

**Cariboo Regional District
Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) – October 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Present: Al Richmond, Amanda Vibert, Mary Forbes, Sherri Jonkman, Joanne Dodgridge, Karen Moores, Oliver Berger, Pat Mahood, Ted Olfert, Tera Grady

Absent: Cory Delves, Jared Taylor, Dan Harrison, Davee Palmantier, Peter Jarvis, Leonard Cook, Enver Hrbinic, Roxanne Pop, Steve O’Hara, Leslie Glen, Vince Benner, Tyron Harry

Meeting was called to order at 4:00pm.

Agenda:

1. Call to Order
 - a. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Adoption of Minutes
 - a. September 8, 2021
3. Consultation Updates
 - a. Business Survey
4. Guiding Principles
 - a. Review and update
5. Option
 - a. Inputs
 - b. Short list
6. Next Steps

1. Call to Order

The motion to approve the agenda was made by Karen and seconded by Ted.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Amanda made the motion to approve the minutes, Sherry seconded the motion, none opposed, and it was carried.

3. Consultation Updates

The workplace survey was launched in early September and has 25 responses as of October 6. Another round of promotion is underway and the survey deadline is October 12. AC members were encouraged to reach out to business contacts in their areas to promote the survey.

4. Guiding Principles

Following a recap of the 2011 CRD SWMP guiding principles (13) and the Ministry’s guiding principles as published in 2016 (8), the group discussed the Committee’s feedback. The six proposed guiding principles for the 2020 Plan were reviewed, compared and contrasted to the 2011 CRD and 2016 Ministry versions and are listed below:

1. Promoting zero waste approaches and supporting local circular economy opportunities
2. Minimize greenhouse gas emissions and protect the Cariboo's natural environment
3. Implement the 5-Rs hierarchy through new programs, extended producer responsibility, education, and partnerships to achieve regional targets
4. Manage residuals responsibly and prioritize hazardous substances diversion from landfill.
5. Move towards user-pay approach while recognizing rural limitations
6. Maintain cost effective system while optimizing diversion and local jobs

5. Options

Inputs relevant to inform options were reviewed including survey and waste composition results. The Committee then rated a short list of options against general priorities for solid waste management to gain deeper insight around options. The options and priorities discussed are as follows:

Options (short list)

- Commercial Recycling
- Food Waste Diversion
- Landfill Disposal Bans
- Multi-unit Building Recycling
- Curbside Garbage Collection
- Upgrades to rural sites

Solid Waste Management Priorities

- Waste Diversion
- Environmental Protection
- Convenience
- Local Economy
- Cost
- Waste Reduction

The rankings were set by what would be considered most desirable from the generator perspective (1-3, 3 most desirable). It was noted that rankings were factored considering shorter term implications; for example, new programs related to diversion have costs associated that help to mitigate longer term triple bottom line costs related to managing landfills (e.g. leachate, environmental impacts), soil health and overall management (e.g. compost, and reducing carbon footprint (e.g. upstream waste reduction/avoidance)).

The nuances of how various generators would be affected by options implementation was also discussed. For example, any new changes to the system could be considered less convenient but generators will develop new habits and norms over time. For multi-unit building recycling, renters would have convenience added but there would be start up effort required for property managers. Garbage curbside collection could reduce recycling efforts due to reduced depot trips but opens the opportunity to add recycling and organics collection to provide three stream collection services, which have been shown to optimize residential diversion.

Reuse centres was ranked as potentially most desirable from a generator perspective followed by multi-unit building recycling. Commercial recycling, food waste diversion, and landfill disposal bans were next followed by upgrade to rural sites, user-pay, and adding curbside garbage collection for fringe (to municipality) communities with higher population density.

6. Next steps.

The next meeting will take place November 3 or 10 later in the day, time TBD.

Given lower attendance, it was suggested that AC members get reminded a few days in advance of the meeting as well as the day of the session.