

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLIC/TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 16, 2023

Zoom Meeting

3:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Director Sarah Kirby-Yung, Chair; Director Craig Hodge, Vice-Chair; Alice Henry, Ben Liegey, Bill Chan, Brianne De Man, Cody Irwin, Daniel Rotman, Doug Schell, Grant Hankins, Hunter Bergen, Jaye-Jay Berggren, John Doherty, Kevin Huang, Lori Bryan, Louise Schwarz, Love-Ese Chile, Lyndsay Poaps, Michael Zarbl, Raman Johal, Sue Maxwell, Ulwiana Mehta-Malhotra, Tara Immell, William Selten.

Absent: Brenda Martens, Christian Dietrich, Jake Turek, Jamie Kaminski, Jessica Savoy, Matthew Morin, Sara Larter, Yasmin Abraham.

Metro Vancouver Staff: Paul Henderson, Chris Allan, Karen Storry, Nanette van Doorn, Samantha Joy, Stephanie Liu, Terry Fulton, Brooke Atkinson

1.	INTRODUCTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting started at 3:02pm 	Chair
	Welcome from the Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director Kirby-Yung expressed gratitude for the attendees' commitment. Welcomed Lori Bryan, the newly elected Co-chair of the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee, introducing her extensive background in the solid waste industry. The elected Co-chair of the Industry Advisory Committee is automatically a member of the Public/Technical Advisory Committee. 	Chair
2.	AGENDA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed the November 16, 2023 meeting agenda. 	Chair
3.	MEETING NOTES – September 7, 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed the September 7, 2023 meeting notes. 	Chair
4.	ACTION/STANDING ITEMS	Chair
	4.1 Action tracker Action items from previous meetings:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance metrics review scope of work was provided as an information item to the committee in the agenda package for today’s meeting and staff will be reporting back on the results of the study once completed in 2024. • Sustainable food service packaging guide to be presented to the committee at today’s meeting by Karen Storry. • The action item to ‘Create a lessons learned repository on the repair and reuse initiatives that Metro Vancouver has conducted to date and share with the Public/Technical Advisory Committee, will be rolled over to 2024 and staff will update the committee when it has been drafted. <p>4.2 Incoming/outgoing communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No incoming/outgoing communication was shared by members 	
5.	METRO VANCOUVER UPDATES	
	<p>5.1 Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Vision and Guiding Principles Engagement and Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A status update on public engagement was provided, including an overview of the engagement program and activities, and how many people participated in engagement. • On December 1 there is an opportunity to present to the Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel – members can still sign up to participate. • Next steps for this phase of the plan update are to develop the engagement summary report, and provide a draft vision statement and guiding principles to First Nations, member jurisdictions, the Public/Technical Advisory Committee, and Industry Advisory Committee for comment, prior to presenting them to the Zero Waste Committee and Board for consideration. 	Stephanie Liu, Metro Vancouver
	<p>5.2 Sustainable Foodservice Purchasing Guide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update was provided on the tools that Metro Vancouver has been working on for a sustainable foodservice purchasing guide. • The sustainable foodservice packaging guide and a summary of federal and provincial single-use items regulations was provided to members in the agenda package. • Past waste composition studies indicate that almost 500 single use items per person per year are disposed (2022). • Provincial regulations for single-use items are in effect starting December 2023. • Work is being done to educate small businesses to know which items are compliant to regulations. • Recycling Council of BC (RCBC) talked about collaborative next steps with Metro Vancouver including the Single Use Plastics Alternative Guide. • Phase 1 of this project will include the review of available tools and suggest improvements based on interviews with leading jurisdictions and feedback from targeted businesses. Phase 2, planned for 2024, will include developing 	Karen Storry, Metro Vancouver Lyndsay Poaps, Recycling Council of BC

	<p>additional tools and resources to help target businesses adopt the most sustainable, low-waste food service ware practical.</p> <p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members to email Karen Storry at Karen.storry@metrovancover.org with questions or comments. <p>Members discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If Metro Vancouver has direct regulation authority over composting and waste stations in malls. Metro Vancouver responded that it does not have direct authority over this and Metro Vancouver’s regulatory authority related to encouraging recycling by generators is primarily through disposal bans at regional solid waste facilities (Recycling and Waste Centres along with the Waste-to-Energy Facility). • If Metro Vancouver can come up with a model bylaw for the member municipalities that would require 3 stream material management. Metro Vancouver’s response is that it is working on designing a pilot that will encourage customers to maximize recycling through disposal ban surcharge waivers where haulers or recycling facility operators demonstrate they are taking all reasonable actions to encourage recycling. • What communication efforts are there to educate businesses on compostable plastics and how can it be enforced effectively. Metro Vancouver addressed the question that the Province is working hard on communication, and there’s a single-use item reduction tool kit to help businesses. Metro Vancouver is also working with the Recycling Council of British Columbia to communicate the new requirements. • Director Kirby-Yung acknowledged that there will be a transition period with the new regulation and ongoing education is expected. • A member commented on having multiple streams of recycling and he thinks this current system relies on haulers and collection points being reliable and effective, which may not always be the case. 	
6.	OTHER BUSINESS	
	<p>6.1 Zero Waste Committee Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Henderson provided an update on the agenda items from the October 12, 2023 Zero Waste Committee meeting, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scaling up regional reuse repair and food recovery ○ 2024 Budget and 5-Year Financial Plan ○ North Surrey and Langley recycling depots development ○ Notice of Bylaw Violation and Dispute Adjudication bylaw engagement related to the existing facility licensing bylaw, Bylaw 181 ○ District Energy Waste-to-Energy Facility 	<p>Paul Henderson, Metro Vancouver</p>

	<p>6.2 Member Discussion on PTAC Meeting Involvement for 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members were asked to rank topics of interest based on previous meeting conversations, to be included in the 2024 draft work plan. • The focus of ranking topics was to create more opportunities for committee member contributions, sharing information, and discussing challenges for recycling systems. • Participants moved into breakout rooms to share ideas on enhancing meeting processes and involvement. • Detailed notes on each breakout room are included in Attachment 1. • Breakout Groups reported back to the main group with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is a need to understand Metro Vancouver’s authority, to help inform the committee’s advice on actions Metro Vancouver can take to advance waste reduction, and areas where Metro Vancouver can serve other roles where it does not have direct authority (e.g. advocacy, facilitation, convening). ○ Request to create more opportunities for members to highlight what they are doing in their organizations. ○ Need for a clear process for committee members to actively contribute to problem solving with respect to solid waste management challenges in the region, by sharing their technical expertise and lived experiences. ○ Importance of breakout sessions for discussions, having guest presenters on relevant topics, and collaborating on educational materials. ○ Opportunities for less structured small group meetings on particular topic areas ○ Other ideas included online active document for collective learning, and collaboration with Metro Vancouver staff on specific issues. <p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 draft work plan to be presented to members at the first meeting of 2024. 	<p>Chair</p>
	<p>6.3 2024 Meeting Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair reviewed purpose of PTAC and terms of reference • 2024 Meeting Logistics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion on planning and scheduling committee meetings for 2024. ○ Used MentiMeter to gather input on the number of meetings and preferred timings and months to not hold meetings. ○ Consideration of scheduling challenges and preferences for accessibility. <p>Action Item:</p>	<p>Chair</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 meeting dates will be sent to members in December. 	
	<p>6.4 Zero Waste Conference 2023 Debrief</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members were asked to debrief on any feedback or experiences at the Zero Waste Conference 2023 (Nov 1-2). <p>Members discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Praise for the textile workshop format – particularly the "fishbowl" style with discussion and multiple speakers sharing perspectives. Suggestion of structured networking with set tables or the option to switch tables for more effective networking. A member looked forward to the plastics conversation but was disappointed because the presentation focused more on the cost than on long-term solutions. Enjoyed the workshops and the chance to ideate – The foodwaste Solve session was interesting. Disappointed in the infrastructure presentation since it didn't seem to represent a lot of diversity with the type of presenters chosen. The panel that discussed the challenges of addressing producer responsibility needed more diverse perspectives to challenge industry norms. Appreciation for the keynote speakers and food waste workshop. Suggestion of more time for workshops, and recommended exploring virtual networking options. Suggested aligning food offerings with sustainability goals, providing specific networking space, and measuring the conference's overall carbon footprint. 	Chair
7.	<p>INFORMATION ITEMS</p> <p>7.1 Regional Waste Flows October</p> <p>7.2 Public/Technical Advisory Committee 2023 Draft Annual Work Plan</p> <p>7.3 Metro Vancouver Regional District Board Report – External Agency Status Report for the Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee</p> <p>7.4 Metro Vancouver Regional District Board Report – External Agency Status Report for the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee</p> <p>7.5 Metro Vancouver Regional District Board Report – External Agency Status Report for the National Zero Waste Council</p> <p>7.6 Performance Metrics Review Scope of Work</p>	
8.	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjourned at 4:54pm 	Chair

Attachment 1:

Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee November 15, 2023 PTAC Meeting Involvement for 2024 Group Notes	
Group 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate how PTAC input directly impacts decisions or programs and articulate that connection more clearly• Move faster• Be involved in actions now even as we work on the plan update<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Start exploring potential solutions to problems, and lean on lived experience of the group to assess suitability of those potential solutions/ideas• Align zero waste work with climate policies – have different decision makers aligned and talk• Understanding what levers/authority Metro Vancouver actually has – help inform discussion<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Where Metro Vancouver doesn't have control, can we endorse/advocate work of other governments and organizations that do have the ability/control• More in person meetings• Inspiration from what is done in other parts of the world
Group 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education, specifically to schools and businesses – How can we educate the public and get these conversations happening with as many people as possible?• Accountability – how do we factor that into things like subsidized housing – is there an accountability agreement that could be created that would improve buy-in?• Education because we have so many people who just don't understand why we are doing this or why it's important• Establish and communicate the connection between waste reduction and climate issues in general• How can we be more involved in creating the policies and enforcing them – from a policy perspective we all have different specialties. Can we leverage the talents of the committee to workshop some of these new policies? We can work better in a group that has working groups or sub-committees that make use of people's skills. We need targets and need to know where to go. We don't need any more updates that aren't linked to targets. Where we are now, where we are going, and how are we going to get there?• Accountability and enforcement of policies

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard and big decisions have to be made – consumers will purchase what is available to them – we want to start supporting and talking about the hard decisions • More clarity about the purpose of this committee since we are still very much in the planning stage. What should be the focus and how should it be focused on? • Specialized working groups so that we can delve into topics more deeply and with more relevant lived and professional experience • Gain an understanding of the sphere of influence that Metro Vancouver truly has and apply that to policy planning • Build a cohesive framework – how do the actions and the policy connect to outcomes? When I think about one of the topics that were being discussed I don't understand how single-use items connects to the SWMP options. We talked about categorization and prioritization. How much worth does each idea have? • If we are going to offer our expertise we need to have things that are issues-based and that already exist somewhere within the current policies • Get information that is presented as it exists with the policy framework and then decide if it is important • Introduce the notion of what it's like to use these systems – ie. people who live in multi-unit dwellings. We should be asking what people actually care about in terms of lived experiences
<p>Group 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakout rooms are nice to have • Consider particular groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ put together on topics of interest ○ cross-sectors need to be done for all the perspectives • Need more discussion and input formats • Balance between overview of topics and detailed working groups • For policies like single-use item reduction- different jurisdictional coordination between cities, region, province, federal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What can we do to streamline the process for residents? ○ Technical questions, purchasing questions • Interest in discussion of role of industry and the topic that came up around commercial sector challenges and the need for transparency • Non-industry members appreciate the learning opportunities to support engagement • Culture shift • Broader discussion and collaboration on educational materials • Definition of recycling under provincial Environmental Management Act includes incineration • Overview of the contents of the plan update but also more detailed information in breakout groups • Discussion around policies that allow for investment in recycling processing • New buildings consider:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Protecting the space for recycling ○ Accommodating the garbage room and truck access ○ WorkSafe BC requirements ○ Need to have the architects at the table <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guest presenters from processors
<p>Group 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consider starting an active document to put thoughts in between meetings ● Challenges/roadblocks from businesses that MV could help address ● What Metro Vancouver is doing to align themselves with Extended Producer Responsibility ● Explore smaller groups as issue areas emerge in order to complete deeper work in the area ● One or two less structured meetings to get into deeper discussion ● 'Optional meetings' not broadcast to public ● Leverage expertise of members ● Provide time and place for conversations ● Less formal discussions ● Access to staff to participate in discussions ● Would like opportunity to influence Metro Vancouver on SWMP eg. what do we want Metro Vancouver working on, what can Metro Vancouver actually do, what good examples are happening in other places in the world? ● Plan doesn't need to focus necessarily on "what can Metro Vancouver do" because of influence Metro Vancouver has/funding of organizations such as the NZWC ● PTAC should be forward thinking vs. responsive ● PTAC can help advocate for change ● Expand group to reach small business