

**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 via Zoom teleconference from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7, 2026.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Craig Hodge, Director, Zero Waste Committee  
(Co-Chair)  
Bryan, Lori, Executive Director, Waste  
Management Association of BC (Co-Chair)  
Abrams, Izzie – Waste Connections of Canada  
Collins, James – Tymac Launch Service Ltd.  
Hakimé, Maya – Merlin Plastics  
Hankins, Grant – Canada Minibins.com Ltd.  
Johnson, Gord – Northstar  
Kawakami, Sean – Convertus Canada Ltd.  
Kheyrandish, Ataollah – Richmond Steel  
Kiani, Aiden – Lock-Block Ltd  
Lannin, Mike – Super Save Group  
L'Heureux, Lindsay – Recycle BC  
Ligumsky, Alan – Peak Disposal Services Inc.  
MacFarlane, Angus – Growing City

MacNeil, Patrick – Wescan Disposal Ltd.  
Canada Corp.  
Mallari, Achilles – Sierra Waste Services Ltd.  
McRae, Ralph – Revolution Infrastructure Inc.  
Millman, David – Waste Management of  
Canada Corporation  
Muir, Wesley – Veolia North America  
(Canada)  
Stefenelli, Nicole – Urban Impact  
Recycling Ltd.  
Pantazopoulos, Dimitri – Waste Connections  
of Canada  
Skei, Dayton – Evergen Infrastructure Corp.  
Vargas, Pinky – Republic Services

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Baker, Todd – Ecowaste Industries Inc.  
Drissi El-Bouzaidi, Nabil – Ecowaste Industries  
Ltd.  
Kaminski, Jamie – HSR Zero Waste  
Lotzkar, Jacqueline – Canadian Association of  
Recycling Industries (CARI)

Punja, Rustam – Geocycle Canada Inc.  
Sigmund, Sandy – Encorp Pacific Canada,  
Return-It  
Watson, Jason – JW Recycle-IT Inc.

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

Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Metro  
Vancouver  
Paul Henderson, General Manager, Metro  
Vancouver  
Samantha Joy, Engagement Specialist, Metro  
Vancouver

Stephanie Liu, Manager, Community  
Engagement, Metro Vancouver  
Zeenia Mizan, Program Assistant, Metro  
Vancouver

**PREPARATION OF MINUTES:** Priya Kullar, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

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

Tuesday, April 7, 2026  
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Zoom Teleconference

**A G E N D A**

- 1. AGENDA**
  - 1.1 April 7, 2026 Meeting Agenda**
- 2. MINUTES**
  - 2.1 March 10, 2026 Meeting Minutes**
- 3. REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**
  - 3.1 Revised Draft Plan**  
*For information*  
*Designated speaker: Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services*
  - 3.2 Plan Implementation and Reporting**  
*For information and Q&A*  
*Designated speaker: Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services*
- 4. OTHER BUSINESS**
  - 4.1 Zero Waste Committee and Other Updates**  
*For information*  
*Designated Speaker: Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services*
  - 4.2 Tipping Fee Updates**  
*For information*  
*Designated Speaker: Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services*
- 5. IAC Member Co-Chair Election**
- 6. INFORMATION ITEMS**
  - 6.1 Regional Waste Flows**
  - 6.2 IAC 2026 Work Plan**
  - 6.3 IAC Meeting Action Tracker**
  - 6.4 Zero Waste Committee – April 2, 2026 Meeting Agenda Package (Revised Draft Solid Waste Management Plan)**

## MEETING MINUTES

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Co-Chair Craig Hodge, called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. and welcomed attendees to the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee Meeting.

Housekeeping reminders were provided, including that the meeting was being live-streamed and the recording would be posted to the Industry Advisory Committee webpage.

### **1. AGENDA**

#### **1.1 April 7, 2026, Meeting Agenda**

Co-Chair Hodge reviewed the April 7, 2026, meeting agenda. No additions were made.

### **2. MINUTES**

#### **2.1 March 10, 2026, Meeting Minutes**

Co-Chair Hodge called for any additions or changes to the Minutes of the March 10, 2026, Industry Advisory Committee meeting. No additions or changes were made.

Co-Chair Hodge advised that the February 2026 meeting minutes and feedback summary were updated to reflect the amendments requested by members in relation to the round-robin feedback.

### **3. REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

#### **3.1 Revised Draft Plan**

Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services, Metro Vancouver, shared a presentation titled “Revised Draft Solid Waste Management Plan and Initial Draft Plan Feedback Summary.” Highlights included:

- Engagement statistics
- Initial draft plan feedback provided by the Industry Advisory Committee
- Highlight of some revisions made to the initial draft plan based on feedback:
  - Added a strategic principle of prioritizing local solid waste management solutions:
    - Bundles together actions that work toward local solutions for managing waste.
    - Local solutions increase resilience, reduce transportation greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and create local employment and economic benefit
  - 2036 targets added, including by sector
  - Focus areas added to highlight key strategies and actions (including multi-family and construction and demolition sectors)
  - Strengthened the language used in the strategies and actions
  - Enhanced actions related to education
  - Expanded financial section and added plan implementation schedule
- Next steps include consideration by the Greater Vancouver Sewage and Drainage District Board, a public comment period on the revised plan, and submission of the draft plan to the Ministry of Environment and Parks for approval.

Discussion ensued, and the following questions and comments (Q/C) and *responses (R)* were captured:

Q/C: It doesn't feel like the feedback received from Industry Advisory Committee members is being reflected in the work Metro Vancouver is doing. The concerns being raised seem to be optimistically phrased in the minutes and feedback summaries and don't highlight the significance of the issues being shared. Metro Vancouver often communicates in a way that seems positive, but it is misleading.

Q/C: Metro Vancouver's statistics are inaccurate, for example, the diversion/recycling rate is quoted at 65%, but is closer to 30% depending on how materials are measured.

Q/C: Is there a mandate to mirror the GHG emissions targets?

*R: Reducing GHG emissions was a theme throughout engagement on the draft solid waste management plan. The GHG emissions targets reflect engagement feedback and align with Metro Vancouver's Climate 2050 Strategic Framework.*

Q/C: If Metro Vancouver adopts the strategies being presented to reduce GHG emissions, it could impact the public financially, and families will be required to pay a lot of money. This is not being communicated to the public, and transparency is needed.

Q/C: Are the members of the Public/Technical Advisory Committee privy to the information being shared by the Industry Advisory Committee members? Surprisingly, the Public/Technical Advisory Committee thinks the rates and projections being presented are good. It would be beneficial to see how communication with other committees is done to ensure the Industry Advisory Committee feedback is being properly reiterated.

*R: All feedback received during the draft plan engagement phase is being shared to provide clarity on the draft plan. There were three reports submitted to the Zero Waste Committee, which are available on Metro Vancouver's website, along with the livestream recording.*

### **3.2 Plan Implementation and Reporting**

Terry Fulton shared a presentation titled "Plan Implementation and Reporting" and highlighted:

- The Province recommends forming a Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee after the draft plan is approved
- The monitoring committee is intended to represent a variety of interests, experiences, and expertise; details are in development.
- Members would likely receive updates on the plan's progress in conjunction with annual summary statistics.

- For this type of committee, a Terms of Reference would be created and approved by the Zero Waste Committee and the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Board, prior to moving ahead with a call for Committee members.

Discussion ensued, and the following question and comment (Q/C) was captured:

Q/C: There is a digester in Surrey that takes in 100,000 tonnes of materials from a variety of sources in a year. The minute you put food scraps into commercial organics, the material is contaminated with plastic. It is virtually impossible to remove any foreign matter, resulting in 30-40% of waste material. This material should be going to a landfill or be processed multiple times to reduce the plastic fines in the process.

However, another suggestion would be to revisit historical decisions to include plastics in the residential organics stream. This would be more constructive and lead to a positive outcome at a lower cost.

If a committee or panel is formed to support moderating the plan, Metro Vancouver needs to be mindful that there are industry members who can provide constructive feedback to help drive positive results. We need people in the room who can make a difference.

Terry Fulton shared that the current annual and biennial reporting process will be updated to include the primary and secondary metrics included in the draft plan as well as plan related expenditures.

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

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

Paul Henderson, General Manager, Metro Vancouver, provided the following Zero Waste Committee and other updates:

- A Zero Waste Committee meeting occurred on April 2, 2026, with three reports related to the solid waste management plan update.
- The draft plan was endorsed by the Zero Waste Committee and will be considered by the GVS&DD Board at the April 24, 2026, meeting
- If the draft Solid Waste Management Plan is supported by the Board, there will be an additional opportunity to provide comments on the draft Plan before being submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Parks
- Also presented at the April 2 Zero Waste Committee meeting was a report related to organics at North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre, Maple Ridge Recycling and Waste Centre, and Langley Recycling and Waste Centre.
  - A recommendation was made for a contract to be awarded to Arrow for receiving, processing, and transporting material following a competitive procurement process
  - A key change since the last procurement process for these services is the addition of organics collected multifamily and commercial/institutional sources

- This material started to be received at North Shore Recycling and Waste Center in 2021 and makes up approximately 40% of all the organic materials going into the facility, which is an excess of 20,000 tonnes per year
- Observed significant price increases compared to the current contract

## 4.2 Tipping Fees

Paul Henderson provided an update on changes to tipping fees, which included:

- The Zero Waste Committee received a report related to changes in tipping fees, effective July 1, 2026, which proposes an increase to rates for municipal organics, collected by the five municipalities on the North Shore, and an increase in the commercial organics rate from \$150/tonne to \$175/tonne:
  - This change will effectively cover the unit rate for each additional tonne of commercial organics
  - The overall cost of that contract in addition to this, in order to fund the cost of that contract, an additional proposal for \$2/tonne increase in the medium and large loads across the system for garbage
  - The \$175/tonne is already over the cost of garbage disposals, and if Metro Vancouver layered in the full cost, it would be over \$200/tonne
- If the Board approves this proposal, all customers would be notified of these increases, which will be effective July 2026.

Discussion ensued regarding both Item 4.1 Zero Waste Committee Updates and Item 4.2 Tipping Fees, and the following questions and comments (Q/C) and *responses (R)* were captured:

Q/C: How does the Extended Producer Reliability program and Recycle BC fit into this?

*R: The producers of packaging and paper materials from residential sources are responsible for funding recycling of those materials. Information from Recycle BC and other data points from various sources is used for the calculations that are reported, which is why it takes time to assemble diversion statistics each year.*

*R: Regional districts are responsible for developing solid waste management plans that apply to all municipal solid waste, not just the materials collected at Metro Vancouver facilities.*

Q/C: Where is Metro Vancouver at with respect to the allowable level of organics in waste dump transfer stations? Is it still 25%?

*R: There are no changes to the tipping fee by-law with respect to the disposal ban limits.*

Q/C: If Metro Vancouver moved the current 25% back down to 5%, there would be a significant increase in the amount of organics diverted. Currently, waste containers and organic containers are being dumped into the same truck. There is less motivation

to separate commercial organics. By increasing this to 25%, Metro Vancouver drove many organics collection services out of the market.

Q/C: What is the status of The Southern Star facility and how is the issue going to be resolved?

R: *No current update has been received, but it is believed that the materials are still on-site pending action by the Vancouver Port Authority.*

Q/C: Despite many complaints about the materials on that site, nothing has been actioned, and this is a major concern that should be addressed. The amount of materials is over the licensed allowable amount. The reason the materials have been piled onsite is because they could not be recycled. There is concern that this type of situation could be replicated by the actions contained in the draft plan. At this point in time, not all materials can be recycled. Request that Metro Vancouver recalculate recycling and diversion rates.

Q/C: The report that was published in the Zero Waste Committee agenda cited a total cost contract value of \$80.5 million, but the Request for Proposals cited \$10.75 million. Can more information be shared about the discrepancy in the procurement process?

R: *Our procurement process typically requests proposals based on one year of operations. The report presents the total proposal value by combining material rates and estimated quantities with fixed operating costs. However, calculating the full contract value for the maximum 5.5-year term requires accounting for inflation, projected quantities, and other assumptions. Actual material volumes, and total contract value, may fluctuate, particularly due to uncertainty around potential increases in commercial organics.*

Q/C: There was a note stating that staff continue to look at more local processing. What is the objective of developing processing infrastructure?

R: *The Board has directed to provide support with additional local processing. This is still being worked on, but the report notes that there is a request to consider this, and next steps need to be determined.*

Q/C: Can the rationale be expanded regarding the medium and heavy loads that will be subsidized? The cost of living in the Lower Mainland is very expensive, and not all customers are generating these loads. A cost model and mapping should be done, as cross-subsidization may cause problems. A strong rationale needs to be shared, and how the market should be approached.

R: *When Metro Vancouver received pricing, it was evident that organics processing rates would significantly increase, and it was determined that the best solution would be to*

*fund the additional costs of the contract with increases to tipping fees. From Metro Vancouver's perspective, the commercial and institutional sectors are contributing to these organics, so this was the most appropriate strategy.*

Q/C: The challenging decision is appreciated, but Metro Vancouver is encouraged to think of other strategies. Cross-pollination when subsidizing is masking the problem and not addressing the actual issue. The open market might have better solutions, and Metro Vancouver should consider this.

Q/C: Organics need to be removed from the waste stream – Metro Vancouver should charge what it actually costs to deal with them.

Q/C: The cost of stripping plastics away is also a time-consuming process. It is suggested to go back to how things were handled in 2015 because it made more sense. The organics stream is the most problematic waste stream because it costs more to deal with it, but it is worth doing.

Q/C: There was a scenario where local organic processors were heavily regulated and felt they had to leave the region to be successful. Our governance is very strict, especially if more regulations are introduced. Recycle BC has been unable to share information related to their requirements. If bigger companies are meeting expectations, then the information on how to be successful should be shared with others.

## **5. IAC Member Co-Chair Election**

Co-Chair Hodge stated that a Co-Chair will be elected for a term of one year by a 50%+1 majority vote of voting members present, noting that voting members are defined as Industry Advisory Committee members who have held membership for at least one month prior to the day of the vote.

Lori Bryan, Waste Management Association of BC, was nominated during the March 2026 meeting. Nominations were called by Co-Chair Hodge three times; Lori Bryan was the only nominee.

Lori Bryan was congratulated for being elected to the role of Co-Chair, and she shared sentiments, including a commitment to continue to raise concerns, lead fulsome discussions, and bring forward solutions to the industry. Co-Chair Bryan stated her commitment to the Industry Advisory Committee members and ensuring their voices and concerns will be addressed appropriately.

## **6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **6.1 Regional Waste Flows**

### **6.2 IAC 2026 Work Plan**

### **6.3 IAC Meeting Action Tracker**

**6.4 Zero Waste Committee – April 2, 2026 Meeting Agenda Package (Revised Draft Solid Waste Management Plan)**

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee meeting will be held on May 12, 2026.

The Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.