



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ENV-BRD-057

From: Paulo Eichelberger, GM of Environmental Services

Date: April 29, 2021

Subject: Nor' Pioneer Women's Institute Request to Hold Public Event

RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board respectfully decline the request from the Nor' Pioneer Women's Institute to utilize the Cecil Lake transfer station site to hold a public plant swap event.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

On April 6, 2021, staff received a letter from the Nor' Pioneer Women's Institute (Institute) via the Electoral Area B Director. In summary, the Institute is requesting to use the Cecil Lake transfer station property to host a "Plant Swap" public event for a span of 10 days in May 2021.

History

For context, the Institute attempted to conduct a similar event on the transfer station site in May 2020, shortly after the community halls were closed under the then-current COVID-19 public health order, without prior approval. That event was shut down, and a letter was issued, which outlined the concerns regarding the Public Health Orders¹ and provided the following steps should the group wish to hold the event on PRRD land (excerpt below):

- *Contact the local Area Director and make a request to have an event on PRRD lands/sites*
- *The local Area Director will then take the request from the community member/group to the Committee Level*
- *From the Committee Level, a recommendation will be made and forwarded for Regional Board Approval.*²

April 2021 Request

The Institute took the steps referred to, above, in their latest request. In response, staff contacted the Institute on April 8, 2021, via email to inform them that:

- Their request would be considered at the Solid Waste Committee meeting on May 6th, then at the Regional Board meeting on May 13th;
- Approval would be contingent on the receipt of a COVID-19 safety plan provided to the transfer station contractor and the PRRD in line with current public health orders.

¹ COVID pandemic health orders regarding crowd limits, sanitization and physical distancing are located here (<https://www.northernhealth.ca/health-topics/covid-19-information#testing-and-results#trusted-info#northern-health>) and are in line with the PRRD's COVID safety plan.

² A procedure/policy document is being compiled which includes steps that organizations must follow if they wish to use any PRRD lands for public events in the future.

The Institute was referred to Northern Health for input on their event. To date, staff has received neither a response from the Institute regarding the outcome of those discussions nor a proposed COVID-19 safety plan that addresses the provincial Public Health Orders, limiting outdoor events to 10 people total (see "Other Considerations" for further details).

Due to the lack of response received and the risks of exposure to the COVID-19 pandemic, staff does not recommend the approval of this outdoor public event on PRRD lands.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

No costs are expected as the event will be run by the Institute's personnel.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

The Institute will be contacted regarding the Boards decision.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

Under the current provincial Public Health Orders, outdoor events are limited to:

- Sufficient space to allow for physical distancing of 2 metres;
- Persons maintaining physical distancing of 2 metres;
- Limit of 10 people total attending the event;
- Persons leaving the event must not be replaced by another person.

There is a possibility that the Institute could conduct the plant swap event outdoors at the Cecil Lake Community Hall; however, they would still be subject to the provincial Public Health Orders regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, as shown above.

Attachments:

1. Nor' Pioneer Women's Institute letter request.