

Minutes of the **GOVERNANCE & SERVICES COMMITTEE** meeting of the Regional District of Central Okanagan held at Regional District Offices, 1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, BC on Thursday, April 8, 2021

Directors:

- J. Baker (District of Lake Country) *(attended electronically)*
- M. Bartyik (Central Okanagan East Electoral Area) *(attended electronically)*
- M. Singh, alternate for C. Basran (City of Kelowna)
- W. Carson (Central Okanagan West Electoral Area) *(attended electronically)*
- M. DeHart (City of Kelowna)
- C. Fortin (District of Peachland) *(attended electronically)*
- G. Given (City of Kelowna)
- C. Hodge (City of Kelowna) *(attended electronically)*
- S. Johnston (City of West Kelowna) *(attended electronically)*
- J. Zilkie, alternate for G. Milsom (City of West Kelowna) *(attended electronically)*
- B. Sieben (City of Kelowna) *(attended electronically)*
- L. Stack (City of Kelowna) *(attended electronically)*
- L. Wooldridge (City of Kelowna) *(attended electronically)*
- J. Coble (Westbank First Nation) *(attended electronically)*

Staff:

- B. Reardon, Chief Administrative Officer
- T. Cashin, Director of Community Services
- J. Foster, Director of Communication & Information Services
- C. Griffiths, Director of Economic Development *(attended electronically)*
- T. Kendel, Manager of Engineering Services
- D. Komaike, Director of Engineering Services
- M. Kopp, Director of Parks Services *(attended electronically)*
- M. Rilkoﬀ, Director of Financial Services *(attended electronically)*
- M. Drouin, Manager-Corporate Services (recording secretary)

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Given called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and acknowledged the meeting is being held on the traditional territory of the syilx/Okanagan peoples.

In accordance with the most recent Provincial Health Officer Order regarding gatherings and events, the public is currently not permitted to attend Board meetings in-person.

As an open meeting, a live audio-video feed is being broadcast and recorded on rdco.com.

Roll Call

The Chair recognized the passing of former Director Len Novakowski (Westside Electoral Area Director) 1996-2007.

2. **ADDITION OF LATE ITEMS**

There are no late items for the agenda

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

#GS23/21

HODGE/SINGH

THAT the agenda be adopted.

CARRIED unanimously

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 4.1. Governance & Services Committee Meeting Minutes - March 11, 2021 & March 18, 2021

#GS24/21

JOHNSTON/WOOLDRIDGE

THAT the Governance & Services Committee meeting minutes of March 11, 2021 and March 18, 2021 be adopted.

CARRIED unanimously

5. DELEGATIONS

- 5.1. United Way - Central Okanagan Poverty and Wellness Strategy, Naomi Woodland, Manager-Community Impact and Poverty Reduction, United Way Southern Interior BC

Danika Dudzik, RDCO Senior Planner, introduced the delegation. Staff report outlined the background of a regional strategy to increase wellness and reduce poverty in communities in the Central Okanagan. In February 2020, the Regional Board approved a collaborative grant application to UBCM for the development of a Central Okanagan Poverty and Wellness Strategy. A \$149,000 grant was awarded to RDCO to further the work completed by regional partners over the last several years.

The United Way is the program/delivery agent for the strategy being developed and is in attendance to provide an update on the program.

N. Woodland provided an update on the strategy:

- Project overview highlighted, second phase completed.
- Community engagement is the next stage.
- Governance structure.
- Leadership Committee members.
- Key milestones.
- Communications include: working group, ongoing updates to the Board and member municipalities.
- Indigenous engagement.
- Community engagement planning. What is working and what is not. Will take place between April-July.
- Priority topics that will make an impact in the community
 - Transportation, Housing, Health, Children and Youth, Reconciliation, Employment

- Methods of engagement will include: surveys, focus groups, interviews
- Implementation and evaluation planning: RFP released Feb 22nd. It includes the development of an implementation and evaluation framework.
- Next Steps outlined: select project consultant, finalize the community engagement plan, community engagement, and continue to build partnerships.

Discussion ensued:

- First Nation reconciliation is an important part of the strategy. The report highlights the gaps.
- An action plan will be developed as part of the work. It is too early in the process to determine who will deliver the actions. It will be clearer once the work is completed and in the end it will likely be multiple agencies.
- There are currently multiple poverty action items identified throughout the province.
- A news release will be circulated to the media this week.

#GS25/21

SINGH/DEHART

THAT the Governance and Services Committee receive for information the Central Okanagan Poverty and Wellness Strategy update report dated April 8, 2021.

CARRIED unanimously

6. ENGINEERING SERVICES

6.1. Solid Waste Management Plan Initiatives Update

Staff report outlined the solid waste management plan initiatives. Staff presented a review of these initiatives followed by general discussion by the committee.

Director Sieben joined the meeting after 9:15 a.m.

- The solid waste management technical committee is comprised of staff from all member municipalities.
- The Solid Waste Management Plan was approved by the Province in 2020.
- Not discussed today: biomass study out for proposals currently—likely completed later this year. Waste to energy component still emerging.

T. Kendel presented an overview of the solid waste management plan:

- What the Plan is: a regulated Plan approved by the Board and the Ministry of Environment. The Plan provides 10 years of direction. The Plan expires in 2030.
- The Plan development began in 2015 and approved by the Board in 2017 and provincial approval in 2020 following approximately 4 years of consultation and feedback.
- The goals were outlined. Guiding principles are developed by the Ministry of Environment include: reduce, reuse, recycle, recovery in that order.

- 24 strategies and 28 initiatives (22 are currently underway) included in the Plan.
- Key 2021 deliverables outlined.
 - SWMP Next Steps

Director Bartyik joined the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

- Following the first part of the presentation staff outlined the various engagement opportunities the Solid Waste Office provides: ie: education, public events, administration of the curbside recycle service.
- Monitoring and clean-up: ie: landfill monitoring, illegal dumping, contamination within the carts (student program).
- Timeline of major changes and milestones over the last 20 years highlighted.
- 2021 programs highlighted: ie: wildlife resistant cart program, organic analysis and inventory, expand multifamily recycling, and transfer station service improvements.
- Beyond 2021 timeline of various programs outlined.

A general overview in the region and beyond

- What is happening in BC: single use plastic ban, CleanBC organics diversion, Recycle BC curbside glass collection, EPR program expansion.
- Emerging issues – EPR (BC). What is happening in Canada: EPR expansion, limited recycling markets, single-use plastic ban (specific single-use ban begins in 2021)
- What is happening in North America: traditional linear economy versus circular economy
- Developing technology: waste to energy, bio-gas and organic digesters, aerobic landfilling, waste conversion.
- Waste diversion potential: single family curbside waste and waste diversion potential. Shows education is still needed.
- Alternative collection strategies: curbside organic collection (\$5-\$10 per month per dwelling); curbside glass collection (\$1 - \$3 per month per dwelling); automated collection (Express & GO) service; curbside collection of depot only materials (no comparables existing in BC-- \$20-\$50 per month); Pop-Up recycling depot (being investigated); unmonitored parking lot depots (high likelihood of contamination).
- Multi-family study findings: similar outcomes as single-family households. Preliminary recommendations forthcoming—more education required.
- Recycling contamination: not acceptable material, incompatible material.
- Key items and recommendations:
 - RDCO is on track to achieve 2022 waste reduction target
 - SWMP effectiveness review to occur in 2024
 - RDCO continue as per the SWMP to:
 - Bring policy and bylaw recommendations for Board consideration when required,
 - Investigate organic diversion potential,
 - Investigate ICI and C&D diversion opportunities, and
 - Action all other strategies and initiatives within the SWMP.

Discussion ensued:

- A question was raised whether it would be cost efficient to manually sort contaminated material. Staff noted no communities in BC do this.
- The penalty for having contaminated loads is relatively small compared to the cost of manually sorting contaminated material.
- Staff-to-staff conversation continues with municipal staff on various collection strategies.
- Halifax sustainability project – the technical committee is aware of this project. The Province is not investigating the 'recovery' category at this time. Other technology options continue to be explored.
- BC is looking at mattress collection and recycling in the future.
- Contamination in carts continues, as does education and enforcement.
- Good to see transfer sites being upgraded.
- Illegal dump sites are becoming more of a problem—vehicles, campers, construction material, garbage. Staff continue to work with municipal staff and volunteer organizations on this issue.
- April is community clean up month. Staff are available to assist community groups with this initiative.
- In regards to plastic ban, the technical committee recommends waiting for the provincial and federal ban direction which is to occur this year. Believe many businesses are moving away from purchasing 'plastic' products even though it may be more expensive.
- Is it possible to have a 'sticker' on each bin what can be recycled? The life of the sticker on a bin is limited. The waste ambassadors apply sticker to the bins for users contaminating bins. Stickers are also mailed to residents who have contaminated. A recycle coach app is available as well as information on the RDCO's website.
- Landfill gas is collected at the Kelowna landfill and energy contracted with Fortis BC.
- Keeping the landfill open as long as possible is a regional goal.
- How does the fine system work for contaminated loads at the Landfill? The actual fine is collected by the City of Kelowna. The hauler then charges the customer. Multi-family facilities have a challenge to determine which resident is contaminating the bins. Education needs to continue.
- Organics diversion will continue to be an issue and continues to be investigated further. It may be the best environmental solution.
- More robust recycling program for multi-family developments is needed. Staff are reviewing this as part of the multi-family study.

#GS26/21

DEHART/STACK

THAT the Governance & Services Committee receive for information the Solid Waste Management Plan Initiatives (SWMP) Update report.

AND FURTHER THAT the Governance & Services Committee recommends to the Regional Board that the initiatives and timelines as outlined in the Solid Waste Management Update Report of April 8, 2021 be supported.

CARRIED unanimously

7. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

8. ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

CERTIFIED TO BE TRUE AND CORRECT

G. Given (Chair)

B. Reardon (Chief Administrative Officer)