

**METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
ZERO WASTE COMMITTEE**

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday January 20, 2022

9:00 a.m.

**Meeting conducted electronically pursuant to the Procedure Bylaw
28th Floor Boardroom, 4515 Central Boulevard, Burnaby, British Columbia
Webstream available at <http://www.metrovanancouver.org>**

A G E N D A¹

OPENING REMARKS

Director Sav Dhaliwal, Board Chair

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 January 20, 2022 Regular Meeting Agenda

That the Zero Waste Committee adopt the agenda for its regular meeting scheduled for January 20, 2022 as circulated.

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

2.1 November 17, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

That the Zero Waste Committee adopt the minutes of its regular meeting held November 17, 2021 as circulated.

pg. 3

3. DELEGATIONS

4. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Alison Wood, Ocean Ambassadors Canada

Subject: provide an overview of the East of Seymour project, discuss lessons learned and our plans to take this model to more communities.

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF

5.1 2022 Zero Waste Committee Meeting Schedule and Work Plan

That the Zero Waste Committee:

- a) receive for information the Zero Waste Committee Terms of Reference and the 2022 Annual Meeting Schedule, as presented in the report dated

pg. 10

¹ Note: Recommendation is shown under each item, where applicable.
January 13, 2022

January 13, 2022, titled “2022 Zero Waste Committee Meeting Schedule and Work Plan”; and

- b) endorse the 2022 Work Plan, as presented in the report dated January 13, 2022, titled “2022 Zero Waste Committee Meeting Schedule and Work Plan”.

5.2 Flood Emergency Response: Regional Solid Waste System Impacts Summary pg. 17

That the GVS&DD Board receive for information the report dated January 13, 2022, titled “Flood Emergency Response: Regional Solid Waste System Impacts Summary”.

5.3 2021 Integrated Solid Waste & Resource Management Plan Biennial Report pg. 22

That the GVS&DD Board direct staff to:

- a) invite feedback on the draft 2021 Integrated Solid Waste & Resource Management Plan Biennial Report from public stakeholders and Indigenous Nations; and
- b) submit the 2021 Integrated Solid Waste & Resource Management Plan Biennial Report and feedback to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

5.4 2021 Zero Waste Conference pg. 26

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated January 13, 2022, titled “2021 Zero Waste Conference.”

5.5 Manager’s Report pg. 32

That the Zero Waste Committee receive for information the report dated January 13, 2022, titled “Manager’s Report”.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

7. OTHER BUSINESS

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS

9. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING

Note: The Committee must state by resolution the basis under section 90 of the Community Charter on which the meeting is being closed. If a member wishes to add an item, the basis must be included below.

10. ADJOURNMENT/CONCLUSION

That Zero Waste Committee adjourn/conclude its regular meeting of January 20, 2022.

Membership:

Froese, Jack (C) – Langley Township
Hodge, Craig (VC) – Coquitlam
Calendino, Pietro – Burnaby
Elford, Doug – Surrey

Fathers, Helen – White Rock
Fry, Pete – Vancouver
Little, Mike – North Vancouver District
Martin, Gayle – Langley City

McDonald, Bruce – Delta
Morden, Mike – Maple Ridge
Steves, Harold – Richmond
Vagramov, Rob – Port Moody

**METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
ZERO WASTE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) Zero Waste Committee held at 9:01 a.m. on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 in the 28th Floor Boardroom, 4515 Central Boulevard, Burnaby, British Columbia.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair, Mayor Jack Froese, Langley Township
 Vice Chair, Councillor Craig Hodge*, Coquitlam
 Councillor Pietro Calendino*, Burnaby (departed at 10:35 a.m.)
 Councillor Doug Elford*, Surrey
 Councillor Pete Fry*, Vancouver
 Mayor Mike Little*, North Vancouver District (arrived at 9:17 a.m.)
 Councillor Gayle Martin*, Langley City (departed at 9:56 a.m.)
 Councillor Bruce McDonald*, Delta
 Mayor Mike Morden*, Maple Ridge (arrived at 10:07 a.m.)
 Councillor Harold Steves*, Richmond (arrived at 9:39 a.m.)
 Mayor Rob Vagramov*, Port Moody

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Councillor Helen Fathers, White Rock

STAFF PRESENT:

Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services
 Manveer Atwal, Legislative Services Coordinator, Board and Information Services

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 November 17, 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Zero Waste Committee adopt the agenda for its regular meeting scheduled for November 17, 2021 as circulated.

CARRIED

*denotes electronic meeting participation as authorized by Section 3.6.2 of the *Procedure Bylaw*

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

2.1 October 15, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Zero Waste Committee adopt the minutes of its regular meeting held October 15, 2021 as circulated.

CARRIED

Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services provided the Zero Waste Committee provided an update on impacts on the regional solid waste system of the November 14/15 severe storm event.

3. DELEGATIONS

No items presented.

4. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

No items presented.

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF

5.1 Report from Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel

Report dated November 9, 2021 from Sarah Evanetz, Division Manager, Strategy and Stakeholder Relations, Solid Waste Services, updating the Zero Waste Committee on the first report from the Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel.

9:17 a.m. Mayor Little arrived to the meeting.

Members were provided a presentation by Andrea Reimer, Chair of the Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel, with the panel's observations related to solid waste management plan engagement activities to date as well as the proposed engagement program.

Presentation material titled "Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel and Solid Waste Management Plan Update" is retained with in the November 17, 2021 Zero Waste Committee agenda.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the GVS&DD Board receive for information the report dated November 9, 2021, titled "Report from Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel".

CARRIED

5.2 Solid Waste Management Plan Engagement

Report dated November 8, 2021 from Sarah Evanetz, Division Manager, Strategy and Stakeholder Relations, Solid Waste Services, seeking the GVS&DD Board's approval of the public engagement approach, outlined in the report and the attached solid waste management plan public engagement program.

Members were provided a presentation highlighting the key milestones, the public engagement program, the development and engagement timeline and the Indigenous engagement strategy.

Presentation material titled "Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel and Solid Waste Management Plan Update" is retained with in the November 17, 2021 Zero Waste Committee agenda.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the GVS&DD Board approve the solid waste management plan public engagement program as outlined in the report dated November 8, 2021, titled "Solid Waste Management Plan Engagement".

CARRIED

5.3 Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee

Report dated November 9, 2021 from Sandy Young, Public Engagement Coordinator, Strategy and Stakeholder Relations, Solid Waste Services, seeking the GVS&DD Board's approval of the proposed solid waste management plan public/technical advisory committee structure and member selection criteria.

Members were provided a presentation highlighting the role of public and technical advisory committee, the sectors and interests of the advisory committee, and the experience requirements of its' members.

Presentation material titled "Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee" is retained with in the November 17, 2021 Zero Waste Committee agenda.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the GVS&DD Board approve the terms of reference for the solid waste management plan public/technical advisory committee with the following key elements:

- i. a single public/technical advisory committee;
- ii. a broad list of potential sectors/interests with representatives to be included in the committee;
- iii. personal characteristics to be used to recommend committee members to the GVS&DD Board;
- iv. a call for applications for committee members, with targeted recruitment of individuals from typically underrepresented or equity-denied communities; and

- v. Chair and vice-chair positions to be Zero Waste Committee members.

CARRIED

5.4 Regionally Harmonized Approach to Municipal Single-Use Item Reduction

Bylaws

Report dated November 9, 2021 from Karen Storry, Senior Engineer, Solid Waste Services, updating the GVS&DD Board's on a proposed harmonized approach to municipal single-use item reduction bylaws.

Members were provided a presentation highlighting single use item reduction initiatives, principles for the regionally harmonized approach, and member jurisdiction and industry input.

9:39 a.m. Councillor Steves arrived to the meeting.

Members discussed the need to reduce larger waste streams in order to make significant impacts in meeting the targets of the zero waste initiatives.

9:56 a.m. Councillor Martin left meeting.

Presentation material titled "Regionally Harmonized Approach to Municipal Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaws" is retained with in the November 17, 2021 Zero Waste Committee agenda.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the GVS&DD Board:

- a) approve the following regionally harmonized approach to municipal single-use item reduction bylaws:
 - i. ban on plastic checkout bags with prescribed minimum fees for recycled paper bags and reusable bags;
 - ii. ban on polystyrene foam service ware containers;
 - iii. ban on plastic drinking straws not required for medical and accessibility needs with alternatives such as paper drinking straws provided only on request by the customer;
 - iv. ban on plastic stir sticks with all other utensils provided only on request by the customer; and
- b) write the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy requesting that municipalities be authorized to require businesses to charge prescribed minimum fees for single-use cups.

CARRIED

5.5 Waste-to-Energy Facility – Primary Economizer Replacement

Report dated November 9, 2021 from Chris Allan, Director, Solid Waste Operations, Solid Waste Services and Roy Moulder, Director, Purchasing & Risk Management, Financial Services, recommending the Board amend the Covanta

contract to allow for the replacement of the primary economizer at the Metro Vancouver Waste-to-Energy Facility and to recommend an amendment to the existing contract in an amount of up to \$5,436,568.00 (including PST, but excluding GST).

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the GVS&DD Board authorize:

- a) an amendment to the existing contract with Covanta Burnaby Renewable Energy, ULC for the primary economizer replacement project at the Metro Vancouver Waste-to-Energy Facility in an amount of up to \$5,436,568.00 (including PST, but excluding GST), subject to the final review by the Commissioner; and
- b) the Commissioner and Corporate Officer to execute the required documentation once the Commissioner is satisfied that the award should proceed.

CARRIED

5.6 Waste-to-Energy Facility Biosolids Processing System

Report dated November 9, 2021 from Sarah Wellman, Senior Engineer, Solid Waste Operations, Solid Waste Services and Lillian Zaremba, Program Manager, Utility Residuals Management, Liquid Waste Services, seeking GVS&DD Board's approval to construct a biosolids processing system at the Waste-to-Energy Facility.

Members were provided a presentation recommending the construction of a biosolids management system at the Waste-to-Energy Facility, including benefits to both the liquid waste and solid waste systems.

10:07 a.m. Mayor Morden arrived at the meeting.

Presentation material titled "Waste-to-Energy Facility Biosolids Processing System" is retained with in the November 17, 2021 Zero Waste Committee agenda.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the GVS&DD Board authorize:

- a) the construction of a biosolids processing system for the Waste-to-Energy Facility at a cost of up to \$22 million; and
- b) the Commissioner and Corporate Office to execute any necessary documents.

CARRIED

5.7 2020 Solid Waste and Recycling Annual Report

Report dated November 9, 2021 from Maria Lo, Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services, updating the Zero Waste Committee on progress towards the waste reduction and recycling goals outlined in the *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan* for the calendar year 2020.

Members were provided a presentation highlighting 2020 recycling rate, recycling rates over time and 2020 reuse estimates.

Presentation material titled “2020 Solid Waste and Recycling Annual Report” is retained with in the November 17, 2021 Zero Waste Committee agenda.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Zero Waste Committee receive for information the report dated November 9, 2021, titled “2020 Solid Waste and Recycling Annual Report”.

CARRIED

5.8 Ecowaste Landfill Agricultural Land Commission Application

Report dated November 9, 2021 from Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services, updating the Zero Waste Committee on the Ecowaste application for a 20-year extension of landfill operations within the ALR, which was denied by the ALC.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Zero Waste Committee receive for information the report dated November 9, 2021, titled “Ecowaste Landfill Agricultural Land Commission Application”.

CARRIED

10:35 a.m. Councillor Calendino departed the meeting.

5.9 Manager’s Report

Report dated November 8, 2021 from Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services, updating the Zero Waste Committee on various projects and initiatives.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Zero Waste Committee receive for information the report dated November 8, 2021, titled “Manager’s Report”.

CARRIED

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

No items presented.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

No items presented.

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS

No items presented.

9. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING

No items presented.

10. ADJOURNMENT/CONCLUSION

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Zero Waste Committee conclude its regular meeting of November 17, 2021.

CARRIED

(Time: 10:41 a.m.)

Manveer Atwal,
Legislative Services Coordinator

Jack Froese, Chair

49169440 FINAL

To: Zero Waste Committee

From: Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services

Date: January 13, 2022

Meeting Date: January 20, 2022

Subject: **2022 Zero Waste Committee Meeting Schedule and Work Plan**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Zero Waste Committee:

- a) receive for information the Zero Waste Committee Terms of Reference and the 2022 Annual Meeting Schedule, as presented in the report dated January 13, 2022, titled “2022 Zero Waste Committee Meeting Schedule and Work Plan”; and
 - b) endorse the 2022 Work Plan, as presented in the report dated January 13, 2022, titled “2022 Zero Waste Committee Meeting Schedule and Work Plan”.
-

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The terms of reference for the Zero Waste Committee sets out the committee responsibilities in the areas of advancing zero waste and the circular economy in the region and provides guidance and oversight on the implementation of the annual work plan. Highlights of the work plan include:

- new solid waste management plan development - including guiding principles engagement and convening Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee and Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee
- United Boulevard and Central Surrey recycling and waste centres opening
- Waste-to-Energy Facility District Energy and biosolids management systems development

The initiatives described in the Zero Waste Committee work plan are consistent with the endorsed 2022 budget. Pursuant to the terms of reference, the meeting schedule proposes nine (9) meetings, which unless otherwise determined, will be held virtually.

PURPOSE

To provide the Zero Waste Committee with its terms of reference, the 2022 Work Plan, and the 2022 Annual Meeting Schedule.

BACKGROUND

Annually, following the Board Inaugural meeting in November, the Board Chair establishes the committee structure and the terms of reference for each committee, for the new year. To support the Committee in its work, this report brings forward the committee’s work plan, terms of reference, and the schedule of meetings for 2022.

2022 WORK PLAN

The annual work plan for the Solid Waste Services function is based on the 2022 budget approved by the GVS&DD Board on October 29, 2021, which include a list of key actions that were used to develop the Zero Waste Committee's work plan presented in this report (attachment 1).

The work plan presented in this report is consistent with the Zero Waste Committee's terms of reference (attachment 2) and with the *Board Strategic Plan* and is being brought forward for the Committee's information, review and endorsement.

Key actions in the 2022 Work Plan for the Committee are described below and listed according to the Committee responsibilities in its terms of reference.

- Reviewing and endorsing the annual budget and five-year financial plan for the solid waste function;
- Overseeing and monitoring the solid waste management plan update process, including engagement with Indigenous peoples and the public;
- Overseeing implementation of the solid waste capital program, and development of significant works within the plan, including opening the United Boulevard and Central Surrey recycling and waste centres, and development of recycling depots at the Langley and North Surrey recycling and waste centres.
- Overseeing and guiding programs and initiatives aimed at reducing the volume of solid waste, enhancing reuse and recycling efforts, and promoting energy and material recovery, including regional behaviour change campaigns, support for additional extended producer responsibility programs for problematic priority items, the National Zero Waste Council and its working groups, and affiliate initiatives such as the Circular Economy Leadership Coalition; and 2022 Zero Waste Conference; and
- Monitoring the operation of regional solid waste management facilities, and the overall management of residuals.

The Committee will be updated on the status of the actions and projects in this work plan on a monthly basis per the Committee's schedule.

2022 COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

The MVRD *Procedure Bylaw* requires the Corporate Officer to provide the Committee with an annual meeting schedule for the upcoming year, including the date, time and place of the meetings (attachment 3).

Meeting Place – Electronic and In-Person Meetings

The MVRD *Procedure Bylaw* authorizes a flexible model for meeting attendance. Most meetings will be electronic meetings: essentially hybrid meetings at which a member may attend in-person or by electronic facilities at their discretion (e.g., Zoom); however, certain meetings throughout the year may be deemed to require in-person attendance when: 1) carried by resolution of the committee; or 2) the Chair determines in-person attendance as a requirement, subject to committee members being provided with seven (7) days of advance notice of the requirement to attend in person. The Committee may wish to consider if in-person attendance would benefit any of the meeting dates on the schedule.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Zero Waste Committee:
 - a) receive for information the Zero Waste Committee Terms of Reference and the 2022 Annual Meeting Schedule, as presented in the report dated January 13, 2022, titled “2022 Zero Waste Committee Meeting Schedule and Work Plan”; and
 - b) endorse the 2022 Work Plan, as presented in the report dated January 13, 2022 titled “2022 Zero Waste Committee Meeting Schedule and Work Plan”.
2. That the Zero Waste Committee:
 - a) receive for information the Zero Waste Committee Terms of Reference and the 2022 Annual Meeting Schedule, as presented in the report dated January 13, 2022, titled “2022 Zero Waste Committee Meeting Schedule and Work Plan”; and
 - b) endorse the 2022 Work Plan, as presented in the report dated January 13, 2022, titled “2022 Zero Waste Committee Meeting Schedule and Work Plan”, incorporating the requested changes from the Zero Waste Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The priorities in the 2022 Work Plan of the Zero Waste Committee are consistent with the 2022 budget approved by the GVS&DD Board on October 29, 2021 and with key actions included in the annual work plan.

Committee meeting expenses and remuneration associated with meeting attendance have been allocated in the annual budget.

CONCLUSION

The work plan presented in this report identifies the priorities for the Zero Waste Committee in 2022 and is consistent with its terms of reference and the 2022 budget approved by the GVS&DD Board. To assist the Committee, the 2022 Annual Meeting Schedule has been established to guide the Committee’s success in completing the business of the work plan. Staff recommends that Alternative 1 be approved.

Attachments

1. Zero Waste Committee 2022 Work Plan
2. Zero Waste Committee Terms of Reference
3. Zero Waste Committee 2022 Annual Meeting Schedule

49061994

Zero Waste Committee 2022 Work Plan

Report Date: January 13, 2022

Priorities

1st Quarter	Status
2021 Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan Biennial Report	In progress
Central Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre Operations Contract Award	Pending
Invited Presentation from Ocean Ambassadors on East of Seymour Zero Waste Takeout	In progress
Flood Disaster Response Solid Waste Management System Summary	In progress
National Zero Waste Council 2021 Accomplishments and 2022 Projects	Pending
2021 Zero Waste Conference	In progress
2nd Quarter	
2021 Disposal Ban Inspection Program Results	Pending
2021 Food Scraps Campaign Results	Pending
2022 Single Use Item Campaign	Pending
2021 Waste-to-Energy Facility Financial Summary	Pending
2022 Think Thrice Textiles Campaign Results	Pending
2021 Waste Composition Data	Pending
Alternative Fuel and Recyclables Recovery Procurement Contract Award	Pending
Contingency Disposal Contract Award	Pending
Love Food Hate Waste	Pending
Solid Waste Services Capital Program Expenditures Update as at December 31, 2021	Pending
Waste-to-Energy Facility – Bottom Ash Beneficial Use Pilots	Pending
3rd Quarter	
2021 Waste-to-Energy Facility Environmental Performance Summary	Pending
2022 National Zero Waste Council Projects	Pending
2022 Textiles Campaign Results	Pending
2022 Zero Waste Conference Update	Pending
City of Vancouver and City of Burnaby District Energy Right-of-Way Agreements	Pending
Illegal Dumping Data and Programs	Pending
Innovation and Continuous Improvement	Pending
Repair and Reuse	Pending
Solid Waste Management Plan Engagement	Pending
Solid Waste Residuals Management Options Study	Pending
Solid Waste Services Capital Program Expenditures Update as at April 30, 2022	Pending

4th Quarter	
2021 Solid Waste and Recycling Annual Report	Pending
2022 Abandoned Waste Campaign Results	Pending
2022 Create Memories Not Garbage Update	Pending
2022 Single-Use Item Campaign Results	Pending
2023-2027 Financial Plan – Solid Waste Services	Pending
2023 Tipping Fee Bylaw Revisions	Pending
Solid Waste Services Capital Program Expenditures Update as at August 31, 2022	Pending

Zero Waste Committee

Terms of Reference

The Zero Waste Committee is the standing committee of the Metro Vancouver Board that provides advice and recommendations on policies, bylaws, plans, programs, budgets and issues related to solid waste management under the GVS&DD service, as well as the Zero Waste Communications Program under the MVRD General Government service.

Committee Responsibilities

Within the scope of the *Board Strategic Plan*, *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan*, and *Metro Vancouver Financial Plan*, the Committee provides guidance and oversight to staff on the implementation of the annual work plan and business plans for the service. Specific Committee responsibilities include:

- Reviewing and endorsing the annual budget and five-year financial plan for the Solid Waste function;
- Overseeing and monitoring the implementation of the *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan*;
- Overseeing implementation of the Solid Waste capital program, and development of significant works within the plan;
- Overseeing and guiding programs and initiatives aimed at reducing the volume of solid waste, enhancing recycling and diversion efforts, and promoting recovery; and
- Monitoring the operation of waste disposal and transfer station facilities, and the overall management of residuals.

Metro Vancouver has primary responsibility for ensuring implementation of the *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan*. Metro Vancouver is also responsible for operating the regional systems for transfer and disposal of solid waste. Guiding these activities is the primary focus for the Committee.

Committee Membership and Meetings

The Chair, Vice Chair, and members are appointed annually by the Chair of the Metro Vancouver Board. The Committee meets monthly, except for August and December, and has special meetings as required. Members of the Committee must be members of the GVS&DD. A quorum of 50% plus one of the Committee membership is required to conduct committee business.

Committee Management

The Committee Chair, or in the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair is the chief spokesperson on matters of public interest within the Committee's purview. For high profile issues the role of spokesperson rests with the Board Chair or Vice-Chair. On technical matters or in cases where an initiative is still at the staff proposal level, the Commissioner or a senior staff member is the appropriate chief spokesperson. Where necessary and practical, the Board Chair, the Committee Chair and the Commissioner confer to determine the most appropriate representative to speak.

The Chief Administrative Officer assigns a Committee Manager for the Committee. The Committee Manager is responsible for coordinating agendas and be the principal point of contact for Committee members.

Zero Waste Committee 2022 Annual Meeting Schedule

- **Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 9:00 a.m..... Electronic Meeting**
- **Friday, February 11, 2022 at 9:00 a.m..... Electronic Meeting**
- **Friday, March 4, 2022 at 1:00 p.m... Electronic Meeting**
- **Friday, April 8, 2022 at 9:00 a.m..... Electronic Meeting**
- **Friday, May 13, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. Electronic Meeting**
- **Thursday, June 16, 2022 at 9:00 a.m..... Electronic Meeting**
- **Friday, July 15, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. Electronic Meeting**
- **Friday, September 9, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. Electronic Meeting**
- **Friday, October 14, 2022 at 9:00 a.m..... Electronic Meeting**

To: Zero Waste Committee

From: Chris Allan, Director, Solid Waste Operations

Date: January 13, 2022 Meeting Date: January 20, 2022

Subject: **Flood Emergency Response: Regional Solid Waste System Impacts Summary**

RECOMMENDATION

That the GVS&DD Board receive for information the report dated January 13, 2022, titled “Flood Emergency Response: Regional Solid Waste System Impacts Summary”.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The redundancy and resilience of the regional solid waste system was highlighted during the recent flood emergency. Metro Vancouver’s approach of using multiple disposal facilities as well as two organics composting facilities ensured that both organics recycling and garbage disposal services could be maintained during the flood emergency. Metro Vancouver’s solid waste system supported adjacent regional district solid waste systems that were impacted by the flood. Overall, the regional solid waste system saw approximately 20% additional garbage during and shortly after the flood emergency.

Disposal bans on recyclables were relaxed as a result of impacts on waste transportation, collection, and processing systems. Mattress recycling fees were waived in a parallel with a relaxation on the disposal ban for mattresses.

As of January 1, waste quantities no longer appear to be impacted by the flood emergency, disposal bans have been reinstated and recycling fees are again being collected for mattresses. Overall impact of the flood emergency on recycling rates are difficult to estimate, and will be more clear once annual calculations of recycling and waste quantities are completed later in 2022.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the GVS&DD Board (Board) on Metro Vancouver’s response to recent flood events and system impacts resulting from the flood emergency in November 2021.

BACKGROUND

At its November 26, 2021 meeting, the Board authorized relaxations to the *GVS&DD Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 306, 2017*, to assist with recovery from the flood emergency that occurred in November 2021. This resolution is included in the attachment. The Board also directed staff to report back at its next meeting with a summary of the impacts on the solid waste system of the flood response as well as any adjustments to Tipping Fee Bylaw requirements.

FLOOD IMPACTS

Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Facilities

On November 15, 2021, after the first storm event, the Coquitlam Recycling and Waste Centre was closed for the day due to localized flooding on site. The Langley Recycling and Waste Centre also had localized flooding resulting in the closure of the green waste area for the day. All other facilities remained fully operational.

When transportation routes shut down outside of the region, Metro Vancouver facilities experienced challenges managing recyclables and garbage. One of the composting facility that receives mixed food and green waste loads from the North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre was no longer accessible. Metro Vancouver contracts with two composting facilities, and was able to increase quantities delivered to the second facility allowing for continued receipt of organics at the North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre.

Both of Metro Vancouver's contingency disposal landfills were temporarily inaccessible during the flood emergency resulting in additional reliance on local facilities particularly the Vancouver Landfill. Some local hauling challenges were also experienced. Those challenges were addressed through an expansion in the number of trucks/companies used to haul garbage.

On November 18, Recycle BC announced temporary suspension of expanded polystyrene foam and glass collection at depots including the North Shore and Coquitlam recycling and waste centres. That service resumed by the end of December.

Metro Vancouver temporarily relaxed a number of disposal bans for organics, mattresses and other recyclable materials due to impacts on material transportation, collection and processing systems both within and outside of the region. Disposal bans on operational impact and potentially hazardous materials were maintained to ensure worker health and safety and protection of the environment.

Disposal ban relaxations were in effect until December 31, 2021. During that time residents were encouraged to recycle materials where possible. Disposal ban inspectors continued to track recyclable materials in the loads while the ban relaxations were in effect. Disposal ban inspectors observed an increase in organics and electronic items, particularly in loads at the Langley, Coquitlam and North Surrey recycling and waste centres. Overall, disposal ban surcharges were waived on approximately 700 loads, and 8,000 mattresses were accepted for recycling at no cost.

Supporting Adjacent Regional Districts Disaster Response and Recovery

Solid waste facilities in adjacent regional districts were impacted by the flood emergency resulting in additional waste in the Metro Vancouver system.

In response to the flood emergency, on November 18, 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy approved the acceptance of out of region waste at the Vancouver Landfill. On November 22, 2021 the Province approved a 10% increase to the Vancouver Landfill 2021 disposal capacity. This allowed the City of Vancouver to accept loads of garbage and agricultural material from adjacent regional districts to assist with disaster debris clean-up efforts.

On November 23, 2021 Metro Vancouver announced the temporary acceptance of out-of-region waste at Metro Vancouver facilities. This action supported residents and small businesses from flood impacted areas while alleviating some of the strains on the solid waste management systems serving those communities. An increase in garbage from residential customers and small businesses was noted throughout the system, particularly at the Langley and North Surrey recycling and waste centres. Overall garbage flows increased by approximately 20% in November and December.

In early December, Metro Vancouver established a tipping fee waiver application process for flood impacted property owners and tenants. The Province announced a process for the reimbursement of tipping fees that allowed disposal facilities to waive fees on loads of waste that were directly attributed to flood damage. The waiver application has been posted on the Metro Vancouver website.

Other efforts to support flood impacted areas outside the region included sharing Metro Vancouver's work on disaster debris management with adjacent regional districts, and entering into an agreement with the City of Abbotsford for temporary use of the vacant Matsqui Transfer Station site for collection and sorting of flood debris.

Waste Reduction Implications of the Flood Emergency

Co-collection of waste and recyclables and other flood impacts likely reduced overall recycling during the flood emergency. Additionally, substantial amounts of waste were generated through clean-up efforts associated with the flood. The magnitude of those impacts are challenging to estimate for a number of reasons. Metro Vancouver will have a better idea of those impacts once overall 2021 recycling and disposal information is assembled in late 2022.

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The solid waste system saw an increase in waste quantities following the flood events. Increased costs were experienced for hauling garbage and organics from recycling and waste centres. Disposal ban surcharge relaxations were in effect in November and December, which decreased revenues for disposal ban surcharges. Revenues were also lost with the acceptance of mattresses for recycling at no cost. Costs were offset by additional revenues associated with extra waste delivered to the regional system.

CONCLUSION

Starting on November 14, 2021 a series of heavy rainfall events hit southwest British Columbia resulting in unprecedented damage to highway infrastructure and flooding of large areas. This event highlighted the resiliency of the regional solid waste system. Metro Vancouver's approach of using multiple disposal facilities as well as two organics facilities ensured that both organics recycling and garbage disposal services were maintained during the flood emergency. When the flood emergency impacted solid waste systems in adjacent regional districts, Metro Vancouver's system was able to provide support. Disposal bans on recyclables were relaxed as a result of impacts on waste transportation, collection, and processing systems, and mattress recycling fees were temporarily waived.

Attachment

“GVS&DD Tipping Fee Bylaw – Flood Disaster Response” Board resolution, dated November 26, 2021

49469466

GVS&DD Board Resolution Related to Tipping Fee Bylaw Relaxations of November 26, 2021

GVS&DD Tipping Fee Bylaw – Flood Disaster Response

WHEREAS:

- 1) The Board of the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (“GVS&DD Board”) takes note of the recent flood disaster that occurred in the Fraser Valley in November 2021 (the “Flood Disaster”);
- 2) the GVS&DD owns and operates a number of solid waste disposal facilities known as:
 - a) Coquitlam Recycling and Waste Centre located at 1200 United Boulevard, Coquitlam
 - b) Langley Recycling and Waste Centre located at 1070272 Street, Langley
 - c) Maple Ridge Recycling and Waste Centre located at 10092 236 Street, Maple Ridge
 - d) North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre located at 30 Riverside Drive, North Vancouver
 - e) North Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre located at 9770 192 Street, Surrey
 - f) United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre at 995 United Boulevard, Coquitlam
 - g) Waste-to-Energy Facility located at 5150 Riverbend Drive, Burnaby
 (together, the “GVS&DD Solid Waste Facilities”); and
- 3) The GVS&DD Board wishes to assist with recovery from the Flood Disaster.

THEREFORE:

It is resolved that the GVS&DD Board:

- 1) authorizes, until January 31, 2022, and notwithstanding the GVS&DD Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 306, 2017, as amended (“Tipping Fee Bylaw”), the GVS&DD Solid Waste Facilities, or any of them as determined by the Commissioner, to accept for disposal municipal solid waste that:
 - a) was generated by the Flood Disaster;
 - b) would otherwise be prohibited or restricted pursuant to the Tipping Fee Bylaw; and
 - c) the Commissioner determines to be a category and quantity of municipal solid waste described in (a) and (b) that GVS&DD is operationally capable of accepting and managing;
 (“Flood Disaster Waste”);
- 2) authorizes the Commissioner, at the Commissioner’s discretion, to vary or waive Tipping Fees, Surcharges, and/or Recycling Fees (such terms as defined in the Tipping Fee Bylaw) otherwise payable under the Tipping Fee Bylaw for receipt of Flood Disaster Waste;
- 3) directs the Commissioner to publish on the Metro Vancouver website a more specific description of any Flood Disaster Waste that will be temporarily accepted for disposal at GVS&DD Solid Waste Facilities, or any one of them, in what quantities, and any variation or waiver of Tipping Fees, Surcharges, and/or Recycling Fees.
- 4) directs staff to report back to the GVS&DD Board at its next meeting with a summary of the categories and quantities of Flood Disaster Waste received at GVS&DD Solid Waste Facilities, and details of any variation or waiver of Tipping Fees, Surcharges, and/or Recycling Fees.

To: Zero Waste Committee

From: Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services

Date: January 13, 2022 Meeting Date: January 20, 2022

Subject: **2021 Integrated Solid Waste & Resource Management Plan Biennial Report**

RECOMMENDATION

That the GVS&DD Board direct staff to:

- a) invite feedback on the draft 2021 Integrated Solid Waste & Resource Management Plan Biennial Report from public stakeholders and Indigenous Nations; and
 - b) submit the 2021 Integrated Solid Waste & Resource Management Plan Biennial Report and feedback to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.
-

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2021 Integrated Solid Waste & Resource Management Plan Biennial Report (Biennial Report) is a progress report on the implementation of the *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan*, as required by the Province. Metro Vancouver is a North American leader in waste reduction and recycling, with Vancouver recently identified as the greenest city in the world for recycling. The regional recycling rate is 64% and the per capita disposal rate is 0.45 tonnes per year for 2020. The report provides the implementation status of initiatives in the *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan*.

The plateauing of recycling rates in recent years highlights the importance of the solid waste management plan update. Key initiatives that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and advance recycling in the region include: new recycling and waste centres that maximize recycling and reduction opportunities; beneficial use of bottom ash generated at the Waste-to-Energy Facility; and recovery of alternative fuel and recyclables from small load waste.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the GVS&DD Board (Board) with the draft 2021 Biennial Report on progress for the *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management plan*.

BACKGROUND

Under the provincial *Environmental Management Act*, regional districts must prepare solid waste plans outlining the facilities, regulations, programs and other initiatives that will be used to reduce, reuse, recycle and dispose of municipal solid waste. Metro Vancouver's current *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan* was approved by the Minister of Environment on July 22, 2011. A condition of the *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan* approval was that Metro Vancouver provide a progress report on the implementation of the plan to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy every two years.

2021 INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN BIENNIAL REPORT

The Biennial Report supplements the annual recycling and solid waste management summary and includes a summary of strategies, performance measures and progress on the detailed actions in the plan.

Metro Vancouver is among the most successful jurisdictions in North America in reducing municipal solid waste, having met a goal of reducing per capita waste generation by 10%, diverting 64% of waste generated, and disposing of 0.45 tonnes per capita in 2020. In September 2021 BusinessWaste.co.uk (see reference 2) ranked Vancouver as the greenest city in the world for recycling, citing the increase in the region's recycling rate from 40% to over 60% in just over a decade. After steadily increasing each year, reaching 64% in 2018, Metro Vancouver's diversion rate has since plateaued.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Metro Vancouver continued to focus on initiatives to further the goals of the *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan* over the past several years. Since the prior biennial progress report in 2019, the following actions were taken:

- **Solid Waste Management Plan Update:** Metro Vancouver initiated an update to the solid waste management plan including commissioning two supporting technical studies, convening a Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel, conducting pre-engagement and opening the call for applicants to a Public/Technical Advisory Committee.
- **Single-use items:** Metro Vancouver conducted a regional study and assessment of single-use item reduction strategies including a jurisdictional scan and research on various policy options leading to the creation of a single-use item reduction toolkit highlighting single-use reduction initiatives. Development of a single-use item reduction campaign began in 2020. Research was conducted, which informed strategy, key messages, and a creative approach. Metro Vancouver members and other stakeholders were kept up to date and provided feedback on campaign development. Metro Vancouver recently collaborated with member jurisdictions to develop a regional harmonized approach to reducing single-use items, many of which are plastic.
- **Canada Plastics Pact:** In 2019, the National Zero Waste Council worked through the Circular Economy Leadership Coalition (now Circular Economy Leadership Canada) to form the Canada Plastics Pact which launched in 2021. The Canada Plastics Pact is a member of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's Global Plastics Pact network, and sets 2025 targets and actions among governments, NGOs and industry to create a circular plastics economy.
- **United Boulevard and Central Surrey Recycling and Waste Centres:** Two new recycling and waste centres will open in 2022, both of which will provide significantly improved access and expanded recycling services.
- **Waste-to-Energy Facility:** The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy has authorized the beneficial use of processed bottom ash. Metro Vancouver is exploring processing of bottom ash as a feedstock to cement kilns for the production of cement clinker, or small pieces of solid cement. The Metro Vancouver Board has also approved

processing up to 25,000 tonnes per year of biosolids at the Waste-to-Energy Facility. A Waste-to-Energy Facility District Energy system will also be developed that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 45,000 tonnes per year and provide enough energy for heat and hot water for up to 30,000 homes.

- **Alternative Fuel and Recyclables Recovery:** In 2020, Metro Vancouver initiated a business casing study examining the potential for a regional alternative fuel and recyclables recovery facility that could extract recyclable materials and create an alternative fuel product from small load waste. Small load waste is delivered in small hand unloaded vehicles and contains a high percentage of wood. A procurement process to enter into a contract for this work is currently underway.

Metro Vancouver's member jurisdictions are important partners in achieving the goals of the *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan*. Member jurisdictions have participated in all of the initiatives above, as well as the development and implementation of programs within each member jurisdiction which help to further regional waste reduction, re-use and recycling.

Engagement

The draft Biennial Report was sent to the Regional Engineers Advisory Committee Solid Waste Subcommittee on November 25, 2021 for an initial review. The draft Biennial Report will be sent to Indigenous Nations and a database of stakeholders with an interest in solid waste issues after the January 20, 2022 Zero Waste Committee agenda is published, including member jurisdictions, waste management and recycling industry representatives, businesses and institutions, non-governmental organizations and government agencies. Any feedback received will be included with the Biennial Report submission to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. That feedback will also be summarized and reported to the Zero Waste Committee.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the GVS&DD Board direct staff to:
 - a) invite feedback on the draft 2021 Integrated Solid Waste & Resource Management Plan Biennial Report from public stakeholders and Indigenous Nations; and
 - b) submit the 2021 Integrated Solid Waste & Resource Management Plan Biennial Report and feedback to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.
2. That the Zero Waste Committee direct staff to revise the draft 2021 Integrated Solid Waste & Resource Management Plan Biennial Report prior to its submission to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If the Board approves Alternative 1, the draft Biennial Report will be sent to Indigenous Nations and the public prior to submission to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy along with any feedback received. Metro Vancouver's waste reduction and diversion initiatives are implemented within the annual budgets for the Solid Waste Services department.

CONCLUSION

The 2021 Biennial Report is a progress report on the implementation of the existing *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan*, as required by the Province. The report includes statistics on the region's waste diversion and disposal performance, along with descriptions of the status of the individual initiatives outlined in the plan. Metro Vancouver is among the most successful jurisdictions in North America at waste diversion, and intends to continue building upon that success with an updated solid waste management plan which will be entering the public engagement phase in 2022.

References

1. [Draft 2021 Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan Biennial Report](#)
2. [BusinessWaste.co.uk](#)

49280287

To: Zero Waste Committee

From: Heather Schoemaker, General Manager, External Relations
Ann Rowan, Division Manager, Collaboration and Engagement, External Relations

Date: January 13, 2022 Meeting Date: January 20, 2022

Subject: **2021 Zero Waste Conference**

RECOMMENDATION

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated January 13, 2022, titled “2021 Zero Waste Conference.”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Metro Vancouver’s annual Zero Waste Conference, engages with important stakeholders to share new knowledge, experiences, and practices related to Metro Vancouver’s journey to waste prevention and the transition to a circular economy. With a program designed to provide the rationale and the means for constructing a path to an alternative to the dystopian future suggested by the climate catastrophes and the on-going pandemic, the 2021 conference featured five thought-provoking and inspiring keynotes who posed elements of a resilient, carbon neutral and circular future. Five interactive sessions, had speakers providing opportunities and potential actions in design and policy to enable this future, including eight innovators who introduced how entrepreneurial spirit coupled with innovation can contribute to positive change.

With 443 registrants, feedback included: *“This conference was full of good insights and inspiration. My takeaway is that the journey towards a circular future is a tapestry in which we are all working together. Thanks to all of you for this special day that I am sure will be a milestone.”*

PURPOSE

This report provides an update on the 2021 Zero Waste Conference.

BACKGROUND

The annual Zero Waste Conference, hosted by Metro Vancouver and the National Zero Waste Council, supports the first two goals of the *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan* that speak to reducing waste at the source. Effective action on waste prevention and a transition to a circular economy requires cross-sectoral collaboration at a geographical scale larger than the region; including changes in design and materials used in production, promoting behaviour change, and aligning policies across jurisdictions. The Conference is designed to inspire and inform participants bringing together the leaders, policy-makers, practitioners and innovators, within the region and across Canada, who are involved in advancing change. In its eleventh year, the Zero Waste Conference is an important annual event, locally, nationally and globally.

This report summarizes key aspects of the 2021 Zero Waste Conference.

2021 ZERO WASTE CONFERENCE

Planning for the Zero Waste Conference begins early in the year and given continued uncertainty about the COVID-19 pandemic, it was decided to again host the conference as a one-day virtual event on October 28, 2021 and to broadcast the event from the multimedia studio at the Annacis Research Centre.

Reflecting the origins of the Conference, the overall theme of the Conference continues to be “A future without waste” with the subtheme providing the narrative arc for the specific year’s program. In 2021, the subtheme was:

- Unlock the power of imagination and transformation;
- Step into creative and innovative thinking;
- Design a resilient, carbon neutral and circular future

This positive and proactive messaging was felt to be essential during a time when there is a general anxiety about the future. The focus of the Conference was to propose a path to an alternative to the dystopian future suggested by the current climate catastrophes and the on-going pandemic.

Program Highlights

Metro Vancouver’s Zero Waste Conference is renowned for a curated program of thought-leaders, innovators and decision-makers committed to waste prevention and accelerating the transition to a circular economy, and this year’s conference was no exception. The program was anchored by five inspiring and thought-provoking keynote discussions interspersed into panel discussions on five timely topics and two sessions that spotlighted engaging, successful innovators and entrepreneurs in the waste prevention and circular economy space.

The day began with a 10-year retrospective video that captured how the concept of waste prevention has advanced over ten years as well as the emergence of the circular economy in general and the role of Metro Vancouver and the National Zero Waste Council in this journey.

The opening keynote was a discussion between two respected futurists, Shivvy Jervis and Gerd Leonard who spoke about how they learned during the pandemic that institutions and business can change and adapt when it is required and this should inform the challenge of dealing with the environmental and economic challenges associated with climate change and biodiversity loss. Both argued that our future is not predetermined but depends on our vision for the future and the decisions we make today.

Dr. Janez Potocnik, the co-chair of the UNEP International Resource Panel, has advanced the rationale and means for policy-makers to decouple economic growth from unsustainable use of natural resources. He provided participants the scientific assessment of our current situation and how a transition to a circular economy was urgently required. A responding panel following Dr. Potocnik’s address provided a lively exchange of ideas, from three different perspectives, as to how change is possible and the sharing of promising solutions in policy, innovation financing, nature-based solutions, and cross-sectoral collaborations are being implemented now.

At this point in the programming, the focus shifted from the global to Canada where leadership from the private and public sector was recognized. The panel before lunch explored how local

governments are embracing circularity as a means to increase their own resiliency while addressing prosperity, resource scarcity, emission reductions, and waste challenges. Dr. Joanna Williams provided a spark talk on how the pandemic had transformed the work of European cities leading in circularity and was followed by a panel of four local governments in Canada, including Metro Vancouver, who had initiated their own paths to a resilient, low carbon and circular future.

After a 30-minute lunch break, with opportunities to join networking rooms, participants were welcomed back to a keynote presentation from Arlene Dickinson who shared how an investment strategy and innovation can be harnessed to support efforts to re-design and transform systems to achieve social and environmental objectives, including preventing and reducing waste. In her presentation, she shared an example of a local food system project that she is involved in. This was a transition then to a panel devoted to how circular food systems can be designed – at different geographical scales and through the food value chain.

The second keynote of the afternoon was Sheila Watt-Cloutier who shared how the culture and experience of indigenous people of the Arctic North has resulted in an understanding of how the challenges of the day – environment, economy, health, and human rights – are deeply connected. That knowledge should be harnessed by 21st Century leaders because “siloed” analysis will hamper the transformational changes required to address substantive issues like climate change, income disparity, and long-term prosperity.

The final panel of the day focused on the innovative Planetary Healthcare Lab created at UBC. The founder, Dr. Andrea MacNeill, exemplifies this new model of leadership described by Sheila Watt-Cloutier. As a surgical oncologist, Dr. MacNeill became concerned how the healthcare system was contributing to environmental problems and has brought together an interdisciplinary research team dedicated to designing health care systems that promote both human and planetary health.

The program ended with a keynote from Billy Almon, who, through stories, identifies biology-inspired solutions that will improve the human condition. Billy shared examples of how creatures living in the dynamic inter-tidal zone provide examples of how we can aspire to create a future that regenerates individuals, communities and ecosystems even during times of substantive change.

Over the years, the Zero Waste Conference, has featured entrepreneurs and innovators who through their ideas, innovation, courage and enthusiasm bring a spark to the Conference program. This year two Innovation Showcases were featured, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon and both delivered: providing examples of the power of initiative and embracing change that sparked a lively discussion in the zoom chat.

Vanessa Timmer and Kathryn Gretsinger were co-hosts for the 2021 Zero Waste Conference and did an excellent job of managing the program on the day while weaving important themes throughout the discussion. The full program including speaker biographies can be found on the Zero Waste Conference website (Reference 3).

Audience and Participation

The total number of registrations for the 2021 Zero Waste Conference was 443 which is less than the 501 who registered for last year's virtual conference. One reason for the decrease in registration could have been the September World Circular Forum hosted for the first time in Canada; however, in general, it is recognized by many events that the appeal of participating in a virtual conference was diminished over a year of virtual meetings and conferences. The two key draws for the Zero Waste Conference is knowledge-sharing and networking, the limited ability to network could have also led to lower registrations. The registration fees were the same as for the 2021 Conference, the general registration fee was \$150 and \$89 for students.

In terms of participation on the day of the Conference, it appears from a review of the attendee record that nearly everyone who registered for the Conference came in at some point during the day. Participation was highest in the morning with the number of participants, ranging between 370 and 390, and then after lunch, the maximum was 320 with the number of participants slowly dropping off until the end. In monitoring the chat, the major reason for declining numbers in the afternoon was time zone differences for participants coming in from Europe and eastern Canada. It should be noted that anyone who registered for the Conference was also provided restricted access to review the sessions before the videos were made publically available on January 4, 2022.

The on-line chat room was used by participants throughout the day – making comments on the speakers, sharing resources as well as in networking. As in the past, Pigeonhole was used, a software that allows participants to post their questions using their smart phones and to vote on questions they think important. This means that the questions asked of a speaker reflects a collective rather than an individual enquiry. Throughout the day, there were 283 unique participants using Pigeonhole to pose questions and there were 398 votes cast by participants indicating their interest in hearing a response a question.

Overall the feedback on the Conference, both on the program and delivery was very positive. One participant posted in the chat, *"This event's production is off the charts, it's unbelievable. Hats off to you and your team. You should be very very proud. The best sign of a perfectly functioning event is when the attendees don't even remember they are in an event, it just flows."* Another assessment was *"This conference was full of good insights and inspiration. My takeaway is that the journey towards a circular future is a tapestry in which we are all working together. Thanks to all of you for this special day that I am sure will be a milestone."*

Marketing & Promotion

Our marketing communications goal for the event was to build anticipation leading up to the day and position the conference as a must-attend featuring the world's best thought leaders, innovators, and change makers in the circular and zero waste economy.

While registration was lower than in the previous year, the distribution of registrants was quite similar. According to the information provided at registration, 29% of the participants were from the private sector (from start-ups to corporate brands), 31% were from government (elected officials and staff), 14% were from the non-profit/NGOs, 5% had an academic affiliation, 4% were interested members of the public and 21% did not report an affiliation.

With a modest budget for marketing, in 2021, efforts were focused on digital opportunities targeting audiences interested in waste prevention and the circular economy and because of the virtual nature of the conference, the geographic scope was expanded and there was an increased emphasis on stakeholder identification and engagement. The digital marketing campaign was 5 weeks in duration, and achieved 4.0 million impressions. Facebook ads reached over 207,360 people with an average frequency of 4.0 and LinkedIn reached almost 38,446 people. Direct outreach to the identified key stakeholders was executed with communications to over 30 Partners, Chambers and Boards of Trade to encourage promotion and participation by their members and contacts.

Social and Earned Media

Social media is an important outreach and engagement platform for the Conference. There were 501 hashtag mentions of the Conference resulting in 5.1 potential impressions. This year the majority of social media content occurred between October 19 and October 29 with twitter activity significantly increasing on October 28 on the day of the Conference. The announcements of Shivvy Jervis, Gerd Leonard, Arlene Dickenson and Sheila Watt-Cloutier as keynotes generated bumps in retweets. A quote that seemed to resonate with Twitter users was from Shivvy Jervis who stated *“Saying tech will solve the sustainability crisis is like saying a hammer will solve homelessness just because it’s used to build houses.”*

Conventional media interest and coverage of the Conference is also important in generating interest in the Conference and in the issues discussed. Strategically targeted media outreach resulted in a number of thoughtful, in-depth articles in prominent media outlets, such as the Vancouver Sun (print and online) and CBC, and several of these articles were reprinted elsewhere online. References 1 and 2 provide links to the stories about keynote Billy Almon and the Conference that ran in the Vancouver Sun and on CBC online. The conference also appeared in the Canadian Press/AP calendar.

Media outreach resulted in an audience reach of 17,599,542 with an ad value equivalent of \$162,800.

Ongoing Knowledge Sharing - Zero Waste Conference Website

The Zero Waste Conference website is maintained throughout the year and provides participants and other interested individuals access to videos from the keynotes, panel discussions and question and answer sessions in addition to the blog. Also included are previous year conferences resulting in a treasure trove of information as well as a marker of how the discussion of waste prevention and the transition to the circular economy is evolving in Canada. Reference 3 provides a link to these videos.

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost to host the 2021 Zero Waste Conference was \$260,584. It was funded by Metro Vancouver Regional District Requisitions in the amount of \$212,000 – this amount has not changed in the eleven years of the conference - as well as \$48,584 from Conference registration fees.

CONCLUSION

The annual Zero Waste Conference, hosted by Metro Vancouver and the National Zero Waste Council, supports the first two goals of the *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan* that speak to reducing waste at the source. In 2021, the program was designed to provide the rationale as well as the means for constructing a path to an alternative to the dystopian future suggested by the current climate catastrophes and the on-going pandemic.

Metro Vancouver's Zero Waste Conference is renowned for a curated program of thought-leaders, innovators and decision-makers committed to waste prevention and accelerating the transition to a circular economy, and this year's conference was no exception. The program was anchored by five inspiring and thought-provoking keynote discussions interspersed into panel discussions on five timely topics and two sessions that spotlighted engaging, successful innovators and entrepreneurs in the waste prevention and circular economy space.

The total number of registrations for the 2021 Zero Waste Conference was 443, less than the 501 who registered for last year's virtual conference. In general, the appeal of participating in a virtual conference was diminished over a year of virtual meetings and conferences. Comments from the zoom chat along with level of activity in the zoom chat and Pigeonhole indicated that programming resonated with participants. While the ability to share knowledge in a virtual environment is high, the opportunities for networking is limited. Knowledge-sharing and networking are the key reasons to attend the Zero Waste Conference which is why we hope to return to an in-person event in 2022.

References:

1. Vancouver Sun story on "World's first astrobiofuturist to speak at Metro Vancouver's Zero Waste conference" <https://vancouversun.com/news/worlds-first-astrobiofuturist-to-speak-at-metro-vancouver-zero-waste-conference>
2. CBC story on "Futurist advises B.C. decision-makers, residents to look to coastal ecosystems for climate, waste solutions" <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/futurist-advises-b-c-decision-makers-residents-to-look-to-coastal-ecosystems-for-climate-waste-solutions-1.6231074>
3. Program, speaker biographies, and videos of sessions of the 2021 Zero Waste Conference and prior conferences www.zwc.ca

49469233

To: Zero Waste Committee

From: Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services

Date: January 13, 2022 Meeting Date: January 20, 2022

Subject: **Manager's Report**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Zero Waste Committee receive for information the report dated January 13, 2022, titled "Manager's Report".

Attendance at 2022 Standing Committee Events

Participation at external events provides important learning and networking opportunities. The following events that fall under the purview of the Zero Waste Committee were included in the 2022 Leadership and Engagement budget. Both in-person and virtual attendance will be considered depending on any restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Globe Forum 2022

Place and Date: Vancouver, BC and Virtual, February 15-17, 2022

Number of attendee(s): 2

The Globe Forum 2022 aims to converge the North American sustainability and climate community to set the course for a net-zero future. The forum will include local hubs and virtual programming options, to provide attendees with access to ideas, solutions and networking.

Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Wastecon Conference 2022

Place and Date: San Diego, California, December 5-7, 2022

Number of attendee(s): 1

SWANA's Wastecon Conference provides an opportunity to participate in sessions on waste reduction, recycling and residuals management.

Recycling Council of BC Conference and Trade Show

Date and Place: TBA

Number of attendee(s): 2

This conference focuses on reducing waste and building a circular economy.

Please notify the Committee Chair or Committee Manager as soon as possible if you are interested in attending any of the above-noted events. While these events were included in the approved budget, final approval on attendance rests with the Board Chair.

Waste-to-Energy Facility District Energy System

Metro Vancouver and Wesgroup Properties have signed an agreement to supply thermal energy from the Waste-to-Energy Facility to the River District Community through a District Energy System. River District Energy will purchase up to 10 megawatts of heat from the Waste-to-Energy Facility starting in 2025, reducing community greenhouse gas emissions and meeting the City of Vancouver's Zero Emission Building policies.

Metro Vancouver's Waste-to-Energy Facility, located in Burnaby, handles about a quarter of the region's garbage and generates approximately 22 megawatts of electricity — enough to power nearly 16,000 homes — which it sells to BC Hydro. In addition to producing electricity, steam from the facility will be used to heat water for district energy applications, with the potential to save up to 45,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions a year. A district energy system works by using underground pipes to deliver hot water to nearby homes and businesses. Supplying heat through district energy in addition to generating electricity triples the amount of energy that can be recovered from the waste-to-energy process.

2022 Food Scraps Recycling Campaign

The 2022 Food Scraps Recycling campaign, "Food Scraps Aren't Garbage," will be in market from January 10 to February 28, 2022. Originally launched in 2014 to support the region-wide organics disposal ban, this campaign's primary objective is to increase diversion of organic waste into the green bin. Its secondary objective is to reduce contamination overall. The target audience is Metro Vancouver residents, with a new and significant focus on those who are on the fence about using the green bin (men age 18–44), as well as those who already use the green bin and can further improve by reducing contamination (women age 45–65).

The campaign continues to use the food face characters. To help the "on the fence" audience better understand the benefit of using the green bin, messaging that focuses on the connection between food scraps recycling and climate change has been added: "Recycling one tonne of food scraps prevents 0.4 tonnes of CO₂ emissions." New infographics about common, confusing contaminants have also been added. To reach the younger male audience, Twitch (a video live-streaming service that focuses on video game live streaming) has been added to the campaign.

Tactics include digital (YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Twitch) broadcast (television PSA), radio (CFOX FM) and out-of-home advertising (transit shelter ads, elevator screens in multi-family buildings).

2022 Think Thrice About Your Clothes Campaign Update

The 2022 textiles waste reduction campaign, "Think Thrice About Your Clothes," will be in market from February 28 to May 8, 2022. Originally launched in 2019, the primary objective of the campaign is to increase diversion of textiles from the waste stream by raising awareness of the textile waste problem and empowering residents to take action. While clothing donation and recycling options are encouraged, the campaign will continue to put additional emphasis on reduction and reuse options. All campaign messaging will direct residents to www.think-thrice.ca. The target audience is Metro Vancouver residents, with a primary segment being adults aged 18–64, and a secondary segment of adult women and parents.

The campaign creative has received significant updates for 2022, introducing a new platform that will celebrate the lives of “caring owners” by focusing exclusively on items of clothing, and the stories they collect. The new platform builds off the premise that if clothes are to be spared from the landfill, they require “caring owners.”

Tactics will include digital (YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, search ads, an interactive Facebook Live Series), television PSA, radio and out-of-home (transit shelter ads, digital billboards, and bus sides). New for 2022 are on-air radio host endorsements with CFMI FM and CJJR FM to help educate listeners on how they can reduce their textiles waste. The radio ads are intended to reach both primary and secondary audiences.

Compost Quality Study Detailed Plastic Analysis

Metro Vancouver engaged Oceanwise to analyze the plastic debris from the 2021 [Metro Vancouver Compost Quality Study](#). The goal of the work is to determine the source and types of plastics found in the compost samples. Understanding the source of plastics will help improve programs, policies and education aimed at reducing plastics content in locally available compost.

Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee and Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee

Metro Vancouver is inviting membership submissions for the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) and applications for the Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee (Public/Technical Advisory Committee) from December 10, 2021 – January 31, 2022. The opportunities were shared broadly through email notifications and, for the Public/Technical Advisory Committee, on four social media channels. To advance equity and inclusion on the Public/Technical Advisory Committee, special efforts were made to target recruitment of potential committee members belonging to typically underrepresented or equity-denied communities.

Membership to the IAC is self-selecting and administered through a statement of interest declaration to confirm agreement and expressed intention to work within the IAC terms of reference. The inaugural IAC meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2022.

Public/Technical Advisory Committee applications will be evaluated by the Metro Vancouver solid waste management plan project team. Recommendations for committee members will be reviewed by the solid waste management plan's Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel prior to consideration by the Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board in a closed meeting. The Public/Technical Advisory Committee will convene following member selection by the GVS&DD Board.

Single-Use Plastics Prohibition Regulations

On December 25th, 2021 the Government of Canada published their proposed prohibition on certain single-use plastics. The regulations propose prohibiting the manufacture, import and sale of single-use plastic straws with an exception for accessible straws. In addition to straws, it looks at prohibiting of manufacture, import and sale of single-use plastic checkout bags, single-use plastic cutlery, single-use plastic foodservice ware made of foam and other problematic plastics, single-use plastic ring

carriers or single-use plastic stir sticks. Staff are reviewing the proposed regulation and will provide comments by the March 5th, 2022 deadline.

BNQ Regulations Under Public Review

The Bureau de normalization du Quebec maintains a certification standard for compostable plastics. The standard document CAN/BNQ 0017-088- Specifications for Compostable Plastics is currently under public review. Metro Vancouver staff are reviewing it and will provide comments by the February 14th, 2022 deadline.

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