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Solid Waste & Resource Management Plan – South Advisory Committee (AC)

Meeting #5 Minutes

Thursday November 13 2014

10:00am – 2:00 pm

Flute Room, RMOW office

4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler BC

AC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Allen Gabriel	CEO In-Shuck-Ch nation
Cheryl Skribe	Whistler Community Services Society, Re-Use It centre
Cindy Watson	Vancouver Coastal Health
David O'Malley	Environmental Protection Officer, Ministry of the Environment
Dora Gunn	District of Squamish, Sustainability Coordinator
Graham Hayward	Lil'wat Nation; Land, Resources and Public Infrastructure
James Abram	Village of Pemberton, Bylaw Services
James Hallisey	RMOW Environmental Services
Jaye-Jay Berggren	Sea to Sky Soils Composting
Linda Kelly Smith	Squamish Climate Action Network Member
Meredith Gee	Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, Environmental Technician
Paul Wick	Squamish Nation
Randi Kruse	Kruse Consulting, Business Representative
Vaughn Gabriel	N'quat'qua nation, band administrator

FACILITATOR:

Maura Walker

Maura Walker & Associates Environmental Consultants

Meeting of the SWRMP Advisory Committee (AC) called to order at 10:09 am

INTRODUCTIONS

- Round table introductions were done with name tags and a quick introduction of participants

AGENDA AND MEETING MINUTES

- Agenda introduced, no changes requested.
- Noted that minutes from the last meeting will be distributed before the next meeting but will be slim on details due to the transition from Brooke to Meredith

PRESENTATION – MAURA WALKER

- Maura presented reviewed the process to update the SWRMP and where we are in the planning process.
 - Currently completing Stage 2. To date, the committees have discussed a range of options and now need to determine a shortlist of those options to be considered for the updated plan.
 - Stage 3, which is expected to happen next year, will include community consultation on the draft plan.

SHORTLISTING THE OPTIONS

Maura walked the committee through the technical memorandum that was distributed prior to the meeting which lists the options that were discussed during the previous committee meetings, and includes proposed recommendations for the shortlist. The focus of the discussion was primarily on those options impacting the southern portion of the SLRD.

Discussion

Residual waste

- The shortlisted actions proposed in the memo were supported by the committee.
- The District of Squamish representative reported that early next year (Feb/March) the District of Squamish intends to take the design for the vertical expansion for the Squamish landfill plan to council. The concept for the expansion currently has Council's support in-principle. Lateral expansion is not currently being pursued due to potential Squamish Nation residential development in the vicinity. There's an accord between Squamish Nation and District that this will not be pursued. Additionally, the issue of the Cheekeye fan remains the prohibits any project going forward. There is discussion regarding a debris flow study that will assess the potential to mitigate the risk of debris flow from the fan.
- The representative from Squamish Nation commented that any lateral expansion of the Squamish landfill requires consultation with the Nation because the landfill is on Crown land.

Resource Recovery

- The shortlisted actions proposed in the memo were supported by the committee.
- The committee agreed that any out of region recovery options must not undermine the area's diversion activities and objectives.

Waste diversion through policy approaches

- Variable tipping fees to be used as a financial incentive for waste producers to separate their waste. Move to bans if necessary if it is assessed that variable tipping fees aren't working.
- Discussion about the adoption of a ban on black garbage bags – should we be making clear bags mandatory like Nova Scotia so that recyclables can be seen in the garbage? Or variable tipping fee to encourage clear bags? Possible pilot program for a local government. Not included as shortlisted item for the SWRMP but noted as a potential means to encourage behaviour change.
- Other proposed actions agreed upon.

Residential recycling

- Proposed actions agreed upon
- It was noted that the Village of Pemberton representative hasn't discussed implementing curbside collection internally due to staff turnover.

Organics Diversion Strategy

- Curbside collection of organics already approved by Council in Squamish, so this proposed action was moved to "existing actions"
- Whistler plans to introduce a bylaw mandating space for organics bin at commercial sites to encourage organic diversion at the source. This action was added to the shortlist.

- Concern was raised regarding food waste collection having the potential to attract rodents. Members of the committee indicated that food waste is already in the garbage and that the frequency of organics collection can be adjusted to mitigate any potential issues.
- Fines can be used for enforcement of organics separation when bins are available.
- Lil'wat Nations intends to work with Sea to Sky soils to divert their organic waste.
- Other proposed actions in the memo were supported.

Multi-family and ICI strategy

- Consistent bylaw across the region for multi-family and ICI making recycling and organics diversion mandatory will help diversion rates.
- The District of Squamish should be added to the “improve recycling at tourist accommodations” action.
- Local governments should lead by example with internal 3Rs and this should be coordinated between the government agencies, as per the direction of the recently approved SLRD's solid waste management communications plan
- Other proposed actions in the memo were supported.

Promotion and Education

- Noted that currently zero waste school workshops/interactions are facilitated by Carney's, Squamish CAN, SLRD and Whistler AWARE. Squamish CAN did a waste audit of all the schools in Squamish and found that only Valleycliffe elementary “passed”. School engagement over the long-term is an area for enhancement.
- Discussion about potential for collaboration between local governments, including the First Nations in the area.
- All proposed actions supported.

Reduction and Reuse

- Strong support for encouraging reuse it centres wherever possible, Cheryl (WCSS) offered discussions with anyone trying to set one up to help with “lessons learnt” and how the business plan could look.
- Lil'wat Nation also has a reuse it centre (in addition to those listed in the memo).
- Partnerships between local government and community services should be encouraged in the plan
- All proposed actions supported.

EPR

- The committee discussed disposal bans on EPR products vs. the use of variable tipping fees and determined that it would be appropriate to ban selective EPR products due to their toxicity.
- Other proposed actions supported.

C&D

- Correction to memo – RMOW only removes (and only ever has removed) clean wood waste from C&D, not all other recyclable and reusable materials due to labour/safety.
- Other proposed actions supported.

Landclearing

- Backyard burning allowed now in RMOW with permit from the fire department
- Landclearing mentioned in SWRMP doesn't include forestry or agricultural lands as this type of waste is not considered municipal solid waste, and therefore is outside of this planning process.
- Open burning smoke regulations might change for remote areas to encourage cleanup of landclearing waste from forestry/agricultural.
- There was discussion regarding the potential conflict between wanting to discourage burning of landclearing debris and the need to have woody debris removed for fire protection purposes.
- Discussion about accepting yard waste for free at composting sites (to a maximum amount) to discourage illegal dumping of yard waste. Requires there to be capacity and a need for this material at the composting sites.
- Other proposed actions supported.

Flow control

- Flow control allows protection of local investment in costly waste management infrastructure. Metro Van's flow control bylaw was rejected by the Province, however, the provincial Environmental Management Act allows regional districts to establish flow control (in theory).
- The transportation and disposal of soil is an issue for certain areas – Squamish Nation has noted soil being deposited on crown land. SLRD land could be an "easy" target for soil dumping due to it being just outside Metro Vancouver and municipalities that prohibit deposition of soil. RMOW has a soil bylaw that could be used as a model. Maura Walker commented that the movement of soil is not covered under the SWRMP but that the issue is important and could be taken up as a discussion with the relevant stakeholders separate from the SWRMP discussions.
- Other proposed actions supported.

Land Use Planning

- Proposed actions agreed upon.

Wildlife/human conflict

- Proposed actions agreed upon.

Illegal Dumping

- Include First Nations under the list of organizations that could be engaged in a collaborative approach to illegal dumping.
- Other proposed actions agreed upon.

MEETING WRAP UP

- Next steps - the shortlist will be finalized based on the input received both this meeting and the Northern AC meeting. At the next meeting, the shortlisted options will be presented with information on cost, organization(s) responsible for implementation, and proposed timing of implementation. We will also discuss community consultation.

- Next meeting to be held late winter. This meeting is intended to be a conference call. Committee members expressed their concern with the effectiveness of a telephone meeting and requested consideration of an in-person meeting.

Meeting of the Southern SWRMP Advisory Committee (AC) adjourned at 1:40 PM