

Questions for North and South Pender Islands Trustee candidates and CRD Director candidates

From: Pender Island Recycling Society (PIRS)

We request that you reply with your answers by e-mail by Tuesday, November 11

1. Do you believe that developing a Solid Waste Management Plan for the Penders is primarily the responsibility of the CRD?

My view is that a plan for Solid Waste Management as with many other policy issues on the Penders requires a coordinated and collaborative approach between the CRD, our local community and the Islands Trust.

2. Would you instead support the creation of a Pender Islands Solid Waste Management Plan (involving recyclables, food scraps, and garbage) that is locally designed and to specifically meet the needs of the Pender Islands?

Yes.

3. Can you provide us with details as to how a Penders-driven Solid Waste Management Plan would be developed, by whom, and how high a priority this project would be on your to-do list, as you start your term in office?

I do not consider myself an expert on Solid Waste Management. However I know there are a number of residents on the island who are experts on Solid Waste Management and I would, if elected, advocate and support the creation of a Task Force to assist us in developing a Solid Waste Management Plan. This Task Force should include local resident representatives and appropriate staff from the CRD and the Islands Trust, among others. Given the Hartland Landfill will no longer accept kitchen scraps as of January 1, 2015 I regard this as a high priority matter for our community. Developing a comprehensive Solid Waste Management plan needs to be a priority as well for our newly elected Trustees and the CRD Director for the Southern Gulf Islands.

4. Can you explain what specific role(s) the CRD Director, CRD staff, North and South Pender Island Trustees, Trust staff, and a new Solid Waste Management Plan planning team would play in developing this islands-tailored plan?

I would like to educate myself further on the topic of Solid Waste Management before making pronouncements on specific roles of staff and elected officials in developing a plan. Clearly though, our elected officials need to provide leadership and to signal to their respective staffs and to the community that this is a priority issue.

5. Do you agree that a Pender-initiated Solid Waste Management Plan should engage the community in an open and transparent process in developing the plan and finding the best location for waste management facilities on the Penders?

Absolutely. I attended the Net Zero Waste presentation at Hope Bay several weeks ago and was encouraged by the high community turnout and impressed by the caliber of questions residents asked during the presentation. It was clear that Penderites want to be, and must be meaningfully engaged in developing a Solid Waste Management plan; not only are there many folks with experience and good ideas on Waste Management and composting, it was also clear that designing the appropriate composting facility is critical to avoid impacts on neighbouring properties.

6. Do you have any ideas how to fund the creation of a locally-initiated Solid Waste Management Plan for the Penders?

Depending upon the cost of developing and operating a Solid Waste Management facility on Pender Island, funding could be required from a number of sources. However, one funding source should be Multi Material BC (MMBC). MMBC uses fees paid by its members - retailers, importers, manufacturers, etc. – to fund recycling programs across many parts of the province. I understand the CRD historically provided funding to operate recycling facilities on the Southern Gulf Islands but that it will not be providing the same level of funding in the future.

7. Do you support the creation of a Penders-driven Solid Waste Management Plan, involving wide community consultation, prior to approving any bylaw applications relevant to waste management currently before or forthcoming to the Islands Trust?

Yes. Absolutely.