

# Background

- March 2020: Recycling closed due to COVID-19. No parcel tax for 2021 or 2022. ThINC pod (summer student) draft proposal to restart recycling in Fall 2020 was not implemented due to baling and shipping constraints.
- June 26/21: Motion to review Centre waste management (garbage and recycling) was approved. Paul Duncan volunteered.
- Nov. 25/21: Motion to approve hiring staff was defeated.
- Review based on applicable legislation & By-laws, site visits to CVRD Peerless Road, Return-It Ladysmith, & TI Centre, interviews with CVRD staff, Lynne Smith, Wendy Hinsperger, Ernie Hunter, Vicki Walker, & Ron Bannister.
- No recommendation from Executive. “For Your Information”
- 2023 Parcel tax requires budget approval Fall/22 for Summer/23 grant.

# World We Live In

- TIME IS RUNNING OUT. “Climate change is widespread, rapid, and intensifying, and some trends are now irreversible, at least during the present time frame, according to the latest much-anticipated Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report.” IPCC report: ‘Code red’ for human driven global heating, warns UN chief | | UN News. Aug. 9 2021.
- “THE POLLUTER SHOULD PAY” PRINCIPLE. MOVING TO CONSUMERS/PACKAGERS, NOT TAXPAYERS TO PAY FOR RECYCLING. “There is also a move to limit single use plastics and pass the costs of recycling from the taxpayer to the packager.” Canadian Press, “Drive to charge packagers for recycling, but industry fights.” July 31, 2021.
- The Canadian government supports migrating the financing of recycling from the taxpayer to industry. The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) through the Canada -wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility. “Overview of extended producer responsibility in Canada”, Canada.ca.
- TI CENTRE RECYCLING PAID BY PARCEL TAX

# Your Response to this Report

- My hope for tonight is a consensus on which of the 3 Scenarios you want Executive to pursue.
- 2 years without recycling. Time to affirm Executive direction.
- Based on the World We Live In, we must act.

# What happens to Centre garbage & recycling?

- Centre garbage is picked up by GFL, mixed with marina & camp garbage, & delivered to GFL Chemainus. Then trucked to GFL Dunford Hauling Victoria by barge to Washington State by rail to Spokane land fill. **Do you think Centre garbage is contaminated by landfill?**
- Centre recycling is baled & stored in CVRD bin at the Centre. Hauled at no charge to CVRD Bings Creek where bales are opened to inspect for contamination. Recycle BC pays CVRD for clean recycled household packaging. **Centre recycling is probably clean due to volunteer inspection.** Contaminated recycling trucked to Nanaimo Seaspan port, barged to Delta port, trucked to Surrey, railed to Roosevelt landfill Washington.
- 3 major players impact recycling: GFL, CVRD, Recycle BC.

# 3 Major Players

- CVRD insists bulk recycle material must be baled. CVRD provides the bin and free haulage. Centre requires bulk handling equipment and staff to comply.
- GFL will truck unbaled recycle material but trucking charges are high requiring parcel tax.
- Recycle BC pays CVRD for clean recycle packaging (about \$37/household) even though CVRD does not meet Recycle BC contamination standards for garbage & recycling. TI Centre may meet Recycle BC standards but does not comply with Recycle BC curbside blue box program nor Recycle BC depot program because Centre volumes are too low.

# Risk Based Approach

- Risks ranked “High” to “Low” are my opinions
- Financial Risk: Garbage user fees cover costs and are competitive. Recycle parcel tax is comparable to CVRD.
- Operating Risk: Centre controls its long-term future.
- Quality Risk: Garbage and recycling are not contaminated.
- Compliance Risk: TIRRA complies with legislation, by-laws, and policies.
- Community Engagement Risk: Residents engaged to become zero waste community (TI Official Community Plan).

# Financial Risk Findings

- Centre does not compete on facilities, hours of operations, and price. It is a convenience to TI.
- Garbage & recycling is a net cost. i.e. Consumers do not pay the total costs of garbage and recycling. Taxpayers make up the difference.
- Garbage fees do not cover the costs of garbage. The Garbage Fund Savings will be depleted. Increasing user fees must be combined with more garbage to increase revenue.
- Centre may have room to increase the proportion that consumers pay compared to taxpayers:
  - CVRD: 37% User Fees, 49% property tax, Other (primarily transfers from Reserves) 14%
  - TI Centre: 23% User Fees, 77% parcel tax
  - Note: Total tax burden comparisons are a better measure of additional tax room.
- TI residents pay twice: CVRD property taxes for Peerless Road & Bing's Creek and Centre user fees and parcel tax.
- \$91 parcel tax compares favorably to Saltair
- Recycle BC pays no revenue to TI Centre for clean recycling.
- At end of 2021: Garbage Fund Savings: \$762; Recycle Fund Savings: \$42,158; Bridge Fund Savings: \$10,000.
- Opinion: Due to high level of savings, **Financial Risk is Low.**

# Operating Risk Findings

- Centre depends on goodwill of BC Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (MOTI) and Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) to operate.
- MOTI owns the Centre location & charges less than market rent (\$250 for 5 year lease). MOTI controls what can be built on site.
- CVRD owns the recycle bin and provides the bin and haulage for free.
- Centre has not built necessary infrastructure (electricity, water, sewage, and permanent structures) because TIRRA does not control the site.
- TIRRA has limited bargaining power with MOTI or CVRD.
- Lack of volunteers and no succession plan for existing volunteers.
- **Operating Risk: High.** The Centre does not control its future – its site, its expenses, and its knowledge transfer.



# Quality Risk Findings

- CVRD does not measure contamination of garbage from the Centre but contamination is probably less than CVRD due to our volunteer interventions.
- Centre garbage is mixed with TI marina & camp garbage before it leaves TI.
- Centre garbage is mixed with Green for Life (GFL) other garbage at GFL Chemainus sort yard.
- Centre garbage is a small fraction of GFL garbage shipped to Spokane Washington.
- CVRD & Recycle BC appear to target economies of scale from larger communities but suffer lower quality.
- **Quality Risk: Low contamination for the Centre but High when mixed with other garbage. Quality can be improved by on site inspection.**

# Compliance Risk Findings

- TIRRA has legal authority to operate current Centre and to reopen recycling.
- TIRRA does not comply with regulations, by-laws, and policies.
- TIRRA does not comply with Occupation Health & Safety regulations.
- This is due to a lack of volunteers/staff.
- Compliance Risk: **Medium**. Risk can be mitigated by updating Centre operations and policies.

# Community Engagement Risk Findings

- Community Engagement based on Espokes communication and new residents' welcome package.
- Much more can be done by thinking of the Centre as a place to learn more about how to reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- Community partnership with ThINC to research community composting.
- Community Engagement Risk: **High** risk of not achieving OCP.

# Where do we go from here?

- Scenario 1: Restart recycling with less products, a review of hours of operation, and a review of higher garbage fee revenue.
- Scenario 2: Seek long-term solutions with MOTI & CVRD & invest in infrastructure (electricity, water, sewage, and permanent structures).
- Scenario 3: Current situation. Take our recycling to CVRD & Return-It and wind up Centre recycling.

# Roadblocks & Remedies

- Scenario 1: We have tried to recruit skilled volunteers/staff to operate the baler. Ernie Hunter has examined many ways to restart recycling.
- Scenario 2: We collaborate with MOTI, CVRD, and BC Recycling on a volunteer model for recycling for smaller communities. There is no guarantee we will be successful.
- Scenario 3: We research how to wind up recycling.

# Conclusions

- Scenario 1: Requires 4 more volunteers: Recycle Co-Ordinator, Community Engagement/Volunteer Co-Ordinator, Compliance Co-Ordinator, & Treasurer.
- Scenario 2: Requires above 4 volunteers/staff & volunteer/staff to deal with MOTI/CVRD/Recycle BC.
- Scenario 3: Requires 1 volunteer to research how to wind-up recycling.
- Note: Recruitment of staff reduces need for volunteers but increases parcel tax. Budget on \$10,000/year for each volunteer replacement staff (\$25/hr., 4 hrs./shift, 2 shifts/week.), \$28 parcel tax/household (\$10,000/362 land parcels).
- 2023 Parcel Tax budget approval Fall/22 for Summer/23 grant.

# How can you help?

- Will you support becoming a zero waste community by,
- For Scenario 1: Volunteering.
- For Scenario 2: Supporting the parcel tax as part of TIRRA's Fall 2022 Budget Meeting
- For Scenario 3: Continuing to use CVRD & Return-It recycling.

# Your Response to this Report

- Tell us which of the 3 Scenarios you want Executive to pursue.
- You can do this by commenting on this presentation, calling for show of hands support, or making motions for votes.
- Use this AGM as an opportunity to direct TIRRA Executive.



# Questions

- Summary Report to Members at [Thetis Island, BC, Canada - Community Website](#) by May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Paul Duncan: 250-246-6623; [paulduncanvictoria@shaw.ca](mailto:paulduncanvictoria@shaw.ca)