full hierarchy has benefits. Different steps are monetized differently.

V. Schau – Building on A. Milwid's question, is there presence in our area to make connections like those managed by organizations like Second Harvest and Food Mesh Where do these opportunities lie?

T. Shulman – There was some outreach. Relationships tend to happen more directly outside of urban centres. Regulatory tools promoting diversion are also important.

R. Rowe – How do restaurants deal with food waste? I'm aware they use garburators and waste often ends up as sewage.

T. Shulman – Some smaller amounts off waste may go to the sewer. There are some grassroots efforts to make FWR happen by the bucket, e.g. composting options. When the call goes out for organics diversion, these small businesses support the food scraps recycling.

D. Baar –It seems like timing and speed of pickup are crucial with food. To what extent do trucks need to be refrigerated? Also, would provision of more refrigerated facilities help?

S. Willie – I've toured a few facilities. It's a huge expense (refrigeration, freezer). There's a glut of food at harvest time. We need ways to manage food when we can only handle so much of it (dehydrate, cook and freeze, etc.) The capital investments and utilities costs involved would add to expenses.

T. Schulman – The bottle neck to store food is a limiting factor. We also want to manage reducing surplus in the first place. Cold chain management and support/resources for food rescue are needed.

T. Schulman concluded her presentation of the Jurisdiction Scan with information about advocacy, policy examples, education campaigns, engagement opportunities and civic leadership. Some jurisdictions put out ICI guides and food waste reduction education campaigns. At the federal level, legislation is being reviewed for right to repair. Recycling and EPR programs are being finetuned to make them accessible by population, including remote and rural. Food hubs are being explored by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Several jurisdictions have put organics programs in place. They can be supported through bylaws and ongoing outreach and education. There can be a surcharge for contamination. There are licensing possibilities for mandatory source separation; it can be done at the municipal level and may apply to regional districts. Policies are emerging such as the Maritimes legally requiring organics disposal to deal with leachate.

Education campaigns need image-based colour-coded signage and icons. Region-focused branding is required for consistent messaging. Once the information is out there, we can have direct interactions using a community-based social marketing approach to build norms. This may lead to opportunities for technical assistance, zero waste coaching programs, waste audits, and circulatory economy education programs. Engagement can involve getting people together to celebrate success. Vancouver Airport has waste wars to see who is diverting the most. We can see what's relevant for our community and seek ways to work with schools and visitors.

Som regional districts provide funding through innovation grants for waste reduction initiatives. Direct operation and infrastructure adjustments can also add incentive for change. Having clear bags for ICI garbage is emerging in some jurisdictions. It's a visual tool for transparency and accountability. Food packaging waste reduction is harder to implement. Civic waste minimization and diversion can focus on reuse and the creation of zero waste stations at special events to create norms in community. The City of Calgary rolled out mandatory source separation with lots of engagement and education before implementing enforcement.

Advisory Comments:

S. Willie – Time for questions and comments about any of the strategies that stood out to you. I'm most intrigued by the clear bags. Seems very simple but not adopted broadly. Perhaps there are privacy concerns. It's a potential tool we could use.

M. Tatchell – Have there been rigorous evaluations of the programs presented?

T. Shulman – We're looking for synergies across programs. We know if there's mandatory source separation, we consistently get a drop in garbage tonnage. It also depends on how long programs have been around. Some programs are newer. We can keep asking questions as programs roll out. Quantitative information comes out as the waste numbers go down and the contents shift. We put the information in the report when we had it.

K. Lovely – Looking for clarity on clear bags. Are they used for garbage in a garbage can or are they loose bags for visibility?

S. Willie – The clear bag may be placed in a garbage can. Overall, it creates a level playing field at the tip face for residents hauling their own garbage and for ICI haulers. It wouldn't involve garbage bags on the streets.

T. Shulman – The bags can be useful at different points in the system. Technology can give a visual when bins are tipped. If there's one customer with lots of cross-contamination and bags are clear, waste management centres can support haulers to follow up with customers to make change happen.

W. Cole-Hamilton – Commenting on clear bags, the City of Courtenay waste collection service was called the garbage police by the media when it was ensuring the right materials went into the bins for the new automated collection program. Privacy concerns arose perhaps unnecessarily. Further to M. Tatchell's question about diversion rates for various programs, do you have information to compare the efficacy of different programs, e.g. cost per tonne or kilogram diverted? Do you have anything like that or am I digging too deep?

T. Shulman – Great question. Yes, there are some cost numbers and estimates for implementation and we'll review them for high level recommendations. There are often synergistic effects across programs which are harder to measure. Waste is a social issue and we have to understanding the complexity while still trying to monetize and get value from programs. It's helpful to look at whether garbage tonnage is going down overall to reduce carbon footprint and to look at the composition of what's being disposed as garbage. If you looked at the cost of

programs and changes over a few years, you could possibly monetize the results over time to see the value of what you're implementing. Measuring the success of programs is a challenge across jurisdictions and the private sector and it's still evolving.

R. Telegus – Islands Trust recently implemented an agricultural program for Denman Island. There was a recommendation for a food processing plant, which is also a recommendation in our plan. Maybe there's some room for coordination.

T. Shulman – There are composting programs happening in smaller community composting. We can look at the possibilities.

3. BREAK

4. Hands-on Exercise and Online Discussion

a) Hands-on ICI Waste Diversion Exercise for In-Person Participants

T. Willard, L. Eason and S. Willie led a hands-on exercise examining the contents of three bags of ICI garbage from a school, business and food service. Contents of each trash bag were divided into five categories: Landfill, Recycling Depot, Mixed Curbside, Compost and Reusables. It was an impactful visual demonstrating the great majority of waste could be diverted from the landfill.

School waste:

Bags included one day of waste including contents of year-end locker cleanout. Only one item needed to go to landfill. Reusable items such as school supplies could go to a free store. Waste did not include the many compostable paper towels discarded in washrooms. School pack-in, pack-out policy may be helpful. Action needed at the school district level, because any diversion efforts are currently undertaken by individual school staff of their own initiative. A. Milwid asked whether parents might assist by taking waste collected in classrooms home for disposal, e.g. dropping off and picking up a bag to collect soft plastics. T. Willard-Stepan confirmed it would be possible. R. Rowe asked how clean containers need to be to avoid contamination. L. Eason noted it's a grey area, although rinsing is needed. S. Fisher was curious about how often items categorized as reusable end up in the landfill. T. Willard-Stepan mentioned there have been some conversations with Recycle BC about accepted school waste because much of it comes from households, as well as interest from the post-secondary sector to reduce waste. Pack-in/pack-out policies in schools may help to reduce waste. Schools may also be able to get a contract for compost pickup.

Business waste:

Garbage bag collected from CVRD main office demonstrated the majority of items were divertible. The CVRD has mixed recycling bins and waste is collected in 5-yard bins by a commercial hauler. The substantial amount of food waste such as coffee grinds indicated the importance of ICI organics waste collection. Disposable coffee cups also made up a large portion of the waste, indicating the importance of encouraging reusable mugs/containers. L. Eason noted coffee pods are challenging to take apart for partial composting/recycling and do not often get recycled. Refillable pods are an option. Pizza boxes can create contamination if disposed of incorrectly. Soiled cardboard goes in organics, clean cardboard goes in recycling. Composting paper towels would also divert a large amount of ICI waste. R. Rowe expressed curiosity about PFAS chemicals in some paper products. S. Willie stated there's public pressure to eliminate them.

Food Service Waste:

Presenters encouraged participants to consider whether CSWM needs to provide service to the food service sector. Most waste could be diverted from landfill. R. Rowe reflected on how unclear the recycling guidelines are for flexible plastics. A. Milwid asked how companies are allowed to manufacture packaging which is difficult to recycle. S. Willie commented on the challenge of making recyclability part of the regulating process for packaging. Food services also have a challenge with reducing take out containers if there's no staff capacity to wash dishes. L. Eason spoke about how food services would benefit from pickup of refundable containers instead of leaving them in black garbage bags for collectors to find.

General Comments:

S. Fisher asked what the rationale was for providing public waste collection for residents and not businesses. S. Willie spoke of how home collection is relatively consistent whereas ICI collection is more varied with each business needing a contract. Business facilities vary in size and required bin types. Some haulers may be able to adjust services to the MF and ICI sectors. R. Crisfield commented on the challenge of cleaning plastic film. S. Willie mentioned Recycle BC has a pilot to collect plastic film and how a quick rinse may be sufficient. Chair Cole-Hamilton asked about the impact of using water to rinse recycling. T. Willard-Stepan suggested it may conserve water to rinse recycling while washing other dishes. S. Fisher noted it would be interesting to see how the City of Calgary operations have been impacted by a severe water shortage. S. Willie observed an overall need for better containers, signage and education. M. Tatchell noted not all service areas have composting available. Tahsis has a village composter but other communities like Zeballos don't have one. Composting can also bring wildlife control issues. R. Rowe commented on how it might be beneficial to look at the whole life cycle of products, including the disposal cost.

b) Discussion of SWMP Options and Strategies for Online Participants

V. Schau facilitated an online conversation about how we can get messaging to waste generators and haulers and incentivize them. Questions arose around the impact of illegal dumping. Discussed different campaigns and strategies, and the influence of tipping fees. Explored how implementation of higher diversion in schools might look. School district-wide framework needed for continuity beyond classroom-to-classroom and volunteers.

5. ICI Food Waste Reduction Presentation: Options for Implementation, Summary and Group Discussion

T. Shulman presented eight strategies for ICI FWR arising from the jurisdictional scan. Strategies were examined for diversion potential, operational impacts, and financial impacts. A low/medium/high rating system was used for better understanding.

Strategy 1 – Advocacy:
Advocate for program support from senior government and other partners. Medium/high diversion potential over time. Low operational impact with staffing. No applicable financial impact.

Strategy 2 – Policy:
Phase in policy to add incentive for diverting waste from landfill, e.g. mandatory source separation, disposal to landfill bans. Medium diversion potential demonstrated by existing bylaws. Medium operational impact with staff required to plan, implement and enforce policies/resources. No applicable financial impact.

Strategy 3 – Education for Policy Implementation:
Use education and engagement activities as a critical embedded layer for implementing a program. Low diversion potential. Low operational impact with staff to oversee launch. Medium financial impact with communications/engagement contractor.

Strategy 4 – Educational Materials, Business Recognition, Engagement:
Provide signage and how-to kits by subsector, showcase business success and hold networking events to share ideas. Low/medium diversion potential. Low operational impact requiring some staff oversight. Low financial implications with a one-time contractor to support initiatives.

Strategy 5 – Technical Assistance for Businesses/Organizations:
Offer site visits for audits, system setup, monitoring for impact over time. Medium/high diversion potential with direct support. Low operational impact with some staff oversight. High/medium financial implications with ongoing contractor.

Strategy 6 – Waste Reduction and Diversion Innovation Grants:
Offer small grant programs to support organizations to create reduce, reuse, repair initiatives. Some projects take off and have broader impact. Low diversion impact, low operational impact with some staff oversight, low financial implications e.g. $50,000 cost based on $10,000 grants.

Strategy 7 – Operations Improvements
Continue to support tipping fee differential increases to promote source separation at Waste Management Centres. Continue to monitor rural depot commercial material management and offer recycling where viable. Medium diversion potential. Low operational impact with staff oversight. Low financial implications with one-time engagement/communications contractor at $15,000 to $25,000.

Strategy 8 – Civic Waste Minimization and Diversion:
Lead by example to reduce waste through procurement practices, reusable/zero waste stations, coordination with municipalities and First Nations Low diversion potential. Low/medium operational impact depending on level of effort. Low financial implications with acquiring collection containers and reusable items.

Question Prompts:
What strategies are most important from your perspective and why?
What option would you like to hear more about in action, i.e. examples?
What strategy rankings do you have questions about, e.g. why is a strategy rated as having a low/medium/high diversion potential?
How do some of these options compare/contrast to those you've seen in other tech memos?

Advisory comments:
M. Tatchell – Strategies 1 and 2 have financial implications when staff devote time and energy to take them on. Resources are required to focus on advocacy and creating policy. Financial implications may be low but they exist.

S. Fisher – For Strategy 3, would school campaigns with a time duration of six to 12 months be long enough to create change?

T. Shulman – It depends on how education programs are implemented, and how resources are built in over time. Setup and implementation over time are both important.

S. Willie – Which strategies are most important and why? We'll do a roundtable with all meeting attendees.

R. Crisfield – It's really about the education. I'm also concerned about cost. Measuring effectiveness of strategies important and it needs to be tracked. How cost-effective is a strategy compared to doing nothing?

S. Willie – It costs money to measure cost-effectiveness.

T. Shulman – We can look at waste composition over time and try to put the right combination of programs in place. Long-term financial costs for disposal are greater than those for diversion. There are also important social and environmental measurements that aren't necessarily monetized.

R. Crisfield – I'm concerned about hidden costs passed on to the consumers.

L. Eason – It's going to take a combination of several strategies done in stages. Identify waste champions and get consultants to help with waste audits and options. See what other businesses are doing successfully and use these initiatives to inform policy.

S. Fisher – The potential for grants is important. Successful programs often started as grants, although benefits can be hard to quantify.

T. Shulman – The right criteria and monitoring need to be in place.

L. Bryan – The educational piece is important along with targeting waste generators and incentivizing diversion. It would be great to see a reduction in food coming into the system. Suggest seeing "Just Eat It" documentary for perspective on how to tackle the issue. Just Eat It | A Food Waste Movie https://foodwastemovie.com/.

T. Shulman – Work around food waste reduction is key. One out of four bags of food goes uneaten. Especially with food costs going up, efficiency is important.

L. Bryan – Putting food in compost isn't preventing the waste.

K. Lovely – L. Bryan made a good point about getting upstream of the food waste problem. Education is key. Programs must be easy for people to implement, without a big burden in terms of time and space.

A. Milwid – I'm a fan of educational materials. There were different bins at an Indigenous hockey tournament in March with different bins. There could be volunteers standing by the bins. There needs to be a champion, prizes can be good.

H. Liu – The educational aspect is important. When I was in school, information was presented in an uninteresting way and didn't have much impact. What happened today with the demonstration is impactful and leads to change.

D. Baar – With Strategy 5 (Technical Assistance), diversion is high but costs are considerable. The business world has been successful with moderated roundtables for problem-solving among businesses. We could see where there are problems and gaps in knowledge. Timewise, most businesses could handle periodic meetings, less than monthly.

T. Shulman – Reach out using business associations, chambers of commerce, and other amplifier organizations.

K. Lukinuk – Education is key. Alberta rolled out recycling in the 1970s with advertising. Sow seeds in schools. Make sure there are bins for each type of waste.

D. Birtch – Two points stand out. We need to lead by example. Some public entities could do better with recycling and work through the related problems and expenses, e.g. municipalities, hospitals, school boards, regional districts. Prior to retirement, I dealt with stratas and commercial properties; it always came down to cost. From the ICI perspective, anything leaving the property involves hiring someone to collect it. Bottom line must be not spending extra money to get waste taken away.

R. Telegus – Lots of talk about food hubs. They have huge potential and would fit into Strategy 5, overlapping with the organics processing facility. Once obstacle with ICI is the lack of a processing facility. CVRD seems to want to keep our facility for residential use. People don't know where to contact haulers or where to take items. There's no overlap between customers and a means of getting organic waste to a processing plant. The Denman Works! website sets up links between builders and customer. The idea is to connect contractors with customers who need their services. Under SWMP, we could recommend setting up a website using this general idea. A requirement for businesses to draw up a waste plan could be helpful and may be written up as a bylaw. CVRD would need to enforce or monitor, which fits under Strategy 5.

C. Thompson – I agree with enforcing waste plans. Good to see how little was divertible in the hands-on presentation. At work, our recycling and diversion brain goes out the window and we throw stuff away we wouldn't at home. We need to look at the psychology of it. Is it a matter of the availability of resources?

T. Willard-Stepan – For educational purposes, we could partner with business associations and create fun challenges to get them competing with each other.

R. Rowe – Education is an important part of creating a cultural shift. I'm focused on Strategy 1 and getting movement among governments and producers of materials to change how products are sent to consumers. Currently, customers are forced to deal with the waste from consumer products. Why are we dealing with so much of it? Why can't government set policies for producing less waste? How do we get this to happen even at a municipal level? We can feel powerless sometimes.

C. Perry – Any waste control measures put into place will cost somebody, business or consumer. It was interesting how even solid waste experts had questions today about what went where. How are members of the public supposed to know where everything goes? There needs to be a lot more ease for residential and ICI waste options. If it's easy, we'll do it. If it's confusing and complicated, we won't, e.g. figuring out which plastic goes where and paying someone to take it away or taking it to a depot. The only feasible way is to have everything go to a single location at curbside or dumpster. With regard to the 600 tonnes of waste from ICI, we as municipalities are not collecting from MF. How much organic waste would those MF properties create? Is there physical space within the composting facility for MF and ICI? Or will the facility need expansion?

S. Willie – Nanaimo also has a facility.

M. Stewart – We always advocate for a collaborative approach (Strategy 8). Local governments see value in grants. We could bring in federal money. Looking at sustainability, lots of free labour goes into this sector. We need policy at multiple levels of government to support and enforce waste diversion or we'll depend on volunteers.

T. Shulman – Reflections will help to inform the process. Results happen over time, not all in year one. There are always longer-term costs to consider, like passing things on to future generations.

S. Willie – We can bring comments back for discussion before bringing strategies to the CSWM Board. Current opportunities with ICI involve cardboard, mixed containers, and metal, with lower costs than the garbage rate. Businesses can choose to have a service provider.

A. Milwid – The facility for the Indigenous hockey tournament was considered ICI in terms of waste. How does it get separated? All sorts of businesses are making money off the tournament and producing waste with food containers. Maybe they could chip in money to help deal with garbage. Where does the garbage go if it's ICI?

S. Willie – ICI waste will go to our waste facility, but diversion depends on outlets. Civic facilities and procurement can stipulate requirements for a lease.

V. Schau – It is really about a public entity setting an example. We're setting an example at CVRD events. Our community educators were involved with Indigenous Day to reach out to other departments and make waste diversion part of planning. People are starting to recognize the importance of it.

6. First Nations Consultation Summary

S. Willie and A. Milwid reviewed outreach and communications for Step 1 and Step 2 of the SWMP with regard to First Nations Consultation.

S. Willie - We want to go above and beyond regulatory requirements. The Province will review the consultation process. In 2012, engagement was late and came in place once plan was drafted. With our process, we've worked with staff and elected officials directly rather than through a consultant to build relationships from early in the process. We identified potentially impacted First Nations (FN). We identified core FN communities where they rely on CSWM facilities and services. Although there are reserve territories on the mainland in inlets, we're not providing service to them. We did formal outreach as required with introductory letters and meeting requests. A couple of FN expressed an interest in receiving minutes. At the beginning of the process in November 2022, we sent notification of the advisory committee being formed with an invitation to participate. The Mowachaht/Muchalaht FN joined the advisory committee. FN are continuously welcome to participate if they have the capacity. K'ómoks First Nation (KFN) has a strong relationship with CVRD. We offered a tour to the previous Chief and Council. The current KFN CAO is familiar with our service. S. Valdal has also been building relationships working in remote communities.

A. Milwid – Letters to FN are procedural but also the beginning of awareness. My role as a liaison creates efficiencies with a position at the SRD and on RSWAC. It's important for FN to see I have access to skilled staff who understand infrastructure and how systems work. When staff have meetings with FN members, I ask them to bring me along. For example, Tlowitsis First Nation contacted our GIS staff about addressing and I was able to get an introduction and a tour of Tlowitsis FN this spring. S. Willie came along with some other key staff members. We're slowly building that relationship. We go at the speed of trust. They'll reach out to us with questions about solid waste as their new community infrastructure is being built.

Homalco FN relocated to Campbell River from Bute Inlet. CSWM joined them for their Earth Day clean up. Helped with recycling and composting techniques. Many

questions were asked by community members. We were in the comfort zone in building a relationship where people will ask questions.

Relationships are developing with We Wai Kai FN in Cape Mudge on Quadra Island and Quinsam Crossing and Wei Wai Kum FN in Campbell River. They have many businesses in development. CSWM involved in We Wai Kum Oceans Day cleanup. FN guardians picking up ocean debris can bring it to Cumberland landfill free of charge. S. Valdal from CSWM worked with housing manager on ongoing community cleanup for Wei Wai Kum.

Klahoose FN worked with S. Valdal from CSWM for help with organics composting and there have been conversations with S. Fisher from the SRD about doing a community clean up. Outreach can create awareness and build communication.

Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Check'tles7et'h' FN (KCFN) in Houpsitas and Fair Harbour participated in a Community-to-Community (C2C) meeting with the SRD in October 2023 to see infrastructure, look at goals/dreams, and increase economic opportunities for citizens. KCFN operates various businesses which solid waste flowing from Fair Harbour to the Zeballos Landfill. The FN has questions about the landfill closure. CSWM will use the experiential learning from the event to apply to the C2C for the Zeballos Landfill closure. Last year, S. Valdal from CSWM helped with waste diversion at Northern Regional Games and they would like CSWM support again in 2024.

Nuchatlaht FN in Oclucje would like discussion about the closure of Zeballos landfill. We've applied for a grant and hope to have a C2C meeting on the topic in Fall 2024.

Liaised with Ehattesaht/Chinehkint FN in Ehatis at Northern Regional Games with waste diversion. Planning the C2C event in Fall 2024. There's a beautiful video of a community champion from the FN who collected motor oil to be recycled.

Relationship with Mowachaht/Muchalaht FN in Tsa'Xana and Yuquot is growing. Housing Manager R. Savey has joined us at RSWAC meetings. Online staff to staff meeting with FN in November 2022 discussed their priorities and challenges. FN appreciated digital poster promoting CSWM consultation and shared it with their community members.

Advisory comments:
S. Fisher – A. Milwid's relationship-building work represents a tremendous amount of effort and the trust established with FN allows other initiatives to move forward.

7. Wrap-Up

S. Willie – Parking Lot: Homework is to review the technical memo by July 12. Next meeting on September 19, 2024, will be lengthy from 10:00 am to 4:00pm, covering finances, accessibility and service Levels. We need to evaluate as much as we can with the information we have about the strategies. We'll make the strategies as comparable as possible with the studies we have. There's a balance between the cost of commissioning reports and the level of financial detail provided.

Copies of the CSWM July 2024 newsletter are at the front desk with information about consultation events coming up in Fanny Bay, Union Bay, Black Creek, Huband, and Area D. We're meeting with residents to discuss how to improve diversion. Participants can enter a draw to win compost and participate in a parking lot junk swap for unwanted reusable items. L. Eason and S. Willis are also holding events on Quadra and Cortes in July 2024. We have landfill and composting facility open houses in September 2024. There will also be social media posts to share.

S. Willie shared images of recent tour of Recycle BC, Merlin Plastics, GFL, and Urban Impact facilities. Turnaround time is fast and bales of film plastic have decreased since single-use bag bans. Also shared an image of a recent industry tour of Campbell River Organics Composting Facility.

8. Meeting Adjournment

S. Willie adjourned the meeting at 4:35pm.

GENERAL:

The next Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee is scheduled for September 19, 2024, at 10:00 am.

Recorded by:

B. Meagher

Bridget Meagher
Branch Assistant – Engineering Services

Certified correct:

S. Willie

Sarah Willie
Manager of Solid Waste Planning and Policy Development