

**METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT  
SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee Meeting held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, via Zoom Video Conference.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Lori Bryan, Waste Management Assoc. of BC (Co-Chair)	Mike Lannin, Super Save Group
Craig Hodge, Director, Metro Vancouver Board of Directors (Co-Chair)	Angus MacFarlane, Growing City
Izzie Abrams, Waste Connections of Canada	Patrick MacNeil, Wescan Disposal Ltd.
Jeremy Crawford, Waste Control Services	Achilles Mallari, Sierra Waste Services Ltd.
Happy Deol, Super Save Group	Ralph McRae, Revolution Infrastructure Inc.
Christian Dietrich, Ecowaste Industries	David Millman, Waste Management of Canada Corp.
Grant Hankins, Canada Minibins.com Ltd.	Dimitri Pantazopoulos, Waste Connections of Canada
Gord Johnson, Northstar	Shad Prasad, Cascade Recovery +
Jamie Kaminski, HSR Zero Waste	Ken Schultze, (Alternate for Fabio Scaldaferrri, Pacific Mattress Recycling Inc.)
John Turner, BC Biocarbon Ltd.	Dayton Skei, EverGen
Josh JansenVandoorn, Anaconda Systems Ltd.	Jasper Van de Wetering, Heidelberg Materials Canada Ltd.
Sean Kawakami, Convertus Canada Ltd.	Pinky Vargas, Republic Services
Aiden Kiani, Lock-Block Ltd.	Michael Zarbl, Major Appliance Recycling Roundtable
Leanne Koehn, Ridge Meadows Recycling Society	

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

James Collins, Tymac Launch Service Ltd.	Matthew McAra, GFL Environmental Inc.
Jen Diamant, Capital Salvage	Maya Moucachen, Merlin Plastics
Glen Furtado, Cement Association of Canada	Sandy Sigmund, Encorp Pacific Canada, Return-It
Jeff Gontovnick, 1-800-GOT-JUNK?	Stewart Young, GFL Environmental Inc.
Imran Jessa, Delta Textiles Exporters Inc.	

**METRO VANCOUVER AND CITY OF VANCOUVER STAFF:**

Brooke Atkinson, Senior Engagement Specialist, Solid Waste Services  
Chris Clarke, Engagement Specialist, Solid Waste Services  
Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services  
Samantha Joy, Engagement Specialist, Solid Waste Services  
Stephanie Liu, Program Manager, Community Engagement, Solid Waste Services  
Zack Ha, Administrative Assistant, Solid Waste Services  
Zeenia Mizan, Program Assistant, Community Engagement, Solid Waste Services

**PREPARATION OF MINUTES:** Megan Krempel, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

# Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee Meeting

July 9, 2024

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Zoom

## Agenda

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1. Agenda
  - 1.1. July 9, 2024, Meeting Agenda
2. Minutes
  - 2.1. June 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes
3. Reports and Items for Discussion
  - 3.1. Follow-up on Organics Management Capacity  
*For Information and input*  
*Designated speaker: Paul Henderson, Metro Vancouver, Solid Waste Services*
  - 3.2. Draft Metro Vancouver 5-Year Capital Plan  
*For input/feedback*  
*Designated speaker: Paul Henderson, Metro Vancouver, Solid Waste Services*
  - 3.3. Long-Term Disposal Planning / Vancouver Landfill  
*For input/feedback*  
*Designated speaker: Paul Henderson, Metro Vancouver, Solid Waste Services*  
*Small group and plenary discussions proposed questions:*
    - *What infrastructure is most important for Metro Vancouver to prioritize for public investment?*
    - *How should the private sector be involved in infrastructure development for the region?*
4. Other Business
  - 4.1. Zero Waste Committee and Other Updates  
*For information*  
*Designated Speaker: Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services*
5. Information Items
  - 5.1. Regional Waste Flows
  - 5.2. 2024 Work Plan

## MEETING MINUTES

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Co-Chair Lori Bryan called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. and welcomed attendees to the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee meeting. The Co-Chair reviewed Zoom meeting protocols and welcomed new Industry Advisory Committee member, Dayton Skei, EverGen Infrastructure Corp.

In response to a query regarding the whether non-IAC members could attend meetings, it was noted that the virtual Industry Advisory Committee meetings are live-streamed and accessible to anyone via the Metro Vancouver website, including the public. In-person Industry Advisory Committee meetings are not live-streamed, but members of the public can attend and observe by contacting Metro Vancouver staff.

### 1. AGENDA

#### 1.1 July 9, 2024, Meeting Agenda

Co-Chair Bryan reviewed the July 9, 2024, meeting agenda. No additions were made.

### 2. MINUTES

#### 2.1 June 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Co-Chair Bryan called for any additions or changes to the meeting Minutes of June 11, 2024. There were no changes or additions to the meeting Minutes of June 11, 2024.

It was noted that Feedback Summary Reports of the small group discussions from May and June had been posted on the Industry Advisory Committee website. Anyone experiencing challenges with locating the reports was encouraged to contact Metro Vancouver staff.

### 3. REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 Follow-up on Organics Management Capacity

Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services, Metro Vancouver, provided follow-up information on organics management capacity and procurement processes that are under development, noting the following:

- Metro Vancouver operates six recycling and waste centres which receive 60,000 tons of organics per year broken into four categories of materials.
  - All five municipalities in the North Shore deliver single-family residential collection organics to the North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre, comprised typically of 70% yard waste and 30% food scraps.
  - Yard trimmings are accepted at all facilities at \$113/tonne
  - Clean wood is at the same rate.
  - Since fall 2022, the North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre has accepted commercial organics (food scraps). This pilot program was possible because there was capacity to receive the materials into the existing receiving area, which is operated separately from the rest of the recycling centre.
  - At all facilities - Up to 100 kilograms (kg) of organics will be accepted at the same rates as Metro Vancouver facilities and regular commercial collection programs.
- Metro Vancouver has contracts for managing organics from Metro Vancouver facilities, with Arrow, Sea to Sky Soils, and Anaconda Systems
- The Metro Vancouver Board directed that in-region options be explored for managing organics

- Metro Vancouver is working on a procurement process designed to explore the potential to contract for the processing of some Metro Vancouver organics locally over the long term.
- An approach is being considered that would specify a radius from the centre of the Metro Vancouver solid waste system (United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre), and require that processing facilities be within this radius to reduce transportation issues
- Contract would be for new capacity, and not displace existing material
- Expectation it would take a number of years for capacity to be developed
- Currently working on details of the procurement process

### **3.2 Draft Metro Vancouver 5-Year Plan**

Paul Henderson provided a high-level summary of a report recently presented to the Metro Vancouver Zero Waste Committee in regard to a draft Solid Waste Services Draft 5-Year Capital Plan. The draft plan, along with the five year financial plan, will be presented to the Board in October 2024.

Further comments were offered regarding:

- Projection – this is an opportunity to provide feedback before the capital plan and budget workshop in the fall
- Capital Plan drivers, including maintenance, resilience, upgrade, and opportunity:
  - Metro Vancouver will be clarifying the definitions of these categories
- 2025-2029 Solid Waste Capital Plan Expenditures:
  - Costs of approximately \$60 million in capital per year over the 5-year period
- Need for re-budgeting:
  - Some projects taking longer to get into procurement than anticipated
  - Monies expected to be spent in 2024, would be moved to 2025
- Key projects:
  - Waste-to-Energy Facility District Energy project
  - Two recycling depots (North Surrey and Langley)
  - Biosolids processing
  - Facility maintenance and capital replacement
  - Solid waste facility land purchase 2029:
    - An allocation of \$50 million set aside for land purchase for new solid waste facility
    - Land has become a significant component of facility costs
- Focus on capital investments and contracting with private sector to manage materials and build and manage facilities.

During discussion, comments were offered related to:

- The biosolids processing project has been in the works for a number of years
- Approval provided by the Province of BC for up to 25,000 tonnes/year of biosolids at the Waste-to-Energy Facility.
- Intention for bottom ash recycling is to contract with the private sector to provide processing of the material

### **3.3 Long-Term Disposal Planning / Vancouver Landfill**

Paul Henderson provided an update on the residential and commercial institutional garbage data for 2023 and noted:

- 2023 data was similar to 2022 data
- Vancouver Landfill received 680,000 tonnes of garbage, 220,000 waste-to-energy tonnes, and 100,000 tonnes in contingency for a total of approximately 1 million tonnes of municipal solid waste in 2023
- Three landfills are being used for contingency disposal in Cache Creek, eastern Washington, and eastern Oregon
- Materials received at Vancouver Landfill included regular garbage, bottom ash, treatment plant residuals, and construction/demo waste for a total of 743,000 tonnes in 2023, close to the Operational Certificate annual limit of 750,000 tonnes per year
- Contingency is expensive and efforts were being made to get as close to 750,000 without going over
- The Vancouver Landfill, located in the City of Delta, is 225 hectares and sits on a property size totalling 320 hectares
- The Western 40 hectares received construction demo waste but is now closed
- Two sets of agreements:
  - Tripartite Agreement between MV, the City of Vancouver, and the City of Delta, expires in 2037
  - Vancouver-Delta Agreement expires 2037 or at 20 million tonnes from 1997:
    - It is anticipated that the 20 million tonne limit will be reached by 2030; however, the physical site capacity is more than 20 million tonnes
    - The City of Delta has communicated that it has initiated financial conversations with the City of Vancouver and will consider an extension beyond the 20 million tonnes
- A Morrison Hershfield Study is conducting research on residuals management and how garbage is managed around the world in similar jurisdictions, including in Canada, the United States, Europe, Japan, and Australia:
  - The study will review options for residual waste management and emerging technologies.

Related to the issue of disposal capacity, a member shared that a proposal is in development for a private transfer station. The facility could receive 750,000 tonnes per year, is located centrally in the Lower Mainland. Waste would be shipped to a remote disposal. Barge transport would be less costly than land or rail travel and involve lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Industry Advisory Committee members moved into breakout groups and had 20 minutes to consider the questions below, or any other relevant questions put forward. Each breakout group included a Metro Vancouver staff note taker.

Questions for consideration:

- *What infrastructure is most important for Metro Vancouver to prioritize for public investment?*
- *How should the private sector be involved in infrastructure development for the region?*

Following the small group discussions, a representative from each group reported back on key highlights from their discussions.

Feedback summaries from the small group discussions will be posted to the Industry Advisory Committee web page separately from the minutes.

Discussion continued with committee members. Members were asked to provide further comment and consider what barriers existed for the private industry to invest in infrastructure.

Comments were offered related to:

- Obtaining a license/permit under the current regulation is done over a short amortization period:
  - Land in the Lower Mainland is expensive
  - Construction and equipment costs make it challenging
  - The process between the private sector and the regulator
- Investment certainty from a regulatory standpoint is necessary for private sector involvement
- Regulators can create uncertainty in the investment cycle and may prevent a group from achieving their rate of return and return on investment
- Suggestion there was a conflict with Metro Vancouver investing in R&D:
  - Private sector invests billions of dollars into innovation, and they would be competing with the regulators use of taxpayer's dollars who could ultimately "build their own mouse trap"
- Yard waste contract gains are not significant and a 20,000-30,000 tonne contract would not encourage development of anaerobic digestion infrastructure projects
- Suggestion that organics, with its higher energy potential, be captured by the Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (ICI) sector
- The benefits of private sector involvement:
  - Private sector has substantial resources
  - Competition drives innovation
  - Segregation of organics
- Concerns with Metro Vancouver simultaneously being the regulator and the competition
- Our goal should be to align the solid waste management plan update for better outcomes for the environment
- Frustration over the accuracy of recycling rates and understanding how much actually goes to the landfill
- The importance of setting realistic targets and achievable goals in order for them to be backed by investments.

The Chair confirmed that the input and feedback were being captured and would be summarized, shared with the Zero Waste Committee, and included in the SWMP update.

#### **4. OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **4.1 Zero Waste Committee and Other Updates**

Paul Henderson provided an update on recent discussions and activities of the Zero Waste Committee, and reported on:

- Capital Plan
- Notice of Bylaw Violation Enforcement and Dispute Adjudication Bylaw:
  - Update to an existing GVS&DD bylaw that was put in place in May around liquid waste bylaws and the ability to apply up to \$500 administrative penalties

- This update identifies specific contraventions of Bylaw 181 for which notices of bylaw violations could be applied, and the amount of those notices of bylaw violations.
- Disposal Ban Program:
  - Annual update on Metro Vancouver’s work with incentivizing haulers to work with their customers to encourage more recycling
- Proposed new commercial organics fee at the North Shore Recycling Waste Centre:
  - Have been receiving commercial organics at the facility since fall 2022
  - Organics were initially blended with other organics but now must be managed separately, which is more expensive
  - The proposed new fee for commercial organics will increase from \$113/tonne to \$140/tonne to and would take effect September 1, 2024
- 2023 waste composition data:
  - Similar waste composition information in 2023 as seen in 2022
- Manager’s report:
  - Expanded reuse opportunities at North Shore Recycling Waste Centre
  - Working with non-profit organizations to expand the opportunity to drop off reusable materials at centres in Surrey and Coquitlam, potentially to accommodate the drop off of furniture
  - District Energy project RFI underway for contracts for the installation of six kilometres of pipe from the waste centre facility
  - Another RFQ process for the energy centre will be done at a later date.

A member emphasized the desire for stakeholders to be more involved in discussions on regional initiatives and projects. The Chair suggested sharing the summary report from the Industry Advisory Committee small group discussions with the Zero Waste Committee.

## **5. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **5.1 Regional Waste Flows**

### **5.2 Industry Advisory Committee 2024 Work Plan**

No questions were raised in relation to the Information Items.

The Industry Advisory Committee participated in a poll for whether members would prefer the October meeting to be in person or virtual. The October meeting would focus on the solid waste management plan update and idea generation. The poll results reflected a preference for an in-person meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Co-Chair Bryan thanked members for their comments and feedback and advised that the next Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee meeting would be held on September 10, 2024, in person.

The Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.