

Western Regional Service Board

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information:

Date: Friday, November 25, 2016

Time: 11:05am – 12:32pm

Place: WRWM Office, 14 Main Street

Present were:

Anthony Blanchard	WRSB Member– North/South Bay of Island
Barbara Barter	WRSB, Vice Chair – Burgeo and Area
Bernd Staeben	WRSB Member – Corner Brook & Areas
Bruce Burton	WRSB Member – Southwest Coast
Eli Bishop	WRSB Member – White Bay South
Joseph Reid	WRSB Member - Long Range
Keith Cormier	WRSB Member – Corner Brook & Areas
Leona Gillette	WRSB Member – Humber Valley
Robert Cormier	WRSB Member – Bay St. George
Roger Barrett	WRSB Member – Western Hills
Don Downer	WRSB Chair
Jason King	CAO, WRSB
Angele Yetman	Accounting Clerk, WRSB
Hon. Eddie Joyce	Minister of Municipal Affairs

Missing with Apologies:

Ken Meade	WRSB Member- Bay St. George
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Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by WRSB Chair Don Downer at 11:06am with quorum.

1. Business Arising

Don welcomed Minister Joyce, commented on meeting with the Minister the previous day and how overall the outcome was positive both times they met. Introductions were made around the table and Don spoke briefly on the format of the meeting. Don then gave the Minister an opportunity to address the Board.

The Minister thanked the Board for the opportunity to meet. He spoke on how he wishes to let bygones be bygones and for the past to remain in the past. Start fresh and move forward. Minister Joyce also commented that he had made a commitment to Don during the previous day's exchanges that he offered his full support to get the western region up and running. This statement was met with a round of applause from all in attendance.

Don then presented the WRWM slideshow that had been originally shown in September to invited MHA's for Minister Joyce's benefit.

During the presentation, several questions were brought forth:

Cost Comparison

Minister Joyce questioned the amount quoted on the cost comparison slide pertaining to Capital Recovery, Norris Arm -vs- Birchy Ridge. Stated he believed that the dollar amount originated as revenue from gas tax and therefore was not to be repaid. Roger commented that the amount listed on the slide had not been verified and was an estimate. He felt that any amount stated must be justified and that numbers in cost comparisons are not valid until verified. Minister Joyce then stated he would bring the chart back to gov't and have each line validated and explained, Board members agreed that it was an important consideration.

Western Implementation and Diversion Study slide:

Leona commented that composting is a big business opportunity and that there is a possibility of becoming a source of revenue.

Minister Joyce commented that when Norris Arm waste site was developed and built, the intent was that once Western was up and running, the tonnages and totals would be included at Norris Arm to ensure its success.

Remote Areas

Minister commented that High Intensity Burning has improved significantly with modern technology, and continues to do so. He felt that this may be an option for some of the remote areas. He also mentioned that government will be getting funding from MMSB to spearhead a study for province wide High Intensity Burning and a review of the Waste Management Strategy.

Design/Build/ Update

Minister Joyce commented that he has had several enquiries as to why a transfer station is being constructed at Hampden? He was told that the reason was it is on the highway and on the way to Norris Arm; therefore, ease of access.

Roger asked what the cost would be for manpower involved 24/7 365 days a year as opposed to diesel generation. It was said that that information had already been supplied previously, but, Jason would forward it to Roger. This would be for manpower involved 24/7 365 days a year as opposed to diesel generation. It was said that that information had already been supplied previously, but Jason would forward it to Roger when obtained.

Minister asked that if at some point could St. Anthony (Nor-Pen Region) be amalgamated into Western if it became feasible to do so? Don replied that it has been discussed in the past.

Closing Remarks

Minister commented that a request for \$54,000 from the board to spearhead a study was being reviewed by government now.

Roger commented that as a board we are committed to shipping to Central but what do we need to do to prepare? Need a timeline.

Anthony commented that while Wild Cove was initially a temporary site, why was it deemed a transfer station sight? Minister Joyce said he was unable to comment on that as he was not present at a board meeting during that process. Keith Cormier commented that there is a difference between a full-on dump site and waste transfer station. Don stated that it (Wild Cove) is being used as an interim measure. The final use will be as a Transfer Station plus as a C&D site as it has a natural liner and will be largest in province.

Minister Joyce closed with saying he will bring all questions and comments to government. Bruce added that we are very much behind other provinces and we need to move forward. The Minister then replied we will move forward.

Bernd commented that it was good news hearing that government was so positive; we must make it a priority to work well with government. Robert added we are all working towards a common goal and must be on the same page working together.

Minister Joyce stated he is open to attending meetings whenever needed, and also looking forward to a new working relationship.

Don closed the meeting by commenting on how rocky the relationship was at the start. All differences have been ironed out and now each has to work together towards a common goal and to do so successfully.

Don adjourned the meeting at 12:32pm.