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September 17, 2014

Chair and Directors
Comox Valley Regional District (CSWM)

Mr. Chairman and Board Members;

On Thursday, September 4, 2014, the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD), conducted a seminar at the Vancouver Island Conference Center in partnership with the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) who also provided sponsorship support for the event. The various regional districts within the AVICC (with the exception of North-Central RD) attended along with representatives of Metro Vancouver.

The session was introduced by Vice Chair Jon Ambler, on behalf of the CVRD board. This was the first initiative to call together regions within AVICC to discuss common issues, challenges and opportunities surrounding solid waste. Consequently, this session would have been considered a success merely as a result of the opportunity created to meet collectively on this topic; however, the critical need for a sustained effort was immediately apparent to all as the presentations from the individual Regions unfolded.

This was due to the range of situations described, the difficulties and complexities involved, and the uncertainties existing for all regarding various aspects of solid waste.

These uncertainties were identified as an inability to locate disposal facilities and control waste flows; funding models dependent upon maintaining waste streams; successful diversion strategies impacting disposal volumes; and transportation and disposal security issues.

In addition, because individual waste stream volumes in regions within AVICC are so small as to be well below those necessary to benefit from the economies of scale associated with this type of function, value for money considerations for taxpayers within AVICC demand collective approaches.

Consequently, for the reasons outlined above, it was readily apparent to those in attendance that ongoing discussions concerning joint solutions across regions will be absolutely required to pursue long-term sustainable solutions.

It was therefore concluded by those participating that AVICC should be requested to:

1. Structure an ongoing means to conduct the required policy analysis and reviews to inform AVICC -wide joint solutions (or sub-AVICC solutions, as appropriate, between partnering Regions) on the topic of solid waste management. (see proposed 'next steps' as generated by working groups)
2. Endorse a position supporting Metro Vancouver's proposed Bylaw 280 (Flow Control).

Sincerely,


Jerry Berry

Principal Advisor - Facilitator

JB
Consultants

The following notes were produced as outcomes by the participants working in mixed table groups September 04, 2014

Opportunities / shared interest / resources

- shared resources across boundaries (mobile tools)
- challenge senior government
- larger shared projects cost less
- interregional policy impacts share
- private initiatives
- share information
- collective forums
- group lobbying on common interests
- sharing lessons learned
- industrial base on island that is under used (railway)
- WTE – economies of scale
- financial model
- common illegal dumping programs
- interregional landfills on Vancouver Island
- marine transportation?
- mills not used?
- common education
- public messaging consistency re: recycling / residuals
- collective cost / benefits / models
- increase public oversight to improve accountability
- communication / expertise
- export
- metro siting WTE
- reduce volume counteracts higher tipping fees
- diversion improves community economics
- SWMPs enable action
- flow control bylaw
- marine transport / barging
- shared resources
- railroad
- macro model for Vancouver Island area
- SWMP needs solid business case as follow-up

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Challenges / threats

- unpredictability of costs
- slow control
- capital costs / risks
- closure costs / liabilities
- small RDs / volumes
- external changes / ie regions
- delink planning / political horizon
- leakage
- export risks
- reduced number of landfills with no replacement
- public apathy
- transportation
- diversion relationship and economics
- increased diversion = less revenue
- social cost / community involvement
- prices based on weight or volume
- WTE disincentive to recycling
- senior gov't imposed requirements
- philosophy of user pay vs taxpayer systems
- finances
- education – (and costs)
- rural / vs urban
- public service vs market based
- complex systems
- local decision making with senior regs
- gas management without organics
- social expectations ahead of plans
- leakage
- MOE regulations
- MOE / someone re: policy analysis
- sustain \$
- regulatory change
- private sector regulatory enforcement
- one size fits all regulations = problems
- certainty of revenue streams
- risk of export
- alternatives to export
- exotic organics waste stream
- education
- transportation closure plans / liabilities
- challenge / question the costs / facts

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Next Steps – Each Table Group was asked to produce one recommendation as to what should be the next step taken. The conclusions reported were as follows:

- AVICC working group
- interregional funded discussion paper / collective proposal
- AVICC working group
- letter to Ministry supporting Metro bylaw 280
- long term AVICC working group
- support for Metro bylaw 280
- AVICC
- collective discussion paper
- UBCM task force

**SOLID WASTE MNGT WORKSHOP ATTENDEES
SEPTEMBER 4, 2014**

Count	Last name	First name	Title	Representing	Email
1	Ambler	Jon	Vice Chair	Comox Valley RD	jkambler@yahoo.com
2	Anderson	Craig	Director	Strathcona RD	dabear10@cablerocket.com
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SEPTEMBER 4, 2014**

Count	Last name	First name	Title	Representing	Email
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57	Carruthers	Brian	CAO	Cowichan Valley RD	
58	Theos	Manno	Director	Comox Valley RD	
59	Jangula	Larry	Alt. Director	Comox Valley RD	