



CORPORATE REPORT

To: Regional and Corporate Services Committee
From: Jamie Benton, Environmental Services Coordinator

Date: 2018-10-11
File No: 5365-28

Subject: 2018 Southern Interior Waste Managers' Association Conference - overview

INTENT

This report is intended to advise the Committee of information pertaining to the recent Southern Interior Waste Managers' Association Conference, hosted by the Fraser Valley Regional District at the Harrison Hot Springs resort in September 2018. Staff is not looking for a recommendation and has forwarded this information should members want more clarification or to discuss the item further.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Support Environmental Stewardship

Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

PRIORITIES

Priority #1 Waste Management

Priority #2 Air & Water Quality

BACKGROUND

The Southern Interior Waste Managers' Association (SIWMA) was established in 1994 and is made up of representatives from 12 member regional districts and 3 associated municipal members. It is a small and personal conference which is convened annually and hosted by a different regional district each year. The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) hosted this year's conference at the Harrison Hot Springs resort over 4 days from September 18 – 21, 2018. Member municipal representatives from the FVRD attended throughout including staff from Metro Vancouver.

The conference provides a venue for technical staff overseeing solid waste management and operations within represented regions and municipalities to exchange ideas, to share information about programs and initiatives, and to collaborate on issues related to solid waste reduction, public education, recycling and residual waste management. Opportunities are taken to visit local waste management facilities and to update participants on recent policy changes or new developments in solid waste management. The FVRD is included in SIWMA as our region borders the Thompson Nicola Regional

District and the Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District where infrastructure and programs are similar issues to our Electoral Areas and smaller municipalities.

DISCUSSION

A total of 61 people participated in this year's SIWMA conference including staff from local and provincial government, first nations, waste management companies and consultants as well as non-profit organizations (please see attached program outline for more details). A work shop, specifically for local government and Ministry of Environment staff was provided on the first day to review and discuss the *New Landfill Criteria* and to explore the potential ramifications across BC for local governments. A working group was convened to explore risk management solutions and next steps.

An official welcome was provided on the morning of Day 2 by the Mayor of the Village of Harrison Hot Springs, Director Leo Facio as well as a traditional First Nations welcome by Counsellor Boyd Peters from Sts'ailes First Nation. Day 2 provided a chance for each regional district to present and update each other on developments over the past twelve months.

On Day 3 the group toured several local waste management facilities including the Fraser Valley Biogas anaerobic digester and Redux Nutrition, both of which use food waste to make products and align with the food waste hierarchy. To understand the recycling process of small electronic products the group also toured eCycle Solutions.

Day 4 continued with several presentations that explored local programs and initiatives, including an introduction to mixed waste processing, the new mattress recycling facility in Hope, Household Hazardous Waste Day and the Illegal Dumping in Our Township campaign by the Township of Langley. Finally, Recycle BC presented on their program and were questioned on the decision to burn *other flexible packaging* as an energy fuel. The conference concluded by looking at the future use of landfills.

COST

The SIWMA conference does not impact the FVRD Solid Waste budget. It is entirely funded by a combination of contributions from sponsorship, registration of guests and the SIWMA budget which has been funded by membership fees since its inception. Costs to the FVRD relate to hotel accommodation (\$1,100) and time for organizing the event. The FVRD will not be required to organize SIWMA again until 2030.

CONCLUSION

The 2018 SIWMA conference was deemed a huge success by attendees. The FVRD was able to showcase initiatives and processes for organics diversion that are not currently occurring within the BC interior. A spotlight was provided to companies and organizations pursuing materials recovery and driving innovation in solid waste. The small and intimate nature of the SIWMA conference gave all participants a platform to network, connect and learn from each other. Regional districts will continue to develop relationships and collaborate together to maximize diversion across British Columbia through the SIWMA forum.

COMMENTS BY:

Stacey Barker, Deputy Director of Regional Programs

Reviewed and supported.

Barclay Pitkethly, Director of Regional Programs

Reviewed and supported.

Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services

Reviewed and supported.

Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed and supported