

# B.C. Product Stewardship Council

## Conference Call Minutes

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Start Time: 9:30 am

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### Present:

Drew Hadfield (Alberni Clayoquot)  
Janine Dougall (Bulkley-Nechako)  
Anke Bergner (Capital Regional District)  
Jeff Rahn (Cariboo)  
Shanna Eckman (Central Kootenay)  
Nicole Ward (Central Kootenay)  
Darcy Mooney (Columbia Shuswap)  
Harmony Huffman (Cowichan Valley)  
Mike Hofer (Fraser Valley)  
Laurie Gallant (Kitimat Stikine)  
Raymond Gaudart

Alan Stanley (Kootenay-Boundary)  
Andrew Doi (Metro Vancouver)  
Sharon Horsburgh (Nanaimo)  
Nicole Kohnert (North Okanagan)  
Don Hamilton (Okanagan-Similkameen)  
Cameron Baughen (Okanagan-Similkameen)  
Shannon Anderson (Peace River)  
Tim Des Champ (Skeena Queen Charlotte)  
Cathy Kenny (Sunshine Coast)  
Greg Tyson (Ministry of the Environment)  
Teresa Conner (Ministry of Environment)

### Regrets:

Joy Mackay (Central Coast)  
Jennifer Brunn (Comox Valley)  
Eric Sharpe (East Kootenay)  
Petra Wildauer (Fraser-Fort George)  
Greg Fletcher (Mount Waddington)  
Jack Bowers (Northern Rockies)  
Frances Ladret (Powell River)  
Jerry Cheshuk (Squamish-Lillooet)  
Peter Hughes (Thompson-Nicola)

### Staff:

Mairi Welman Leah Nielsen

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#### 1. Call Meeting to order

- Nicole Kohnert (Chair) called the meeting to order at 9:31.

#### 2. Adoption of Agenda

081209-1PSC Moved/seconded/approved that the agenda for the BCPSC meeting of December 9, 2008 be adopted as circulated.

#### 3. Adoption of Minutes of September 23, 2008 (attachment #1)

081209-2PSC Moved/seconded/approved that the minutes of the BCPSC meeting on September 23, 2008 be approved as circulated.

#### 4. Correspondence

- There was no reported correspondence

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**5. Information Items**

- a) Media Release “RCBC says public can help take pressure off the system during recycling industry downturn” (attachment #2)
  - RCBC staff reported that this came out of the Recycler’s Task Force meeting held on November 20 which RCBC provided meeting space for.
  - RCBC staff gave a summary of the meeting:
    - o Discussion at the meeting included the commodities market and messaging for the public during the downturn. There was agreement at the meeting that the bulk of the discussion would be kept confidential.
    - o RCBC received a lot of media attention following the meeting and attempted to steer messaging towards the holidays and reducing waste.
    - o There will be a follow-up meeting this Thursday and Metro Vancouver will be co-chairing
    - o Sharon Horsburg will be attending the next meeting on behalf of BCPSC.
    - o Anke Bergner also expressed interest in the meeting. RCBC staff agreed to send the agenda to her.
  - RCBC staff reported that they are receiving inquiries and feedback on the status of the recycling market from multiple regions and countries. The main challenge seems to be how to create a back-up plan when no one is sure of how long the situation will last.
  - There was a discussion about the potential for composting recyclable fibres.
  - The discussion was ended with the suggestion that people contact Laurie Gallant if they would like to discuss the issue further.
- b) Recycler’s Task Force (Mairi)
  - This item was covered in the discussion for 5 a)

**6. New Business**

- a) Pledge Form – update on payment of BCPSC membership fees (RCBC)
  - Nicole Kohnert reported on the summary document emailed earlier by Anna Rochelle. Highlights included how many regional districts have paid BCPSC membership fees and which regional districts haven’t.
  - It was reported that the Northern Rockies regional district has now paid.
  - There was a short discussion about the schedule for payment. It was confirmed that regional districts pay their membership fee annually.
- b) MOE EPR Posters (Teresa)
  - Teresa Conner explained the MoE product stewardship banner that was circulated before the meeting.
  - The MoE would like to create a similar poster and is looking for input for the poster development. The plan is to release the poster by the spring.

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- There was a brief discussion about the 'What's Next?' section of the banner.
- A number of suggestions for the poster were made including:
  - o A description of product stewardship be provided on the poster.
  - o Don't have too much text on the poster.
  - o Use different phrasing to explain "product stewardship" because much of the general public doesn't recognize this phrase.
  - o Don't use "EPR" and "product stewardship" inter-changeably
- BCPSC members were asked to submit any additional comments/feedback to Teresa Conner before the Christmas holiday.

**081209-3PSC Moved/seconded/approved to ask MoE to work with the stewards to do a more broad communication campaign about product stewardship across the province.**

- Raymond Gaudart joined the meeting at 9:57
- c) US EPR Framework Support – Report from Raymond Gaudart (*attachment #3*)
- Raymond Gaudart explained the report to BCPSC members.
- A summary of the main principles in the report was provided.
  - o Four main principles: education about shared responsibility; process for designating new products (e.g. lay out priorities in selection criteria); guiding principle for financing stewardship programs; and, including more stringent environmental safeguards (e.g. consideration of greenhouse gas emissions and the waste reduction hierarchy)

**081209-4PSC Moved/seconded/approved that BCPSC endorse the principles and submit a letter to MoE asking them to review the recycling regulation based on the suggestions made in the document *Comparison of the Framework Principles for Product Stewardship Policy (US) and the BC Principles as laid out in the Industry Product Stewardship Business Plan 2002-2004 and the Recycling Regulation* as discussed at the December 9 BCPSC meeting.**

- d) Verbal Report on the BC Bottle Depot Association Meeting (Nicole).
- There was a discussion about inviting a member of the BC Bottle Depot Association (BCBDA) to sit on the BCPSC.
- There was a suggestion that BCPSC could arrange conference calls/webinars to present information and the BCBDA could present through this medium.
- There was a discussion about ways the BCPSC can interact with stewardship organizations.

**7. Unfinished Business**

- a) *COMPLETE* - funding letter to the Ministry (*attachment #4*)

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- b) Update on BCPSC communication to MOE and regional districts regarding the BCPSC's policy on packaging EPR as indicated in motion 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.
- RCBC staff reported that RCBC's letter has been sent to MoE.
  - It was suggested that that RCBC prepare the letter and send it to Nicole for approval and signing.
  - **Action Item: Nicole Kohnert to circulate her notes from her meeting with Neil Hastie at the Southern Interior Waste Management Association event to BCPSC members.**
  - RCBC staff requested that RCBC be copied on letters sent from individual regional districts regarding packaging EPR. RCBC staff will keep a file for BCPSC.
- c) Update on BCPSC communication to the MOE regarding standardization of waste characterization studies as indicated in motion 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
- It was decided that Mairi will draft a letter for this item and send it to Nicole for approval and signing.
  - Laurie Gallant reported that she will be doing a waste characterization study this summer. There was a suggestion that Laurie develop a proposal to present to MoE. It was agreed that she will create a 2-page document with the plan to present it after the holidays.
  - It was suggested that the letter from BCPSC could accompany this document to MoE.
  - Greg Tyson joined the meeting at 10:23
- d) Submission of comments by BCPSC to MOE on "What EPR for packaging may mean for local governments" as requested by Greg Tyson, MOE, at the Sept. 23, 2008 BCPSC meeting.
- Greg Tyson summarized his request for comments from the BCPSC members.
  - There was a discussion about funding possibilities for a curbside program and the potential for stewardship organizations to run these programs.
  - There was a suggestion that this topic could be discussed at the RCBC conference.
  - There was a brief discussion about how to ensure checks and balances in place if industry runs curbside programs - how would they be monitored/regulated.

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- There was a suggestion that the MoE should conduct a survey among the regional districts to inquire about where they stand with respect to stewardship groups taking over local government-run curbside programs (e.g. send a formal letter requesting feedback)
- There was a suggestion that the scope of such a program be made clear. Also, that a description of what items are considered “packaging” be provided.
- There was a suggestion that more communication between the stewards and local governments would be useful.
- There was a suggestion that special consideration is needed for smaller and more rural regional districts (e.g. issue of access to services)
- There was a discussion about stewardship programs and rural communities.
- There was a suggestion that the MoE work with UBCM and RCBC to develop a session/presentation about packaging stewardship at one of their respective conferences.
- It was decided that the presentation would take place at the RCBC conference since this is after the election.
- Two main issues were identified for discussion: how to unroll a packaging EPR program with local governments, and the issue of collection in rural areas
- There was a suggestion to hear directly from the stewards regarding their plans.
- There was a discussion about the drawbacks to holding off until May. It was decided that work can still be completed in the meantime (e.g. identifying the main issues that need to be addressed)
- There was a request from Greg Belland that information be compiled over the period between now and the RCBC conference. For example, a consensus view on what a packaging EPR program may look like from the perspective of local governments and what they see being defined as “packaging”.
- It was suggested that RCBC should send a survey to the regional districts to collect feedback
  - o It was decided that Sharon Horsburgh, Alan Stanley and Andrew Doi will help Mairi Welman with developing the content
  - o Greg Tyson will also give his input to ensure the questions asked provide the type of information he’s looking for.
  - o The plan is to have the survey completed in January
- e) *IN PROCESS* - Compilation of BCPSC members’ comments and suggestions about EPR programs as indicated in Action Item from Sept 23 08 meeting: 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.
- It was reported that Jordan Best hasn’t received any comments to date.

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- There was a discussion about whether forwarding comments to RCBC staff is necessary, or if regional districts can just send these directly to MoE.
  - It was decided that BCPSC members will continue to send comments to Jordan Best as discussed in the last meeting
  - It was clarified that the comments submitted to RCBC staff are for larger issues, not daily operations. It was clarified why this was suggested in the first place.
  - It was agreed that there will be an agenda item at each BCPSC meeting to collect a summary from the members on how they have communicated with the stewards and MoE and what they have communicated.
  - There was a short discussion on how to add agenda items. Members are to send an email or phone RCBC or Nicole Kohnert to add an item.
  - RCBC staff asked that agenda items be sent to [mairi@rcbc.bc.ca](mailto:mairi@rcbc.bc.ca) until a replacement is found for the current Administrative Assistant.
- f) Update on RCBC's creation of a matrix to track action items and policy positions of the BCPSC. *(Discussion of this item is delayed until the next meeting. Brock MacDonald will report at this time.)*

**8. Other**

**9. Next Meeting - March 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:30**

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:00