



DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS  
MINUTES OF ELECTRONIC COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2021 @ 7:00 PM

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**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mayor Ken Williams  
Councillor Leslie Anderson  
Councillor Ann Baird  
Councillor Gord Baird  
Councillor Marcie McLean  
Councillor Karel Roessingh  
Councillor Rose Stanton

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Administrative Officer Lorraine Hilton  
Corporate Officer Deb Hopkins  
Municipal Planner Laura Beckett

Public Observation: 4

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**1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

*Moved Councillor Roessingh, Seconded Councillor Stanton*  
That the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

2.1

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES – OCTOBER 13, 2020**

2.2

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES – NOVEMBER 16, 2020**

The October 13, 2020 Committee of the Whole minutes were revised to replace "completing" with "constructing" from the third bullet point on page 1.

*Moved Councillor Gord Baird, Seconded Councillor McLean*  
That the minutes of the October 13 and November 16, 2020 Committee of the Whole meetings be adopted.

CARRIED

**3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

4.1

Presentation – Russ Smith, CRD, Senior Manager, Environmental Resource Management (0400.02)

**RE: CRD SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Russ Smith, Senior Manager, CRD Environmental Resource Management provided a presentation to Council on the CRD's draft Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). He highlighted that the development of the plan occurred over a four stage process that commenced in 2017 and that currently the project has progressed to the second consultation phase of the fourth stage. Next steps include finalization of the plan, CRD Board endorsement, and submission to the Province for approval.

Mr. Smith gave an overview of the draft Plan targets that are comprised of short, medium, and long-term goals. He said that the 15 strategies

included in the draft SWMP are supported by approximately 70 actions. In addition he stated that there are many opportunities for municipal collaboration to move this Plan forward together. He then invited questions and comments on the draft SWMP.

Responses to questions from Council:

- In regards to shipping of gas systems, the CRD is driven by the Provincial Green Plan, and the desires of the Province as well as industry to green the pipelines similarly to the greening of the electrical grid. There is an approved Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Plan that is moving forward through the CRD Board however the Board could change direction to adapt to emerging opportunities.
- The CRD is trying to minimize the footprint of the landfill, but must balance the best utilization of the space with environmental considerations and the responsibility of receiving the community's waste.
- The targets included in the Plan are based on the provincial formulation of per capita waste production; lifespan of the landfill can be extrapolated from the projected growth in population.
- The CRD Board has given direction to staff to reserve space at Hartland for an organics facility, but no direction has been given yet on technology; this will require consultation with municipalities, the private sector, and the public prior to selection and implementation.
- The SWMP is intended to inform the community of what a full build out of the landfill may look like; it is estimated to be approximately 10 years before the treed area of Hartland is impacted; any expansion will be done in compliance with all provincial regulations under the landfill criteria.
- Hartland 2100 is not currently focused on environmental approvals; water table documents are not yet fully developed and have not been submitted for approval.

Response to questions and comments from members of the public:

- The GHGs contained in the Climate Change section of the draft Plan do not include emissions caused by transportation to the landfill or any potential deforestation; they are associated with in situ waste, decomposition and off-gassing.
- The 1/3 reduction target was influenced by the requirement to provide evidence to the Province that the target was achievable. There is a desire to achieve greater reductions sooner and an annual report must be given to the CRD Board on the impacts of the SWMP with an aim of moving towards 2/3 reduction as quickly as possible.
- Pricing space at Hartland to incentivize the reduction of waste has been considered; raising tipping fees must be done cautiously so that illegal dumping of waste in area municipalities does not increase to avoid paying tipping fees.
- The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) will be giving a presentation on their Plan to the CRD's Environmental Committee which the public is welcome to attend. Many Board members are also curious about how the RDN plans to effectively achieve the aggressive targets included in their Plan.

Additional comments provided by members of Council and the public included:

- The Co-existing with Carnivores Alliance provided a number of recommendations to reduce human-wildlife contact intended to increase understanding and create positive behavioural changes that are not reflected in the draft Plan.
- Increased public education is necessary to avoid contamination of waste that could be recycled.
- A cultural shift is needed to challenge lifestyles and change current behaviours.
- There is an appetite to achieve the more aggressive waste diversion targets; people need to see the landfill and where their garbage goes to enhance public awareness and drive behavioural change
- Scientific targets will not be achievable without moving to a circular economy and zero waste; collaboration between all levels of government is necessary to realize these shared goals.
- There is a desire at the CRD Board level to increase the proposed targets but not at the risk of losing the significant work undertaken to date to develop the Plan.
- Creation of the SWMP creates momentum for this topic; it is important for the Board to leverage this momentum to provide leadership, excitement, and enthusiasm around waste.

Responses to subsequent questions from Council:

- Bylaws and legislation are critical to facilitate controlling the movement of waste at a price point that will achieve public compliance.
- During the analysis conducted to consider expansion of the power generation equipment for Hartland's landfill gas-to-electricity plant, BC Hydro provided market options including current market rates and what market rates could be offered; ultimately the CRD Board decided to move forward with RNG.
- The Province has developed landfill criteria that control the issuance of a Landfill Operating Certificate. The criteria include a maximum road grade for hauling of waste. The grade of Hartland Avenue exceeds the allowable limit so there is an obligation to move the commercial access to the north of the landfill (Willis Point Road) to increase safety and comply with the landfill criteria.
- The SWMP is a living document with built in opportunities to ramp up and modify the targets as waste diversion increases; including more fluid targets allows continual progress without having to go backwards to repeat some of the previous steps required in developing the Plan.
- The target will include a stretch goal with the aim of achieving greater waste diversion faster and the results will be reviewed annually.
- Discussions regarding the potential for gasifying waste are underway and a report will be brought to the CRD Board once it's determined where the technology sits on the spectrum of innovation to commercialization.
- There are no updates to provide at this time to sorting approaches for waste streams as this is driven and led by Recycle BC and the Province.

*Moved Councillor Stanton, Seconded Councillor Ann Baird*

That the presentation be received.

CARRIED

4.2

Report – Chief Administrative Officer, January 25, 2021 (0640.30)

**RE: PERIOD 3 – ACTIVITY REPORT SEPTEMBER 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020**

*Moved Councillor Stanton, Seconded Councillor Anderson*

That the September 1 to December 31, 2020 activity reports attached to the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.

CARRIED

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

*Moved Councillor Gord Baird, Seconded Councillor Ann Baird*

That the Committee of the Whole meeting of February 8, 2021 adjourn at 8:18 pm.

CARRIED

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MAYOR

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CORPORATE OFFICER

Adopted March 8, 2021