



REPORT

To: Solid Waste Committee

Report Number: ENV-SWC-002

From: Paulo Eichelberger, GM of Environmental Services

Date: July 2, 2020

Subject: Solid Waste Agreements

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Solid Waste Committee receive this report titled "Solid Waste Agreements" for information.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The intention of this report is to update the Solid Waste Committee (SWC) on the types of agreements the Solid Waste Department (SWD) manages with its member communities within the region, and the current status of each. Currently, there are nine agreements which fall into one of the three categories listed below:

1. First Nations Communities
2. Municipal Waste Haulage
3. Municipal Solid Waste Management Service

First Nations Communities Agreements

The SWD has an agreement with each of the five First Nations Communities (FNC) located in the PRRD, which include:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| - West Moberly First Nations | - Blueberry River First Nations |
| - Saulteau First Nations | - Doig River First Nations |
| - Halfway River First Nations | |

These agreements share the same framework and outline in that the PRRD will make available waste reduction, and education services, as well as, track waste tonnages coming from the respective FNCs. In return, the FNC agree to coordinate with the PRRD on waste reduction and education services, as well as pay the PRRD an annual fee in lieu of taxes, and any applicable tipping fees at transfer stations or landfills. The current rate for the annual fee is \$50/household within each respective community.

For the FNC that offer a curbside collection program within their communities, the waste collected is taken to the nearest Transfer Station site where the applicable tipping fees are applied to that material and charged to the FNC account. Residents of FNC who wish to self-haul their own waste pay the applicable tipping fees at the time of bringing in waste. Below is a quick summary of where each FNC takes their waste:

West Moberly First Nations

The West Moberly First Nations take household waste to the Moberly Transfer Station; bulky, metal, wood, and appliances are taken to the Chetwynd Landfill.

Saulteau First Nations

The Saulteau First Nations take household waste to the Moberly Transfer Station; bulky, metal, wood, and appliances are taken to the Chetwynd Landfill.

Halfway First Nations

The Halfway River First Nations take household waste to the Upper Halfway Transfer Station; bulky, metal, wood, and appliances are taken to the Wonowon Transfer Station.

Blueberry River First Nations

Blueberry FN have been working with a consultant to develop a Solid Waste system for their community. Currently, they have a small garbage collection truck to drop off waste at the NPRLF¹, as the truck cannot be accommodated at any Tier 1 or 2 transfer station. Bulky waste, appliances, and recycling are hauled to either the Buick Creek or the Rose Prairie transfer station, depending on the waste.

Doig River First Nations

The Doig River First Nations do not have a Tier 1 or 2 transfer station located near them, only an unmanned site. They own a set of PL6 bins that are serviced as part of the PRRD North Peace Hauling Contract. Since this is an unmanned site, no tipping fees are collected.

The agreements used to be renewed annually, however at the request of the FNC, the term was extended to two years in 2018.

Below is a table illustrating the recent history of renewals:

	2009- 2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2020
West Moberly First Nations	Yes		Yes			Yes
Saulteau First Nations	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	
Halfway River First Nations	(2011)	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Blueberry River First Nations	Yes					Yes
Doig River First Nations	Yes	Yes		Yes		

Although there are periods where a FNC did not return a signed copy, fees have always been paid and collected.

Currently all five agreements are expired as of March 31, 2020. Staff is working through an opportunity to combine service agreements from Solid Waste, Emergency Services, and GIS departments for each of the FNCs into a single document. This document will reflect updated rates and household counts for each of the respective FNCs.

¹ North Peace Regional Landfill

Municipal Waste Haulage Agreements

The SWD has agreements with three member municipalities to provide a subsidy for waste hauling. These municipalities are:

- City of Dawson Creek
- District of Taylor
- Village of Pouce Coupe

These agreements were created when the PRRD closed nearby landfills which served these members in order to create an integrated solid waste management system. As the distance to the nearest landfill increased a subsidy was provided by the PRRD to the municipality through these agreements.

Dawson Creek

The City of Dawson Creek (CDC) had a landfill located 4km east of the City's center. The ownership of the landfill was transferred from the municipality to the regional district in 1998 and the site was closed in 2003. Waste from the CDC had to be transferred to the Bessborough Landfill approximately 18.5km northwest of the City's center.

The first haulage agreement began on April 1, 2003, the agreement provided a schedule for reimbursement based on monthly rates for property types as well as monthly rates for special containers in the municipality (based on the municipal hauler).

The agreement was to be reviewed and renewed annually, to date the 2003 agreement is the only one on record.

Pouce Coupe

The Village of Pouce Coupe utilized the Dawson Creek Landfill which was approximately 6.5km north of the Village. When it was closed in 2003, waste was hauled to the Bessborough landfill approximately 29km northwest of the Village.

The Village had a standing agreement with the PRRD that began in 1996 for waste haulage services. It was based on reimbursement for haulage costs for the Village annually. This agreement was originally for a single year with the option to renew for a mutually agreed upon amount of time. There are no records of an official extension, however the service remained. In 2003, with the change to the destination for the waste haulage, the agreement was updated to reflect the added travel based on a rate per km, this rate has not changed since 2005.

The agreement updated in 2003 has not been reviewed or officially renewed, and a signed copy does not exist in our records.

District of Taylor

The District of Taylor had a landfill located 3.5km east of the District's center. The landfill was transferred from the municipality to the regional district in 1998 and closed in 1998. Waste from the District had to be transferred to the North Peace Regional Landfill approximately 21.5km northwest of the District's center.

There is no record of an agreement for a haulage subsidy, however similar to both the City of Dawson Creek and Village of Pouce Coupe the District has received an annual haulage subsidy.

In November of 2017, PRRD staff reached out to all three member municipalities to discuss the possible cessation of the haulage subsidy for the upcoming year. At the time, Pouce Coupe was in favor of the cessation of the agreement, while both Dawson Creek and Taylor expressed concerns with the cessation. Both the City of Dawson Creek and the District of Taylor felt the original intention of the contract was to be perpetual, with the District of Taylor requesting a contract be ratified accordingly.

Municipal Solid Waste Management Service Agreement

The SWD has an agreement with the District of Tumbler Ridge (DTR) for staffing and maintenance services of the Tumbler Ridge Transfer Station.

In 1998 a portion of land (4.82ha) was purchased by the PRRD for \$1.00 which the current transfer station sits on. In 2009 the majority of the land (4.232ha) was sold back to the District of Tumbler Ridge for \$1.00 which excluded a small portion of land (0.588ha) that the attendant building and Transtor bins sit on.

Based on a Board resolution from January 8, 1998 an agreement for staffing services was entered into in April of 2003. The purpose of the agreement was to provide a subsidy that would allow the DTR to recover costs for manning and maintaining the site and included a 15% markup. The agreement contained a Schedule outlining the work specifications. This agreement had a term of five years, which expired in 2008. No renewal has been signed, but the services have continued.

Recently, staff have noticed discrepancies in the invoicing methodology. It is apparent that the original intent of the agreement has been lost and has changed over time. Staff have begun discussions with the District to update the agreement to allow for clear measurable deliverables for both parties moving forward.

Opportunities exist for all nine agreements to be updated. Staff has begun working through the process and continues to work together with the PRRDs member communities to achieve updated agreements by 2021.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Solid Waste Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

The tables below summarize the associated fees/charges for each of the agreements:

First Nations Communities Agreements

	Household Count	Rate/Household	Annual Fee
West Moberly First Nations	63	\$50.00	\$3,150.00
Saulteau First Nations	135		\$6,750.00
Halfway River First Nations	70		\$3,500.00
Blueberry River First Nations	68		\$3,400.00
Doig River First Nations	82		\$4,100.00
Total:			\$20,900.00

Municipal Waste Haulage Agreements

Municipality	2019 Subsidy
City of Dawson Creek	\$23,213.00
Village of Pouce Coupe	\$1,185.00
District of Taylor	\$12,480.00
Total:	\$36,878.00

Municipal Solid Waste Management Service Agreement

Municipality	2019 Cost
District of Tumbler Ridge	\$178,270.56

- Note: The fourth quarter invoice of 2019 was submitted late in January of 2020. It was also found that a charge of \$12,000.00 was mischarged to the PRRD making the actual 2019 cost for the Tumbler Ridge Transfer Station \$166,270.56.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

N/A

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

N/A