

**Northern Coordinated Action for Recycling Enterprises
General Board Meeting
11:05 a.m. Friday, January 18th, 2008
Nisku Inn and Conference Centre – 1101-4th Street, Nisku, AB**

Attendees:

Ron Longtin	Long Lake Waste Management (Berwyn)
Sam Wipf	Town of Valleyview
Chris Alm	Northern Sunrise County/East Peace Reg. Landfill
Roger Maure	Smoky River Regional Waste Commission
Owen Farnel	Town of Fox Creek
Tom Burton	M.D. of Greenview
Shawn Searle	eCycle Solution Inc
Mark Pickering	Town of Swan Hills
Nathan Taylor	Town of Smoky Lake
Steve Madden	County of Grande Prairie
Lyle Hoffman	Hoffman Consulting
Lauren McNutt	City of Cold Lake
Barton Coady	Smoky Lake County
Robert Smith	Athabasca Reg. Waste Management Services Comm.
Ryan MacDonald	Municipality of Wood Buffalo
Jarrold Peckford	Municipality of Wood Buffalo
Jim Cheverie	Town of Bonnyville
Andy Wakaruk	M.D. of Bonnyville
David Fox	M.D. of Bonnyville
Dale McQueen	Woodlands County
Pat Jacobs	County of Grande Prairie #1
Patrick Kane	Alberta Environment
Helen A. Rice	City of Grande Prairie
Roy Doonanco	Beaver River Reg. Waste Management Commission
Janet Altmiks	Alberta Plastics Recycling Association
James Waikle	Town of High Prairie
Roberta Windrum	Alberta Dairy Council
Gary Pollock	Swan Hills
Tracey Boutilier	Albian Sands – Muskeg River Mine
Lorna Storoschuk	Town of Bonnyville
Dennis Reid	Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement
Linda McDonald	Northern CARE

Regrets:

Uli Wolf
Jule Asterisk
Samantha James
Bonnie Raho
M.D. of Big Lakes

1. Call to Order

James Waikle, newly elected Chairman called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He asked each attendee to introduce themselves, the organization they were representing and provide information on their background.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Add to Agenda Item 6 (f) Paint Recycling Program.

Moved by Pat Jacobs:

That the Agenda be accepted as amended.

...CARRIED

3. Adoption of June 15, 2007 General Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by Jarrod Peckford:

That the Minutes of the June 15, 2007 General Board Meeting be adopted as circulated and filed.

...CARRIED

4. Speakers Corner:

a) Shawn Searle representing eCycle Solutions from Airdrie gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Board summarized as follows:

- Private company founded in 2005 with recycling facilities in Airdrie and Chilliwack BC with approximately 60 employees companywide.
- Approved processor under AB, SK and BC regulated eWaste recycling stewardship programs serving both government and ICI clients.
- Does not resell any whole systems or components – entire process is geared toward destruction and commodity recovery.
- Services include simple recycling, logistics, asset tracking, data destruction and secure recycling.
- Heavily audited to ensure total environmental compliance at all levels.
- Material passes through MeWa where it is reduced in size, then is transferred to an incline conveyor with a magnetic separator which pulls out the steel. Large aluminums, circuit boards, and wires are sorted off the line prior to final processing.
- Recycling process achieves a 95%+ recovery rate.
- Partnership between Maxus and Northern CARE in 2004. In 2005, Maxus became insolvent and eCycle purchased contract to continue the partnership.
- To date, program has diverted over 943 MT of eWaste from landfills; eCycle processes over 1000 MT monthly.
- Since 2005, eCycle Solutions has paid over \$140,000 to Northern CARE in top-up fees. In turn, the majority of this money has been transferred to the collection hubs.

b) Roberta Windrum representing the Alberta Dairy Council (ADC) reported on the current status of the Milk Container Recycling Program.

The Beverage Container Recycling Regulation is currently under review. As a part of the review process, the Minister of Environment established an all-party Standing Committee on Resources and Environment. The ADC appeared before the Standing Committee to present their position for retaining the exemption for milk containers under the Regulation.

The Standing Committee tabled their report in November. One of the recommendations in the report is to include milk containers in the deposit-refund system. This has implications, not only for the dairy industry, but also for the consumer and municipalities.

Rob Smith from Athabasca stated the bottle depot located adjacent to their facility already had line-ups; adding milk into the system will only increase the line-ups and waiting times as bottle depots are already experiencing staffing problems.

The average consumer does not understand the deposit program. The majority think they receive a full refund for amount of money they pay when they purchase a product that carries a refund. What is not understood is that in addition to the deposit (which is refunded) they also many times pay a recycling fee which is not refunded. The deposit program is a very expensive program and highly inefficient because most bottle depots ship the empty containers in bulk bags unlike most municipalities who bale the material prior to shipping.

Municipalities will also suffer because of the revenue they will lose. Milk jug plastic is the most valuable commodity that a municipality recycles. Municipalities who collect mixed plastics as well as milk jugs use the milk jugs as leverage when marketing the mixed plastics. Top-up Funding and Transportation Supplements help to offset the cost of marketing other recyclable materials.

If municipalities which to have their voice heard, they can write a letter to the Minister of Environment indicating how removing milk containers from the voluntary program will directly impact them.

Lyle Hoffman, Hoffman Consulting, stated that to have an impact, municipalities need to not only indicate the tonnage of milk containers that are being diverted from landfill, but to translate that information into volume such as cubic meters or semi-trailer units to give a better visual idea of the impact the voluntary program has had on municipal waste management operations. It is also important to stress the convenience of local voluntary recycling programs where residents do not have to wait in line-ups to recycle empty milk containers. The residents of municipalities who have curbside recycling programs enjoy the convenience of not having to transport material for recycling which is what has to be done with the deposit program.

Tracy Boutilier from Albian Sands expressed concern over the conditions at bottle depots and the consumer's reluctance to go to a depot for refunds. Government should be addressing these conditions rather than looking to include milk into the deposit system.

A bullet-point list of issues to address when writing to the Minister of Environment will be circulated by Northern CARE.

- c) **Steve Madden** addressed the board about a Scrap Metal Survey questionnaire that is being developed. The Northern Peace area is experiencing problems with metal recyclers in that some recyclers pay while others do not. Why? Recyclers who pay are earning huge profits at the expense of municipalities. Some municipalities have real estate to store materials while others are tight for space. The survey will provide information on landfill metals collection on a yearly basis. This information will allow municipalities to plan collections resulting in increased economics for the municipality.

Municipalities are requested to complete one survey form for each site operated. The results will be present to the Northern CARE Technical Committee which will enable the committee to 'fight the fight' with metal recyclers.

5. Administration

a) Financial Report

Moved by Helen Rice:

That the financial report to December 31, 2007 be accepted and filed.

...CARRIED.

b) Executive Director Report

Moved by James Waikle:

That the Executive Directors Report be accepted as presented and filed.

...CARRIED.

6. New Business

a) Three year funding application & meeting with the Minister

Moved by Helen Rice:

That we schedule a meeting with the Minister of Environment as soon as possible to present the Business Plan and Three Year Funding Application.

...CARRIED

b) 2008 Annual Conference Location

Moved by Pat Jacobs:

That we accept the request from the Town of Valleyview, MD of Greenview and the Town of Fox Creek to host the 2008 Northern CARE Conference in the Town of Valleyview.

...CARRIED.

Moved by Helen Rice:

That the Executive Director send a letter to the City of Grande Prairie and the County of Grande Prairie requesting they sponsor the guest speaker travel for the 2008 Conference from Grand Prairie airport to Valleyview.

...CARRIED

c) Dates for 2008 Annual Conference

Moved by Pat Jacobs:

That the 2008 Annual Northern CARE Conference be held Valleyview on September 10, 11 & 12, 2008.

...CARRIED.

d) Mercury Switches in Automobiles

In addition to automobiles, there are mercury switches in some other items such as washers and dryers.

Moved by Pat Jacobs:

That the Executive Director carry out research on mercury switches and the issues surrounding their disposal/recycling and report back to the next board meeting.

...CARRIED.

e) Letter from Recycle Plus

A letter was received from Recycle Plus outlining their need to increase fees for operating the recycling program in north western Alberta. Recycle Plus is proposing to increase the fees charged to municipalities and would like Northern CARE's support in reopening and negotiating the contract to the communities Recycle Plus serves. Recycle Plus is offering to pay \$.10 per month per household to Northern CARE for their services.

Recycle Plus should be presenting their financial statement to prove they actually need the increase in fees to continue operating – they are a not-for-profit organization and as such should have an open book policy.

In the past, Northern CARE had a signed agreement with Recycle Plus to recruit a customer base and be paid approximately \$80,000 for this service. In 2000 Tom Baldwin spoke to Recycle Plus. The outcome of that discussion was that Recycle Plus would pay a beneficiary membership of \$5,000 per year until the debt was paid. \$5,000 was paid in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2005 respectively for a total payment of \$20,000. The remaining \$60,000 was set up as a receivable as a result of this past years audit. Northern CARE executive will hold a meeting with Recycle Plus board within the next month. This issue needs to be settled as soon as possible as the receivable will show up in the audited financial statement and will have an impact on requests for future funding.

Moved by Helen Rice:

That the proposal from Recycle Plus be table to the next Northern CARE meeting.

...CARRIED.

f) Paint Recycling Program

Information on the new Paint Recycling Program was circulated via email. ARMA has requested to meet with Northern CARE.

Moved by Helen Rice:

That the correspondence on the Paint Recycling Program be received as information and that ARMA be invited to give a presentation at the next Northern CARE meeting.

...CARRIED.

7. Information Items

- a) Cochrane High School – thank you and donation receipt
- b) Letter from Reeve Everett McDonad, County of Grande Prairie
- c) Letter from Alberta Environment, Bev Yee – Paint Recycling Program
- d) Letter from Alberta Environment, Peter Watson, Deputy Minister
- e) Letter from Alberta Environment, Janet McLean – Too Good to Waste
- f) Letter from Alberta Aboriginal Relations, Graham Statt, Chair
- g) Composting Workshop - Edmonton, Feb 25 & 25, 3008
- h) Letter for Rs of Excellence Nomination – “Mrs. Farmer Bob”
- i) Letter of support to the RM of Wood Buffalo to ban plastics
- j) Scrap Metal Survey – Northern Alberta & NWT – final report
- k) Portable florescent lamp disposal unit – solo lighting

Moved by Robert Smith:

That the information items listed above be accepted as such and filed.

...CARRIED

8. Round Table

Janet Altmiks, Alberta Plastic Recycling Association will be working with Alberta Environment on recycling of agricultural waste. APRA hopes to set up some pilot sites. More information will be posted on the APRA website as it becomes available.

Roy Doonanco, Beaver Regional Waste – There will be 2 major transfer stations in Cold Lake & Bonnyville and 5 or 6 satellite stations in rural areas. Waste will be hauled to Evergreen. Construction is 20% complete on major sites. Budget started at \$3 million, is now up to \$14.8 million. Needless to say, the Minister of Environment is not pleased.

Helen Rice – serves on the Board of Directors for Aquatera. Disposal costs have gone up 7 times in the past year. 80% of waste is ICI. It is important to keep recyclables out of site at the point of collection in order to deter theft.

Patrick Kane – Alberta Environment is working on existing programs with an objective to improve the programs. The Beverage Container Recycling Regulation is under review, as is the Milk Container Recycling Program. The government is looking to improve the electronics program by expanding the list of items accepted under the program. Construction and demolition – consultation process in the last two years; will work with all stakeholders including industry but it has proven to be a complex issues. Homebuilders have established some environment guidelines such as Build Green and the LEEDS program. Information on

the Paint Recycling Program has been sent out – like other programs, it is not perfect and will make changes as the program moves forward.

Pat Jacobs – County of Grande Prairie. In a study done by the Pembina Institute in association with the WWF called "Under-mining the Environment: The Oil Sands Report Card", Albian Sands scored the highest with a 56% of all existing oil sands mining projects (the average score was 33%, with Suncor at 34% and Syncrude 18%). The sectors surveyed were; General Environmental Management, Land, Air Emissions, Water and Climate Change. Inside the report each oil sands operation is broken down and scored on the individual sectors. The complete report can be viewed at: <http://www.wwf.ca/RESOURCES/PDF/OilSandsReport.pdf> or <http://www.pembina.org/pub/1571>. West Aqua Water Co-op has received a \$5.5 million grant to expand water supply to areas west of the county.

Dale McQueen, Woodlands County – County has been waiting since last October to have barrels of oil filters picked up. People in rural areas still love burning – not able to dump the ashes in bins because of risk of fire and not sure how to deal with ash remains. Rob Smith advised that Athabasca requires double plastic bags. Chris Alm indicated they put the ashes in a separate area in the burn pit and then when they are cold, they push them into the C & D pit.

Jarrold Peckford – Wood Buffalo. December 2007 – Education awareness campaign completed. Recycling has doubled in 3 years. In 2007 the municipality developed a master plan – targeted 50% diversion for entire waste stream. 80% of waste is ICI. 2 modified landfills are scheduled to close. FCM grant for landfill gas feasibility study is nearly completed. The plastic bag ban action plan will be addressed after the completion of the Master Plan in June. The MFR should be completed and operation in 2009.

Robert Smith – Athabasca. Commission is in the process of constructing a new cell, initial budget was \$600,000 but actual cost will be \$900,000. There has been a 20% increase in material going to landfill, directly attributed to ICI waste. Commission is looking at banning cardboard, wood and metals – if the ban goes through, it will be part of the construction policy as early as June 2008. There were strong markets for cardboard in the past year. In 2007, one load of plastic was shipped through Raydar Recycling; another load was shipped to the US through Capital Paper – commission received \$5 per tonne for the material in addition to free freight. The plastic shipments also included bale and silage wrap in the mix. Landfill costs, all in, are \$100 per tonne. The deficit cost for recycling was \$60 per tonne.

Lauren McNutt - Cold Lake. The city, in their first year of curb-side collection of recycling and organics, has set a target of 50% diversion. A strategy to address ICI waste needs to be developed in order to meet this target. The rate at the landfill is \$50/tonne for ICI businesses. The landfill will close in September 2008 and there will be a significant increase for disposal costs.

Steve Madden – County of Grande Prairie. There are 2 regional landfills; two new cells have been constructed and 2 new pieces of equipment purchased, one of which is a compactor. Two transfer stations are complete. County is participating in the Porch Lite Program – 1 mini florescent light bulb per dwelling is supplied in an effort to reduce the number of incandescent bulbs that are in use. Carbon credit trading – the biggest liability to municipalities are their landfills and landfill gases. There will be a presentation at the Edmonton Waste Center on

January 31. FCM has had a broker working with different carbon credit items on the open market. MNP will be speaking on carbon credit trading in Grande Prairie on January 29.

Nathan Taylor – Town of Smoky Lake. Currently recycle cardboard and paper. Waste transfer station is just out of town. Previous council did not have much of a commitment for recycling.

Mark Pickering – Town of Swan Hills. Swan Hills has a recycling station in town and would like to start collecting cardboard. New cell at the landfill has just been completed. The town is dealing with their oil waste and using it in a registered burner. The town would also like to have a registered burner at the town shop in an effort to reduce heating costs.

Tom Burton – M.D. of Greenview. Recycle Plus collects their recycled material; however, the service is not great. Residents have been asking about used battery recycling. Jarrod Peckford advised that Wood Buffalo recently set up bins and barrels to collect batteries. Toms' Scrap Removal, 780-998-2359, will be collecting the used batteries. Two transfer stations were completed last summer and an additional one is in the works.

Owen Farnel – Town of Fox Creek. Fox Creek currently transports their waste as they are looking to acquire land which requires government approval. They operate their own cardboard recycling program; however, a lot is still going to landfill. Currently, the town is paying over \$3/household/month for recycling.

Roger Maure – Smoky River Regional Waste Commission. The commission started one year ago. There is a lot of cardboard going to landfill so they are exploring a number of options including the purchase of a baler to deal with the cardboard.

Chris Alm – Peace River. This will likely be Chris' last meeting as she is retiring. The town of Peace River has donated a piece of land for establishing a cardboard collection site; engineers will be determining how to develop the land. A new C & D cell will be constructed this year. They are looking to construct 3 industrial cells at a cost of over \$1 million. An e-waste building is being constructed on site.

Sam Wipf – Valleyview. Sam is the chairman for the town of Valleyview Porch Lite Program. They have an average of 35% - 40% delivery – bulbs cannot be left behind if no one is at home. The town works closely with Fox Creek and Valleyview. They have the highest collection for paper recycling in north western Alberta. A very successful paint recycling collection program was held last summer.

Tracy Boutilier - Albian Sands. Muskeg River Mine - Albian is just putting together the numbers for all waste; there is a 25% disposal and 75% recycled rate. 98% of hazardous waste is recycled. They are working with the regional municipality in using bio-solids from the treatment facilities in reclamation areas. Two issues they have are how to deal with used lumber and the local bottle depot. Albian counts all containers before delivering to the bottle depot; the last shipment the depot shorted them by 7,000 pieces. Jack Pine Site – the site had bad safety records and the project has been shut down. The MRF will soon be open and are recycling paper and bottles.

Lorna Storoschuk – Town of Bonnyville. They are finally getting a waste transfer station going. Bonnyville will be running their own program as contractor fees were too high. A toxic roundup will be held in June 2008.

Ron Longtin – Long Lake Waste Management. The Long Lake landfill site has been operational for about 14 years. Ron is looking forward to drawing on the experience of those around the table.

Linda McDonald – Northern CARE. Metal collection survey and glass recycling survey will be circulated to municipalities. Jim Faye has advised Linda that the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo will donate \$2,500 toward the Northern CARE website upgrade and \$4,000 annually for any new recycling initiatives. Cochrane is interested in becoming an individual member and a resource for Northern CARE – this came about as a result of presenting at the last conference.

James Waikle – Town of High Prairie. A ‘take it or leave it’ pilot will be implemented at the Kinuso waste transfer station. The town was proposing to build a fire training facility; however, it was not approved by Alberta Environment. A new LEEDS hospital building is being constructed and should be opened in three years. Project Porch Lite was supposed to be in place in December, however, that did not happen. A second ice surface is in place; the heat from the compressor is being used to heat the building. Recycle Plus service was not great. After numerous phone calls the service has improved because they now pick up weekly; previously the bins were always full and overflowing.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the Nisku Inn on April 4, 2008.

11. Adjournment

Chairperson Waikle declared the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.