

## **Cariboo Regional District**

### **Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) – December 2, 2021, Meeting Minutes**

Present: Al Richmond, Mary Forbes, Amanda Vibert, Jared Taylor, Peter Jarvis, Sherri Jonkman, Joanne Doddridge, Prashanth Subburam, Leslie Glen, Oliver Berger, Pat Mahood, Steve O'Hara, Ted Olfert, Tera Grady, Vince Benner

Absent: Cory Delves, Dan Harrison, Davee Palmantier, Enver Hrbinic, Leonard Cook, Roxanne Pop, Tyron Harry

Meeting was called to order at 10:02am.

#### **Agenda:**

1. Call to Order
  - a. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Adoption of Minutes
  - a. November 2, 2021
3. Current Reality
4. Ministry Landfill Criteria Updates
  - a. Inclusion in SWMP Update
5. Options
  - a. External Scan and Feasibility Considerations
6. Next Steps

#### **1. Call to Order**

The motion to approve the agenda was made by Vince and seconded by Joanne.

#### **2. Adoption of Minutes**

Minor edits were agreed upon related to the options list. Vince made the motion to approve the minutes, Joanne seconded the motion, none were opposed, and it was carried.

#### **3. Current Reality**

The current reality report outline was discussed and will include:

- Introduction
- Background information related to geography, economic drivers, climate considerations
- Current system overview with tonnages, initiatives related to reduce, reuse, and collection by material stream (including through product stewardship programs, and education and behaviour change programs)
- System evaluation related to gaps and opportunities
- Options and priority next steps to inform plan development

#### **4. Ministry Landfill Criteria Conformance**

In 2016 the BC Ministry of Environment – currently the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MOECCS), published the second edition of the “Landfill Criteria For Municipal

Solid Waste” [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/waste-management/garbage/landfill\\_criteria.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/waste-management/garbage/landfill_criteria.pdf) . The 2016 Landfill Criteria specifies criteria for New landfills in BC which include location, environmental monitoring, design, daily operations, closure, plans, and reporting. The first edition of the landfill criteria allowed for non-plastic lined landfills, the second edition does not; all new landfills must be designed with an engineered synthetic liner and secondary clay liner. The 2016 document also states that any lateral expansions of existing landfills must be lined, but does provides exemptions for landfills that:

- receive less than 5,000 tonnes of waste per year, and total waste capacity of the landfill site is less than 100000 tonnes
- are in very remote areas (more than 100 km from an engineered landfill site),
- receive less than 500 mm of precipitation per year, and
- show evidence of no existing groundwater contamination from the landfill.

Additionally, the updated document states that all existing landfills in BC should undergo an “conformance review” against the new landfill criteria with 5 years of publication of the document, or during the next SWMP review, whichever comes first.

The CRD currently manages 14 landfills. The Gibraltar location is engineered with a plastic liner, phased closures, ground and surface water monitoring, leachate collection and treatment, and is plumbed for future landfill gas collection. The remaining 13 landfills are natural attenuation sites that rely on existing soil make up and density to contain or slowly filter leachate generated. Four sites do not have any ground water monitoring wells, the remaining nine have between one and three ground water monitoring wells. The City of Quesnel Landfill is also a natural attenuation site.

The MOECCS has indicated that the CRD’s updated Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) should include an implementation schedule regarding landfill criteria conformance for each CRD landfill. It was clarified that the landfill criteria is not a legal requirement, and that each landfill is regulated by individual operational certificates (OCs). The MOECCS has recommended that the landfill criteria conformance implementation schedule be include in the SWMP Update, rather than the Ministry regulating conformance by updating each OC. All CRD landfills had conformance reviews completed in 2019/2020, and only the Gibraltar site meets the new (2016) landfill criteria. The SWMP Update will need to summarise the status of each landfill and provide a schedule to address non-conformance, including the option of submitting exemption requests as outlined in the landfill criteria. The SWMP Update will also need to provide options available for sites that are not granted exemptions (site closure, or transition to a transfer station).

## 5. Options

Best practices findings to date and feasibility considerations were discussed for the seven options currently under review.

1. **Diversification Centres** – consider Cariboo context, with small and dispersed population, how feasible is it for a private business to succeed at operating a diversion and reuse centre?

A taxation-subsidised facility is most likely to succeed, and municipal partners are very eager to move forward on these facilities, which greatly increases the feasibility, since municipalities will be responsible to fund their portion of the capital and operating costs.

2. **Multi-unit Building Recycling** – how have other jurisdictions encouraged or required collection of PPP for apartment buildings and condominiums? What communication or applications are required with Recycle BC, as each CRD municipality has a different implementation scenario. From a feasibility perspective, what is the potential waste diversion and what are the expected costs to implement and enforce?
3. **Commercial Recycling** – establish commercial recycling for commercial businesses and institutions. Determine program components including education and technical assistance, legislative requirements (municipal), and infrastructure support. Sponsor a commercial recycling pilot to help determine region-specific costs. The Provincial Recycling Regulation expansion – to include commercial packaging and printed paper – is also expected to be put into place at a future date.
4. **Food Waste Diversion** – use the food recovery hierarchy to prevent wasted food, support source reduction via home and community composting, and explore options for a centralized facility and municipal curbside collection. Prioritize multiple ways to collect and manage food scraps depending on population density, geography, cost and other factors.
5. **Upgrades to Rural Sites** – augment rural site features such as lighting and cell boosters for short term safety and to lay the groundwork for fences/gates with a future gate card system, which supports a future shift to user pay systems.
6. **User-Pay** – as feasible, transition high priority sites from non-controlled to controlled sites to help support a user pay approach so those who generate more garbage pay more. Capital and direct costs need to be factored in as well as balancing revenue from tax requisitions and tipping fees over time.
7. **Curbside Garbage Collection** – provide ‘fringe’ areas proximate to municipalities (with high enough housing density) to receive garbage collection. Assess the GHG emissions for current self-haul vs curbside collection. Take into consideration any unintended consequences for recycling if recycling cannot be added to the collection. Communication with Recycle BC required for new “adjacency criteria” will be required. Factor in potential for organics to be added over time.
8. **Landfill Disposal Bans** – establish and monitor disposal bans to restrict specific materials from landfill. Further research and consideration is needed given the resources that would be needed to staff sites and enforce the ban. Need to determine potential diversion as well as the costs.

Online research and local jurisdiction interviews are in progress and will be used to move option feasibility analysis, final selection, and resource considerations forward.

## 6. Next steps.

The next meeting will take place in early January.