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

Meeting #6 Minutes
Monday March 30, 2015
12:30-3:30
Board Room, SLRD offices
1350 Aster St, Pemberton BC

AC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Brooke Carere	Community member
Cheryl Skibe	Whistler Community Services Society, Re-Use It centre
Dora Gunn	District of Squamish, Sustainability Coordinator
Graham Hayward	Lil'wat Nation; Land, Resources and Public Infrastructure
Joe Paul	RMOW Infrastructure Services
Jaye-Jay Berggren	Sea to Sky Soils Composting
Janis Netzel	SLRD UES director
Linda Kelly Smith	Squamish Climate Action Network Member
Lisa Pedrini	Planner, Village of Pemberton
Meredith Gee	Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, Environmental Technician
Randi Lewis	Squamish Nation
Russell Mack	SLRD Area C representative

FACILITATOR:

Maura Walker	Maura Walker & Associates
Todd Baker (via phone)	Morrison Hershfield

Meeting of the SWRMP Advisory Committee (AC) called to order at 12:40 PM

INTRODUCTIONS

- Round table introductions were done

AGENDA AND MEETING MINUTES

- Agenda introduced, no changes requested. Minutes of previous meeting adopted without revisions.

PRESENTATION – MAURA WALKER

- Maura presented an outline on where we are in the process to update the SWRMP.
 - We have completed Stage 1 and are currently at the end of Stage 2 of a 3 stage process.
 - Stage 3 is community consultation which should begin after approval of the Stage 2 report by the SLRD board
- Maura reviewed the long-term solid waste management vision for the region as well as the top priorities for this planning process (as identified in Stage 1).
- Joe Paul (RMOW) requested that a letter be sent to Mayors and Councils in advance of community consultation to ensure that they are aware of the contents of the draft plan and the planned community consultation activities. This suggestion was supported by other municipal representatives on the Advisory Committee

PRESENTATION – MEREDITH GEE

- Meredith presented on the SLRD's recent solid waste communications plan that was approved by the board November 2014.
- There was a brief outline of solid waste in BC and the region over the last ten years presented to give context to the need for a unified communications plan focused solely on solid waste.

- Some images and examples of current solid waste communications were given to highlight the need for consistency in the region. Some of the ideas within the plan were presented, such as a colour-coded system for signage.

DISCUSSION

The meeting followed the outline of the Stage 2 draft SWRMP (the “plan”) that was distributed prior to the meeting as part of the Agenda Package

Communications

- The Plan intends to achieve many of its goals through communications. As a result, all communications related actions, regardless of their target audience (e.g. multi-family building managers, construction industry, etc.) have aggregated into a dedicated communications section in the plan instead of spread out through the Stage 2 report.

Extended Producer Responsibility

- The only landfill bans proposed in this Plan are related to specific EPR products, such as paints, pesticides, batteries and tires. Residential packaging and printed paper, although covered by an EPR program, is not proposed to be included in a list of materials banned from disposal.

Waste Diversion through policy

- Local governments are intended to collaborate on tipping fee categories but not tipping fee charges.

Residential Waste Management

- Curbside recycling in Pemberton / Lillooet – option for pilot program or soft launch to make it more appealing and accessible.
- Discussion about where is “surrounding” areas of Pemberton – depends on what is feasible when the more detailed study is undertaken. It was suggested that this be more clearly defined in the final plan.
- A clearer linkage to organic waste management and communication initiatives targeting residents be included in the text of this section

Construction and Demolition Waste

- Discussion about proposed C&D waste actions actually being regulatory actions. Although it was explained that the regulatory actions in the report are only examples of actions that could be taken as part of a collaborative approach to reducing CD waste, there was a request to tone down the regulatory emphasis of this section
- A suggestion that a phased approach be considered – communications and education first, regulatory approaches second
- It was emphasized that the development of a detail CD waste management strategy would be done in collaboration with the C&D industry.
- One of the options for the strategy is the piloting of a regulatory approach

Resource Recovery

- Residual management through resource recovery was looked at and considered not viable within in the region but that initiatives in Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley should be monitored, and may be options for SLRD to capitalize on in the future

Residuals Management

- Creating energy from landfill gas not viable at any of the current or historic landfills
- District of Squamish reported that a decision about vertical expansion of Squamish landfill should come in late 2015 or early 2016, the expansion is currently approved in principle
- The process for finalizing the updated BC landfill guidelines has slowed down – when they are final, SLRD landfills will need to assess compliancy

Illegal Dumping

- Collaboration on what a regional strategy might be is included in the Plan. Can tie in with tipping fees collaboration
- Regions with successful illegal dumping strategies tend to have bylaw officers that undertake enforcement

Land-use planning

- Long-range planning involves OCPs; but it was suggested that in the short-term development permits could be used to address waste management issues

Authority over waste management activities in the SLRD

- Report proposes that SLRD use the current facility authorization process. Sea to Sky Soils was the first facility to undergo this authorization process
- The process required applicants to confirm appropriate zoning and to check with Ministry regarding any concerns they might have with a proposed facility
- There was discussion about ensuring that local diversion tactics aren't compromised by waste material moving out of the region. Maura reminded the committee that during Stage 2, the committee members concluded that flow control bylaws were not required at this time as there isn't the evidence that export is a problem at the moment.
- There is the potential for SLRD and the member municipalities to use cooperative tipping fees to mitigate this problem.

Plan targets

- Targets based on Ministry's service plan's waste management targets
- Both targets can be achieved by 2020 if the Plan is fully implemented
- Target #2 was discussed – the original goal was for 75% of the SLRD's population to be actively engaged in organic waste diversion. Discussed how to best define "actively engaged in organic waste diversion." One option was that there needed to be "easy access" to organic waste collection by residents and businesses. There was a request for more clarity on this metric.

Schedule and budget

- The proposed schedule and budget are intended to be flexible enough to allow for the Board to assess what it can and can't do on an annual basis, based on available resources and priorities
- Municipal representatives requested that the SLRD provide Councils with an indication of the cost implications to each of the municipalities as a result of the actions listed in the Plan (e.g. tax requisition increase, tipping fee increase)

Next steps – Public consultation process

- The Stage 2 draft will go to the SLRD board for approval to take it to the public for consultation
- Letters to councils to inform them of our public consultation process in their municipality
- The District of Squamish reported that due to heavy workload with new curbside organics collection that they could not co-host a consultation event with SLRD in Squamish. Squamish CAN offered to host information on the SLRD's draft Plan at upcoming events.
- Other suggestions for community engagement included tacking onto Whistler/Squamish information events, going to farmers markets, surveys, door-to-door messaging.

Recommendation

The Advisory Committee unanimously recommended that staff take the Stage 2 report (with the edits agreed on at this meeting) to the SLRD board with a recommendation to consult with the community and stakeholders on the proposed actions in the report.

Meeting of the combined SWRMP Advisory Committee (AC) adjourned at 3:25 PM