

**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 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, virtual zoom meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bryan, Lori, Executive Director, Waste Management Association of BC (Co-Chair) (via teleconference)
Craig Hodge, Director, Zero Waste Committee (Co-Chair)
Agassiz, Sam – West Coast Reduction Ltd.
Atkinson, Brooke
Collins, James – Tymac Launch Service Ltd.
Crawford, Jeremy – Waste Control Services
Gauci, Joanne Gauci – NZWC
Hankins, Grant – Canada Minibins.com Ltd.
Johnston, Kurt – CleanStart Property Services
Kaminski, Jamie – HSR Zero Waste
Kheyrandish, Ataollah – Richmond Steel Recycling
Lannin, Mike – Super Save Group

MacFarlane, Angus – Growing City
Mac Neil, Patrick – Wescan Disposal Ltd.
McRae, Ralph – Revolution Infrastructure Inc.
Moucachen, Maya – Merlin Plastics
Muir, Wesley – Veolia North America (Canada)
Pantazopoulos, Dimitri – Waste Connections of Canada
Prasad, Shad – Cascade Recovery+
Skoropada, Lorne – Ridge Meadows Recycling Society
Van Beusekom, Brent – product Care Association
Vargas, Pinky – Republic Services
Zarbl, Michael – Major Appliance Recycling Roundtable

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Abrams, Izzie – Waste Connections of Canada
Dietrich, Christian – Ecowaste Industries
Furtado, Glen – Cement Association of Canada
JansenVandoorn, Josh – Anaconda Systems Ltd.
Janzen, Tessa – Recycle BC
Johnson, Gord – Northstar
Kawakami, Sean – Convertus Canada Ltd.
Kiani, Aiden – Lock-Block Ltd.

Mallari, Achilles – Sierra Waste Services Ltd.
Millman, David – Waste Management of Canada Corp.
Punja, Rustam – Geocycle Canada Inc.
Skei, Dayton – Evergen Infrastructure Corp.
Sigmund, Sandy – Encorp Pacific Canada, Return-It
Von Stefenelli, Nicole – Urban Impact Recycling Lt

METRO VANCOUVER STAFF PRESENT:

Allen Jensen, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Planning	Lynne Vidler, Lead Senior Engineer, Solid Waste Services
Chris Underwood, Division Manager, Solid Waste Planning	Samantha Joy, Engagement Specialist, Metro Vancouver
Karen Storry, Senior Engineer, Solid Waste Planning	Stephanie Liu, Program Manager, Community Engagement, Solid Waste
Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services	Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Planning

PREPARATION OF MINUTES: Jasmeen Dhillon, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee Meeting

May 6, 2025
2:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Virtual, Zoom Meeting

Agenda

1. Agenda
 - 1.1 May 6, 2025 Meeting Agenda
2. Minutes
 - 2.1 April 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes
3. Reports
 - 3.1 Updated Draft Hierarchy and Goals
For information/Q&A
Designated Speaker: Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services
 - 3.2 Recycling and Waste Centre Strategy Development
Small group discussions
Designated Speaker: Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services
4. Other Business
 - 4.1 Zero Waste Committee and Other Updates
Designated Speaker: Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services
 - 4.2 Upcoming Meetings and Key Topics
Designated Speaker: Lori Bryan, IAC Co-Chair
 - 4.3 Review of the Industry Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
Designated Speaker: Director Hodge, IAC Co-Chair
5. Information Items
 - 5.1 Regional Waste Flows
 - 5.2 2025 Industry Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule
 - 5.3 2025 Industry Advisory Committee Work Plan

MEETING MINUTES

Co-Chair, Director Craig Hodge, called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and welcomed attendees to the Solid Waste Industry and Recycling Advisory Committee (Industry Advisory Committee) meeting. Members were advised that the meeting was being live-streamed and a recording would be posted to the Industry Advisory Committee webpage.

1. AGENDA

1.1 May 6, 2025, Meeting Agenda

Co-Chair Hodge reviewed the April 6, 2025, meeting agenda. No additions were made.

2. MINUTES

2.1 April 8, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Co-Chair Hodge called for any additions or changes to the Minutes of the April 8, 2025, Industry Advisory Committee meeting. No additions or changes were made.

3. REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3.1 Updated Draft Hierarchy and Goals

Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services, shared a presentation titled “Updated Hierarchy and Goals” and highlighted:

- The waste hierarchy provides an indication of priorities, a decision-making framework, a way to categorize ideas, and is linked closely to plan goals.
- Next Steps:
 - Goals and hierarchy to Zero Waste Committee and Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Board
 - Fall: Options analysis and target setting discussions
 - Early 2026: Review and comment on draft updated solid waste management plan

Co-Chair Hodge invited members to share related questions and/or comments on the presentation. The following questions and comments (Q/C) and *responses* (R) were captured:

Q/C: The Provincial government includes fuel substitutes in its definition of recycling, but other countries have excluded creating fossil fuels from their definitions. Has Metro Vancouver confirmed that fuel substitutes should be included in the recycling section?

R: *Metro Vancouver is not bound by the Provincial hierarchy; however, the current practice is to count material used as a fuel substitute as recycling.*

Q/C: So this was a decision by Metro Vancouver to include materials used as fuel substitute in the recycling definition? There have been many voices saying that this is not

appropriate. This does a disservice to the recycling industry who are trying very hard to find markets for materials that can be recycled.

R: One of the potential metrics and targets for the updated plan could include tracking and maximizing the amount of material that is recycled into new products and materials. Metro Vancouver will continue to be responsive to feedback on potential metrics. Ultimately it is our board that will make the decisions. They will hear all the feedback we've heard from all audiences throughout the plan update process.

Q/C: I believe this requires more discussion before it's adopted because this is ultimately going to hold us back from achieving our goals.

3.2 Recycling and Waste Centre Strategy Development

Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services, Metro Vancouver, shared a presentation titled "Recycling and Waste Centre Strategy Development – Component of an updated Solid Waste Management Plan" and highlighted:

- Draft Guiding Principles for Recycling and Waste Centre Strategy:
 - Consistent and maximized reuse and recycling opportunities
 - Best practices in facility design, construction, and operation
 - Reasonable and consistent drive times
 - New facilities developed in areas with expected future growth
 - Resilient and cost-effective service delivery
- Recycling and Waste Centre Strategy: possible elements to include:
 - Describe future upgrades to existing facilities
 - Outline potential locations for future facilities
 - Highlight plans to expand reuse and recycling
 - Identify best practices in facility design, construction, and operation.

The members broke into small groups for continued discussion on the presented draft guiding principles and possible elements for the Recycling and Waste Centre Strategy. Metro Vancouver staff took notes on the discussion. Groups were asked to consider the following questions:

- *"Is there anything missing or that should be changed in the draft guiding principles for the Recycling and Waste Centre Strategy?"*
- *"Are there any comments on the possible elements for the development of the Recycling and Waste Centre Strategy?"*
- *"Any other comments?"*

The group reconvened, and one representative from each small group was asked to highlight main ideas discussed to share with the larger group. The following comments were provided:

- Need to provide deeper definitions, including scientific data and percentages
- How to determine reasonable and consistent drive times?
- Effective cost savings measures need to be prioritized
- Ensure investment in capital structures to ensure longevity

- Define “best practices”
- Clarification needed on “resilience” and “service delivery”
- Collaboration with private sector is still a high priority for this committee
- Determining services available at private and public facilities is a priority for this committee

Co-Chair Hodge invited other committee members to share related questions and/or comments on the breakout activity. The following questions and comments (Q/C) were captured:

Q/C: Previously, facilities served single-family and multi-family, and industrial, commercial or institutional would go to the private sector.

Q/C: The primary customer at Metro Vancouver’s facilities is not business, it is small vehicles.

Q/C: Need economies of scale, should have one central facility, and have drop-off facilities serving industrial/commercial/institutional, multi-family, and single-family, and create a consistent flow of material.

A feedback summary from the small group discussions will be posted to the Industry Advisory Committee web page separately from the minutes.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Zero Waste Committee and Other Updates

Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services, Metro Vancouver, shared a presentation titled “Other Business” and highlighted:

- May 2025 Zero Waste Committee meeting cancelled
- Used oil is now accepted at the Langley Recycling and Waste Centre
- National Zero Waste Council is the recipient of the Knowledge and Insights Leadership award through the Canada Plastics Pact.

Co-Chair Hodge invited members to share related questions and/or comments on the presentation. No comments were made.

4.2 Upcoming Meetings and Key Topics

Co-Chair Lori Bryan shared a presentation titled “Upcoming Meetings” and highlighted the remaining meeting dates and key topics for 2025. The committee was invited to give feedback on the preferred topic for the second in-person meeting in October and to review the remaining key topics in the workplan to ensure they will have the chance to give input on the topics of most interest.

Co-Chair Hodge opened the floor for members to respond to the information presented. The following questions and comments (Q/C) and *responses (R)* were captured:

- Q/C: Add "SWMP: Options Analysis/Targets" topic to the October meeting.
- Q/C: Industry Advisory Committee members can direct additional topic ideas to Co-Chair Hodge or Co-Chair Bryan.
- Q/C: Request that Metro Vancouver inform the Industry Advisory Committee members on goals and targets proposed to include in the draft solid waste management plan before the fall. Members will comment on specifics at the October meeting.
- Q/C: Industry is waiting to understand their role within the region's waste management plan. Currently there is too much uncertainty around private industry capital investment as we wait to see the draft plan.
- R: *A draft plan should be prepared by early 2026, and Metro Vancouver will seek feedback from the Industry Advisory Committee.*
- Q/C: Are there any items on the list that do not seem relevant to the Industry Advisory Committee, or anything that needs to be weighed in on prior to that draft?
- Q/C: The topics have been discussed, and the concrete and asphalt study report was reviewed two years ago. There are consultations and documentation on all these topics.
- R: *We will add the concrete and asphalt recycling report as an information item rather than as a workplan item and note the change on the workplan.*
- Q/C: Prepare four to five topics from the plan with a summary for review by the Industry Advisory Committee at the October meeting.
- Q/C: Find private sector opportunities within this plan.
- Q/C: The intent of the Industry Advisory Committee was to deal with big, hard topics, and we are not talking about those hard issues. In today's working group, what was presented was too lofty and generalized, with insufficient detail. This industry is stalled due to uncertainty in regulation, and as a result there has been no capital investment. Metro Vancouver should put together the draft plan and let industry comment on it.
- R: *Part of the work will involve defining the role of the private sector.*
- R: *The September meeting will be a good time to provide an outline of the solid waste management plan.*

R: The “Concrete and Asphalt Recycling Opportunities Review” will be circulated; the key interests are noted, with a need to focus on the key items.

R: This is an Industry Advisory Committee for industry input. Metro Vancouver will provide Industry Advisory Committee feedback to the Zero Waste Committee. The Industry Advisory Committee also provides valuable feedback on relevant items apart from updating the solid waste management plan.

4.3 Review of the Industry Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Co-Chair Hodge shared that the committee terms of reference requires regular review.

- The Industry Advisory Committee will review the Terms of Reference at least every 18 months, for consideration on whether any amendments or modifications are required.
- Requesting the Industry Advisory Committee review the Terms of Reference prior to the June 2, 2025, meeting and reach out to staff or Co-Chairs with any changes required.

Co-Chair Hodge invited members to share related questions and/or comments on the Terms of Reference. No comments were made.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

5.1 Regional Waste Flows

5.2 2025 Industry Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule

5.3 2025 Industry Advisory Committee Work Plan

ADJOURNMENT

Co-Chair Hodge thanked members for their comments and feedback and advised that the next Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee meeting would be held online on June 10, 2025.

The Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.