

Date: 10/11/2023

Time: 10:00 am

Attendance:

Presenter: Adélaïde Terrien, MARR Program Manager

Local Government Representatives:

Patrick Donaghy, Mount Waddington Regional District (Chair)
 Lucinda Phillips & Calvin Jameson, IZWTAG
 Sarah Scheibelhut, Metro Vancouver
 Andrew Doi, Metro Vancouver
 Darren Murray, Regional District of North Okanagan
 Uli Wolf, Regional District of Central Kootenay
 Janette Derksen, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
 Ba Belton, Regional District of Kootenay Boundary
 Tal Bogdonov, City of Vancouver

MARR Observers:

Michael Zarbl, MARR
 Chris Campbell, MARR
 Liza Bobanova, MARR Program Coordinator

Absence:

Tom Watkins, Capital Regional District
 Meagan Hatch, Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers Canada
 Greg Wilson, Retail Council of Canada

Time	Item
10:06 am	Welcome
10:09 am	Agenda adoption
10:09 am	Update on Collection Network: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of October 11, 2023, MARR has 204 active sites. Since the last LGAC meeting, 3 new sites have joined MARR in the following Regional Districts: Fraser Valley, Kootenay Boundary, Peace River MARR has a presence in 26 out of the 27 Regional Districts. The only one that is not yet part of MARR Network is the Regional District of Northern Rockies, which has expressed interest in joining, but there has been some delays getting the final approval. MARR is also working closely with the Squamish-Lillooet and the Peace River Regional Districts to have their sites become part of the MARR Network.
10:11 am	<p>Crist Campbell talked about the Eunomia Model Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy has hired Eunomia – an Environmental Consultancy Agency, to build an accessibility framework for Stewardship agencies in British Columbia. MARR has hired a GIS company to complete the Eunomia study based on MARR Collection Network. According to the report provided, MARR has achieved most of its provincial-level targets, except for the Less Accessible Areas. This deficiency is primarily caused by Dawson Creek and Chetwynd, both located within the Peace River Regional District. MARR has been working with the Peace River RD for nearly 2 years to get them on board. The Regional District is in a process of changing bylaws to eliminate tipping fees. Meeting the target set by Eunomia doesn't imply that the MARR team will reduce its efforts to further expand its network. <p>Lucinda Phillips commented that IZWTAG is dissatisfied with this study and that they are currently in ongoing conversations with MOE.</p> <p>Andrew Doi mentioned that Eunomia utilized Statcan data in their studies. While it might work with Statcan, it is not specifically designed for logistical needs throughout British Columbia.</p> <p>Michael Zarbl pointed out that Eunomia's studies are time-dependent, making it challenging to measure performance. MARR completed the study to see where it stands. It's reassuring to see that MARR meets the Eunomia Criteria. However, it doesn't show better results than the previous study, where 95% of BC's population have a MARR site within a 20 km range. This new study just confirms that MARR offers solutions across BC.</p>

Time	Item
10:18 am	<p>Patrick Donaghy added that MARR is an outstanding program offering valuable support to rural communities. He also recommended that all stewardship programs should maintain communication with local governments, as they can provide the best insight into what areas are considered remote and what are not.</p> <p>Michael Zarbl suggested that it would be beneficial if people from local governments will contact the Ministry of Environment and share their feedback on the Eunomia study.</p>
10:23 am	<p>Collection Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Units collected in Q1 and Q2 2023: 183,269 representing a 6% increase compared to 2022. <p>Chris Campbell added that retail sales of large appliances are down compared to 2022. The increase in collected units is not due to higher sales of new appliances. This indicates that the public is becoming more aware of the program and its benefits.</p>
10:24 am	<p>Update on Substances of Concern Programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95,258 ODS units serviced (5,500 kg of ODS collected) • 1797 mercury switches recycled (+50% vs 2022) • 28 PCB capacitors collected.
10:27 am	<p>2023 Field Service Visits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MARR Field Service Agent completed 76 Site Assessments in the first three quarters of 2023. <p>Site visits are a crucial component of the MARR program. They are essential for assisting sites facing challenges and ensuring that sites comply with the MARR requirements.</p>
10:29 am	<p>Collection Events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MARR will help any remote communities that need to dispose of Large Appliances. • 11 collection events completed so far in 2023 (vs 6 YE 2022) • Ongoing clean-up events happening in Haida Gwaii, New Aiyansh, and Atlin Lake <p>Michael Zarbl mentioned that Haida Gwaii had accumulated a metal pile from the metal collected over the past 18 years. The metal recycling companies couldn't visit the site because the transportation cost outweighed the benefits. Some other companies also considered it, but the barge dock wasn't deemed safe enough to operate equipment on.</p> <p>About a year and a half ago, Michael organized the transportation of roll-off bins from Prince Rupert to Haida Gwaii. These bins are used to collect and haul MARR units separately, without adding any additional units to the existing metal pile. Michael also coordinated with Kristoff Trucking to clear a "Legacy Pile." MARR contributed \$40,000 towards the transportation costs. Currently, there are four sites on Haida Gwaii that need to be cleaned up. The primary one has been completed, and work is ongoing on the remaining sites.</p> <p>Chris Campbell added that the process in New Aiyansh and Atlin Lake was challenging, particularly due to staff turnover at the metal recycling company. In some instances, senior management had to be involved.</p>
10:34 am	<p>Disaster Management Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Campbell explained that while MARR had always been involved in disaster management to some extent, the recent events had highlighted the need for a better understanding of the emergency management process put in place by the Province. He mentioned the creation of an SABC working group to address this issue. The main focus of their investigation was on guidance for units that might still be operational after a disaster, particularly fridges and freezers. However, they had not yet found a definitive answer, he mentioned that insurance companies advise disposing of these units. • Michael Zarbl addressed the safety issue of using appliances that have been affected by a fire or flood. He acknowledged the challenges, including liability issues, and emphasized the importance of having guidelines in place for regional districts. He suggested that guidelines should also cover the proper disposal of appliances after disasters. • Patrick Donaghy pointed out that most appliances post-disaster are referred to as "duct tape specials." Appliances that can't be salvaged are drained of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and buried in landfills to avoid exposing site operators to biohazard materials. • Janet Derksen added that the real issue is not just the damage of appliances due to fire, but the damage caused by food waste. She suggested to create an information package to the public with guidance on what to do when leaving a home due to an emergency. • Calvin Jameson raised a question regarding the impact of power surges on appliances in rural areas where diesel generators are commonly used. He mentioned that the potential solutions could include surge protectors or appliances with built-in protection.

Time	Item
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Michael Zarbl indicated that this question will be brought up with manufacturers to explore whether there is a technical solution for addressing this problem.
10:50 am	<p>Michael Zarbl updated on Stewardship Plan Renewal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The new MARR Stewardship Plan was sent to the MOE at the end of June 2022 for approval.The approval of the stewardship plan is pending, and there hasn't been any communication from the Ministry of Environment (MOE) regarding the approval.During a previous meeting with the MOE, it was noted that MARR was not a priority for approval, which was seen as both a compliment and a challenge.The new director of EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) at MOE - Tess Rouse.
10:52 am	<p>Calvin Jameson expressed his gratitude on behalf of IZWTAG and First Nation Communities to the MARR team for their continuous dedication and willingness to assist in any way possible.</p>
10:53 am	<p>End of the LGAC meeting. Next meeting will be organized in December 2023.</p>