

COMMUNICATIONS

Presentation: Public Engagement on the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP)

Aidan Buckley, Manager, Communications, SCRD, provided a presentation on public engagement plans for the draft Solid Waste Management Plan, which included the following:

- Different types of engagement to be utilized.
- Looking for public feedback on the draft SWMP.
- Asked the Solid Waste Management Plan Public and Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) their experience with engagement and what they think would be effective engage with the community:
 - Engagement that has worked well.
 - What hasn't worked well.
 - Who needs to be connected with.
 - Suggestions on how to connect with them.

Group discussion on engagement included the following:

- PTAC recognized that communicating about the multiple types of strategies and actions will require extensive engagement, suggestions include:
 - Condense the information so that it is easier to understand as the whole plan can be overwhelming.
 - Give participants plenty of time to connect with the material.
 - Offer multiple ways to provide feedback, including opportunities to focus on specific topics as well as the plan as a whole.
- The Committee agreed with the approach to:
 - To start engagement in December at local market days with a holiday recycling theme.
 - Reach out to as many community groups as we can, including the school community and families via school newsletters.
 - Participate in other local events like upcoming film festivals.
 - Utilize existing communication networks within community groups and make it easy for them to share content on the SWMP.
- PTAC agreed that the approach used for the engagement on the update to the SCRD Official Community Plan has been noticeable in the community and approaches could be incorporated into engagement on the SWMP.
- PTAC expressed a preference to emphasize the recyclability of the engagement materials and preference for print materials with higher recycled content.
- PTAC agreed that providing residents with the following types of context could be helpful when communicating about the SCRD's waste system:
 - Comparing financial aspects to real world examples, such as other community's tipping fees.
 - Factors that contribute to higher taxation, e.g., diversion programs offered.

- Connecting a tipping fee to actual costs at the scale because \$165/tonne is not easily related to the amount paid at the scale for disposing of a couch.

Presentation: Long-Term Disposal Options - Strategy 10

Marc Sole, Manager, Solid Waste Services, SCRD, provided a presentation on Strategy 10 – Secure Long-Term Disposal Options for the Region in the draft Solid Waste Management Plan, which included the following:

- Introductions and recap of plan update progress and PTAC's efforts to date.
- Long-term disposal options – work done to date
 - Initial studies on:
 - Siting a new landfill
 - Waste-to-energy.
 - Waste export.
 - Amending the existing 2011 SCRD Solid Waste Management Plan to include waste export as a back up plan.
 - Feasibility of lateral expansion.
 - Contact Water Pond Relocation.
 - Unplanned waste export:
 - Avoiding a worst-case scenario of exporting waste without a waste export transfer station.
 - High cost of this option comes from size of bin we can manage, lack of compaction, and transportation costs.
 - Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- Long-term disposal options - Feasibility Results for Vertical Expansion and Waste Export.
 - Waste Export:
 - Locating a new transfer station at the Hillside Industrial Park to collect and consolidate all of the Coast's garbage for barging and trucking to Cache Creek.
 - Risks, costs, and considerations of the feasibility study were shared and the result that it was not recommended.
 - Vertical Expansion:
 - Utilizing the current Sechelt Landfill to build a 10 m mechanically stabilized earth wall proposed to be constructed within the existing site footprint and limit of waste.
 - Risks, costs, and considerations of the feasibility study were shared and the result that it was recommended to pursue this option.
 - Considerations for the addition of waste shredding findings were presented.
 - A comparison between the option for waste export or vertical expansion was shared.
 - Difference in costs of each option.
- Manager Sole briefly went over the next steps which included the following:

- October 23, Committee of the Whole decision to incorporate vertical expansion into the draft SWMP to be confirmed at the November 13, Board meeting.
- Draft SWMP engagement.

Group discussion on long-term disposal options included the following:

- PTAC indicated that option for waste export in Port Mellon is not as convenient option as Sechelt or Gibsons if there are no other amenities nearby.
- PTAC confirmed that waste export is not the preferred option but should still be a contingency option in the SWMP.
- The Committee asked for clarification on the next steps of the vertical expansion option. Staff informed that the option will need to be approved by the SCRD Board to be incorporated into the draft SWMP and that no work to date has been done on a final design plan.
- The Committee supported vertical expansion as the preferred option when compared to waste export.
 - The reasoning included that vertical expansion offers:
 - Cheaper costs as compared to waste export.
 - More time to prepare for a future landfill, or alternative, in thirty years.
 - Less risk related to escalating costs and external transportation risks.
- PTAC noted that draft SWMP is very large and the challenge will be to bring the whole community along with all the aspects we are trying to engage with them on and connect with:
 - Concerns related to tipping fee increases.
 - Enforcement to help prolong landfill life.
 - Balancing tipping fees with taxation and increasing diversion.
- PTAC noted that the plan should allow for future potential advancements in diversion and technology and opportunities to connect with neighbouring jurisdictions.
- Next Steps:
 - Staff offered PTAC members the option to email any additional or clarifying feedback.

NEXT MEETING (TBD)

ADJOURNMENT 5:05 p.m.