

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLIC/TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 18, 2025

In-Person Meeting

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

MEETING NOTES

The Meeting Notes of the Public/Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC), held in person at the Atrium Hall of the Annacis Research and Events Centre, 1400 Lindsey Place, Delta, BC. The meeting commenced at 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time on Thursday, September 18, 2025.

Attendees: Director Sarah Kirby-Yung, Chair; Adelyn Chan, Allen Lynch, Amika Watari, Bill Chan, Christoph Schultz, Cody Irwin, Daryl Foster, Jennifer Henry, John Doherty, Komal Fatima, Marcelle Moreira dos Santos, Raman Johal, Sean Miles, Sue Maxwell, Tara Immell, William Selten

Absent: Ben Liegey, Brenda Martens, Cassidy vander Ross, Daniel Rotman, Doug Schell, Grant Hankins, Jake Turek, Jamie Kaminski, Jaye-Jaye Berggren, Kevin Huang, Matthew Morin, Michael Zarbl, Sarah Scanlan, Stephanie Voysey, Ulwiana Mehta-Malhorta

Metro Vancouver Staff: Brooke Atkinson, Chris Underwood, Karen Storry, Paul Henderson, Stephanie Liu, Terry Fulton, Allen Jensen, Faith Sabourault

Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel Members: Andrea Reimer, Celena Bendorff, Komal Fatima (PTAC member & Panel member)

1.	WELCOME The Chair, Director Sarah Kirby-Yung welcomed PTAC members and introduced the following Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Andrea Reimer• Celena Benndorf	Chair
2.	AGENDA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Chair, Director Sarah Kirby-Yung presented and reviewed the September 18, 2025, meeting agenda. There were no additions made.	Chair

3.	MEETING NOTES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed June 19, 2025, previous meeting notes and there were no additions made. 	Chair
4.	ACTION/STANDING ITEMS	Chair
	<p>4.1 Action tracker</p> <p>The action tracker was reviewed, and updates were provided.</p> <p>Pending action items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a full list of plan update ideas from Idea Generation phase of engagement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff will post the list immediately after the meeting today on the PTAC website. • Metro Vancouver to provide response to PTAC member inquiry regarding the Landfill Greenhouse Gas Emissions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff response is provided at attachment 3 of the meeting agenda. • Potential to have an invited presenter (OCEANA) to a future PTAC meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OCEANA may present to PTAC at the November 20, 2025 meeting (time-permitting). • Staff to bring back information on the United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre Reuse Days pilot. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff will bring this information to a future PTAC meeting this fall. <p>Staff to bring back a more detailed regulatory strategy to the committee at a later meeting. This information will be provided at the November 20, 2025 PTAC meeting.</p>	Brooke Atkinson
5.	DISCUSSION ITEMS	
	<p>Solid Waste Management Plan Update:</p> <p>5.1 Draft Plan Outline</p> <p><i>For information and comments</i></p>	Terry Fulton

Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services, Metro Vancouver, started the Solid Waste Management Plan Update and shared the *Draft Solid Waste Management Plan Outline* presentation and highlighted the project timeline update, plan components, plan outline, strategic approaches and review process.

Discussion summary:

- Member commented that several plan sections in the outline are not yet completed, making it difficult to provide full feedback.
 - Staff confirmed that this is a draft outline, which includes the work done to date on the plan update (vision and guiding principles, waster hierarchy, and goals). Staff are looking for input on if this draft outline includes all necessary components.
- Member made a suggestion to revise the waste hierarchy; not every level requires a goal. For example, Goal 5 (related to recovery) could be removed.
- Comment that the definition of zero waste is missing.
- Question whether the plan will specify actual destinations for residuals.
 - Staff confirmed it will instead include criteria for future decisions should new disposal capacity be required.
 - Strategies and actions related to Goal six would also be included in the draft plan.
- Suggestion the plan should include specific regulatory measures to allow the Province to consider them early rather than delaying.
- Reduce toxicity of materials should be included throughout.
- Landfill capacity: Suggestion to address this transparently in the plan.
 - Staff noted ongoing conversations about potential filling to physical capacity of the Vancouver Landfill.
- Guiding principles: Concern that connection between regulatory and guiding principles was unclear.
- Flexibility: Suggestion that the plan is not too narrow but should include options under consideration (e.g., landfill capacity, annual waste generation, etc.), rather than prescribing a single path.

5.2 Draft Plan Strategies and Rubric

<p>member, attending PTAC meetings as a PTAC member. Panel members will be observers at each PTAC meeting in the future.</p> <p>5.3 Residual Waste Management Options Review <i>For plenary discussion</i> Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services, Metro Vancouver</p> <p>Discussion summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member asked whether the study identifies best practices for disposal. • Member asked about current/future environmental footprint of disposal options. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff confirmed that Metro Vancouver’s Waste-to-Energy Facility meets regulatory requirements and Waste-to-Energy (WTE) is safe and cost-effective. • Member asked if the study compared landfill vs. waste-to-energy in a lifecycle analysis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff clarified the study purpose was not to determine which is better but to describe international practices and decision drivers. • Member expressed concern that without conclusions, the study may not guide the updated plan. • Question on how criteria will be weighted; concern it feels meaningless otherwise. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff explained the study helps to understand what the experience has been like across the globe on options that have been implemented on a commercial scale, for waste disposal. • Member mentioned that there is a perception that the study was biased toward Waste-to-Energy (WTE); suggestion to analyze existing facility (especially with renewed Electricity Purchasing Agreement and potential taxpayer costs). • Feedback was provided that the plan should state not to continue with WTE, rather than just criteria for assessing potential disposal options. • Member posed a question whether more effort should go into source separation. 	<p>Benndorf; Komal Fatima</p> <p>Paul Henderson</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff responded that Metro Vancouver’s approach of maximizing source separation is accepted as the most successful approach to reducing waste. ● Member noted that WTE creates the perception of “unlimited capacity,” potentially leading to more plastic production. Landfill seen as more limited. ● Member asked whether the plan defines “garbage.” Concern that calling it “garbage” discourages recovery opportunities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff clarified residuals are leftovers from residential, commercial, and institutional streams (not C&D), and that garbage is a colloquial term used to describe these generation sources. ● Member posed concern about transporting waste to faraway landfills; need for a consistent evaluation framework. ● Member noted a lack of review of mixed waste processing in the study, aside from Toronto example. Key benefit would be removal of organics that drive landfill GHGs. 	
6.	INFORMATION ITEMS	
	<p>6.1 Zero Waste Committee and Other Updates Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services, Metro Vancouver, provided information regarding the Zero Waste Committee September 11, 2025 meeting reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A discussion took place regarding the cost between the different disposal options – asking what was presented to the Zero Waste Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff advised that Zero Waste Committee members asked for more detail on the disposal cost comparisons and that information would be provided to the Zero Waste Committee at its October meeting. 	Paul Henderson
7.	ADDITIONAL ITEMS	
	The upcoming meetings are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● October 3 in-person meeting: Options analysis feedback session 	Chair

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 20 in-person meeting: Targets <p>Transparency and Meeting Minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member raised concern about whether all critical questions and opinions are being documented in meeting minutes. Referring to the attached letter to staff from PTAC member. • Staff responses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Comments from HSR Zero Waste and responses were attached to the agenda package (attachment 4). ○ Commitment to transparency: draft minutes are published in advance of meetings, Engagement Panel members invited to future PTAC meetings, online meetings are livestreamed/recorded and posted on the PTAC website. ○ PTAC meeting notes will include more details moving forward to ensure all questions and comments are captured. 	
	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjourned at 2:45 p.m. 	<p>Chair</p>