

**B.C. Product Stewardship Council**  
**Conference Call Minutes**  
*(final version)*  
**Tuesday, September 23, 2008**  
**Start Time: 9:30 am**

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**Present:**

Ian Hayes (Bulkley-Nechako)	Andrew Doi (Metro Vancouver)
Anke Bergner (Capital Regional District)	Sharon Horsburgh (Nanaimo)
Carol Suhan (Central Okanagan)	Nicole Kohnert (North Okanagan)
Darcy Mooney (Columbia Shuswap)	Don Hamilton & (Okanagan-Similkameen)
Mike Zbarsky (Comox Valley)	Shannon Anderson (Peace River)
Eric Sharpe (East Kootenay)	Tim Des Champ (Skeena Queen Charlotte)
Petra Wildauer (Fraser-Fort George)	Drew Hadfield (Alberni Clayoquot)
Laurie Gallant (Kitimat Stikine)	Greg Tyson (Ministry of the Environment)
Alan Stanley (Kootenay-Boundary)	

**Regrets:**

Jeff Rahn (Cariboo)	Greg Fletcher (Mount Waddington)
Joy Mackay (Central Coast)	Jack Bowers (Northern Rockies)
Shanna Eckman (Central Kootenay)	Frances Ladret (Powell River)
Jennifer Brunn (Comox Valley)	Jerry Cheshuk (Squamish-Lillooet)
Bob McDonald (Cowichan Valley)	Cathy Kenny (Sunshine Coast)
Mike Hofer (Fraser Valley)	Peter Hughes (Thompson-Nicola)

**Staff:**

Brock Macdonald	Jordan Best	Leah Nielsen
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**1. CALL Meeting to order**

- Sharon Horsburgh called meeting to order at 9:37.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

- Suggestion to discuss EPR packaging motion from RCBC Board Meeting on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> – issue added to ‘Correspondence’ (inserted as new topic 4 a) below)
- Suggestion to discuss Encorp electronics consultation process
- Addition to ‘New Business’ – Carol Suhan will be resigning from the Council, need to nominate a new Co-chair. The suggestion was made that Nicole Kohnert take on the position.

**080923 – 1PSC Moved/seconded/approved that the agenda for the BCPSC meeting of September 23, 2008 be adopted as circulated with amendments**

**3. Adoption of Minutes of June 25th, 2008 (attachment #1)**

- Petra Wildauer’s name is spelled incorrectly in the list of participants.

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- The last meeting was not a conference call. The meeting was held at the RCBC conference.
- Request that Council members send further amendments to Leah Nielsen by email at [leah@rcbc.bc.ca](mailto:leah@rcbc.bc.ca).

**080923 – 2PSC Moved/seconded/approved that the minutes of the BCPSC meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008 be approved with amendments.**

#### 4. Correspondence

- a) Discussion of email circulated to Council members on September 22<sup>nd</sup> regarding a request from Alan Stanley for the BCPSC to consider the EPR packaging motion passed at the RCBC Board meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008.
  - Alan Stanley provided an overview of the RCBC Policy Committee and Board meetings held on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Summary: David Lawes and Kris Ord of the MoE attended the Policy Committee and Board meetings to clarify RCBC's position on packaging EPR. At the meetings RCBC clarified that they would like broad packaging legislation with specific categories (e.g. soaps, cleaners and detergent packaging) as a first step and strategy for introducing the program.
  - A motion was made that BCPSC adopt a policy on packaging EPR in-line with that of RCBC's.
  - A discussion followed about the participatory powers of council members as stated in the ToR. It was decided that Council members are able to approve a motion on BCPSC's policy on packaging EPR without consulting their respective Boards.
  - The question was raised of how the BCPSC will use the policy if approved.
  - There was also a discussion about how Council members should be informing their Boards of motions passed in the BCPSC meetings.
  - A suggestion was made that the packaging EPR policy include mention of packaging as a single category. It was decided that given the Environmental Management Act's definition of packaging, this is not necessary.

**080923 – 3PSC Moved/seconded/approved that BCPSC recommend that the province, without delay, pass legislation to require an EPR program for all packaging as defined in the Environment Management Act and phase in implementation based on environmental impact including energy savings, landfill space, and manageable product categories.**

**080923 – 4PSC Moved/seconded/approved that the BCPSC will send a letter including the newly approved BCPSC policy on packaging EPR to the Ministry of Environment, carbon copied to each of the Regional Districts, to indicate that this position of the BCPSC be included as a correspondence matter at upcoming regional district Board meetings.**

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- b) Request from Ministry of Environment to co-present at morning session on an Update on Industry-Led Product Stewardship in BC at the UCBM Convention in Penticton in September.
- Carol Suhan will be presenting at 7:30am on September 24<sup>th</sup>
  - A request was made that Carol send her Power Point presentation to Brock Macdonald who will circulate it to Council members.
  - A suggestion was made that Carol also mention the new policy of the BCPSC on packaging EPR.
  - A request was made by Brock Macdonald that Carol also mention that RCBC supports this position.

**5. Stewardship Issues to Resolve – a time for members to get tips and advice and to comment on what is going well or still has challenges**

- Brock Macdonald clarified this item, stating that it would be helpful for the MoE to receive specific feedback and/or comments on problems and challenges that regional districts are experiencing with EPR programs. Also, if there are any suggestions for how to address these issues.
- Tim Des Champ raised the issue that most service stations have no receptacle for used oil containers, which adversely affects how the program is seen by retailers. Plus, the containers end up in the garbage.
- Laurie Gallant said that the gas stations in her area are collecting oil containers but they need the program to provide a bin and come collect the containers for recycling.
- A concern was also raised that there is no compelling business case for participating in EPR programs on the take-back side. It was suggested that the MoE should have more rigorous business plans for creating the business case.

**Action Item: Council members will forward additional comments and suggestions about EPR programs to Jordan Best who will compile the information and send to the Ministry of Environment in a quarterly or semi-annual report. The document will also be forwarded to contacts at the EPR programs.**

- A discussion followed about if the above item is an action item or motion.
- Brock Macdonald suggested that RCBC will create a matrix with tasks, responsibilities and deadlines for action items and will provide to the Co-chairs.
- Discussion of RCBC's recently passed motion regarding not having EPR feedback periods during the summer. It was suggested that the BCPSC also support this position
- Brock Macdonald clarified RCBC's stance on summer consultations. They would like there to be a large enough window so that consultation periods stretch beyond summer months.

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**080923 – 5PSC Moved/seconded/approved that the BCPSC arrange a teleconference at least one month prior to the deadline of EPR consultation periods to determine if a request needs to be made to the Ministry of Environment to provide more time for regional districts to effectively submit comments.**

- Brock Macdonald suggested that Jordan Best will keep a running account of policy positions that the council takes which will be provided to the Council for reference.

**6. Business Arising**

- a) Coast Waste Management Association Conference (Oct 29-31)
  - Event to be held in Courtenay at the Crown Isle Resort. Summary of main topics and highlighted speakers provided (e.g. stewardship, plastics, waste to energy).
- b) Southern Interior Waste Managers Association Conference (Oct 28-30)
  - Summary of main topics provided (e.g. update from the Ministry, best practices for waste transfer stations, product stewardship, glass recycling, wood waste management).
- c) Workshop for stakeholders interested in setting some parameters before packaging EPR program set (Neil Hastie idea) [could be part of item a and b]
- d) Discussion: What EPR for packaging may mean for local governments - Greg Tyson, BC MOE
  - Greg Tyson of the MoE gave an overview of the focus of this discussion. Mainly, that the MoE is hoping the BCPSC may be able to give some insight into how local governments will be affected by a packaging EPR program and what the role of local government in the program may be.
  - Questions/issues put forward by MoE:
    - Would local governments want stewards to run blue box programs? (i.e. owning, operating and funding)
    - Questions of convenience, what will work for people?
    - Also, provision of service (e.g. areas of province that are under serviced by EPR programs)
    - Issue of revenues from blue box programs. How will local governments feel about losing these if programs are run by stewards?
  - A comment was made that there are concerns about the BC program taking a form similar to the Ontario program. Would like to instead see a fully funded stewardship program. Would like local governments to have the option of participating or not.
  - Comment that convenience can't be the only factor, need to consider incentives for users of the program and collectors.
  - In closing, it was asked when the MoE would like comments and suggestions submitted by. No hard timeline was given.

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**7. New and Unfinished Business**

- a) Funding letter to the Ministry
  - Brock Macdonald will talk with Mairi Welman, Director of Communications at RCBC, and will arrange a conference call with the BCPSC Chairs to discuss drafting the letter.
  
- b) Contract with RCBC – Carol
  - Contract has been finalized and signed.

**8. Other**

Action Items:

- Rocky Mountain is the only remaining regional district that isn't part of BCPSC. Shannon Anderson will phone them today.
- Amending ToR – changes sent to Chair.
- Brock Macdonald let Council members know about the EPR Program Measurement Workshop being held on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 at Robson Square Theatre in Vancouver.
- Brock Macdonald also announced that the RCBC Conference venue in Whistler has been confirmed for 2009-2011 and William McDunough is available as the keynote speakers in 2010.
- Discussion of status of methodology for waste characterization studies.

**080923 – 6PSC Motion/seconded/approved that the BCPSC will write a letter to the Ministry of Environment about standardizing waste characterization studies. A standardized methodology should be created that divides waste into product categories (including current stewardship categories and possible categories for the future) and materials.**

**9. Next Meeting**

9:30 am, Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

**10. Adjournment**

- The meeting ended at 11:30.