



## Newsletter #8 – May 2013

### **Consolidation and Closure of Landfills & the Regional Service Board:**

We are still actively working on closing all smaller landfill sites in the Western region and so far it has been very successful. We are expecting the official environmental closure of 10 sites this spring (government funding has been allocated) and we are in the process of operationally closing five more in the region. This takes much cooperation between this office, the municipalities, consultants and the Department of Municipal Affairs (DMA) as well as Service Newfoundland and Labrador (SNL). We are hopeful that only one interim consolidated landfill site will be active in each sub-region by the end of this year excluding the Burgeo & Area sub-region.

We expect that the formation of the Western Regional Service Board (WRSB) will be complete within two weeks with announcements of the regional service board and chair appointments. At that point we shall move forward with completion of a number of projects that have been left incomplete because the WRWM Committee did not have the authority to proceed since these required the creation of the RSB as an Authority.

**Sub-Regional updates: This section highlights the vastness of this region and the amount of time and work involved in implementing the Solid Waste Management Strategy in Western Newfoundland.**

#### Long Range:

This sub-region is close to consolidation. With much cooperation from the WRWM office, the communities of Rocky Harbour and Norris Point have gone back to tender for a collection system to have their waste brought to the Portland Creek interim landfill. This has now been completed and the bid has been accepted. Service Newfoundland and Labrador (SNL) has been providing one month extensions to the Rocky Harbour site with the intention the site would be closed by April 1, 2013. The last request for an extension has just recently been submitted to SNL to extend this one more time as the contractor will need more time to have the system up and running. We expect this will be granted. The committee and towns involved are also in the process of requesting the landfill, although operationally closed, get an exemption to accept bulk/C&D material several times a year to deter people from indiscriminate dumping. The Long Range committee is also working on getting an excavator to operate at the Portland Creek landfill site. After some delays, this sub-region appears to be moving forward in a positive manner.



## White Bay South:

This sub-region is completely consolidated and is awaiting the environmental closure of the sites in Jackson's Arm and Hampden. We are expecting this to take place shortly. Some discussion is ongoing regarding a consolidated collection service but this has not been made a priority yet. We are pleased with the progress and cooperation in this area and look forward to government assisting with funding to acquire an excavator for the sub-regional waste site in Pollard's Point.

## Western Hills:

This sub-region has a tender ongoing for a consolidated curbside collection contract. Assuming a bid from a prospective contractor is accepted then the landfills in Trout River, Lomond and Howley will be operationally closed upon the start of that collection. We know that there has been some difficulty with receipt of identical bids from two different potential contractors and the Department of Municipal Affairs have recently provided funding to have legal analysis as to the viability of all bids. This sub region has been very active and has required much assistance from this office, which we are happy to provide as the cooperation and forward progress in the sub-region has been substantial in recent weeks. One of the problems experienced has been expressed unwillingness of some towns to accept a bid through RFP that would mean a slight increase in the per-household costs to have waste picked up at the curbside.

## Bay St. George:

This sub-region has been consolidated to the St. Georges landfill for much more than a year and things seem to be running smoothly; the sub-region has a 100% fee collection rate at this point. The sub-region has been acting on a report from Bae NewPlan Group (BNG) on how to reduce their operating costs; they have also received funding approved from DMA to install a surveillance camera to hopefully prevent fires being set illegally onsite. This surveillance/security system will be compatible with the long term plans of the WRWM data management system through Strong Engineering (World Office). The camera has been installed and is working well. Although the WRWM Coordinator has Hazwoper, TDG and WHMIS training, it was also anticipated that BSG employees onsite would also be provided with the training. This training has been completed in cooperation with Central since they are also having all their Transfer Station employees undergo this training. The WRWM office is working with Central and the Town of St. Georges in this effort. As well, the Bay St. George sub-region has recently received a certificate of approval for their sub-regional waste management landfill.



## Corner Brook & Areas:

The final results of the stability study at Wild Cove are not yet available but all preliminary reports are positive. These comments have led to a preliminary conversation on the closure timeframe for the McIver's landfill site which is now scheduled for January 1, 2014. We believe that significant discussion will follow with members from the communities using that landfill site to look at a possible consolidated curbside collection program in that area for the two communities of Cox's Cove and McIvers. There has been some discussion with the City of Corner Brook and their need for alternate daily cover. They are looking at possibly acquiring a tarping system and they are exploring options that may be available through WRWM and the DMA.

## South West Coast:

This sub-region has been running very well for a year now and we are very happy with the cooperation and involvement of the communities in the area. The Town of Channel-Port Aux Basque has been having some problems with the new truck that was provided from DMA last year which has been down for maintenance several times. With some assistance from this office, they have received help from the Town of Stephenville on one occasion, received a backup replacement truck from Central and recently received funding from DMA (\$12,000) to purchase an older used truck in the area for back-up purposes.

## Burgeo and Area:

We are very pleased with the participation in this area and their eagerness to be involved with the Western system. The Department of Municipal Affairs have recently allocated a total of \$124,000 for use in dismantling the Burgeo incinerator and refurbishing the waste site and in instigating a pilot project involving a container waste removal system for Grey River to the town of Burgeo. This project will allow us to gather the types of logistics and cost involved in bringing all these isolated communities into the larger Western system.