



# REPORT

To: Solid Waste Committee

Report Number: ENV-SWC-013

From: Paulo Eichelberger, GM of Environmental Services

Date: August 25, 2020

**Subject: City of Dawson Creek Request – Vermicomposting Pilot Support**

---

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Solid Waste Committee receive the report “City of Dawson Creek Request – Vermicomposting Pilot Support ENV-SWC-013” for discussion.

## **BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

Staff received a letter from the City of Dawson Creek (City) with a request that City and Peace River Regional District (PRRD) staff work together to move approximately 400m<sup>3</sup> of yard waste from the City’s composting pad to the Bessborough Landfill (BBLF). The material would be used to support a second vermicomposting pilot that the PRRD is planning to conduct.

Staff has begun investigating options for organics diversion within the region. The vermicomposting pilot at the North Peace Regional Landfill (NPRLF) was created as a response to a request from the 2020 Winter Games Committee, and utilized the established compost pad at NPRLF as a testbed. The pilot is testing the vermicomposting process with a set tonnage of organics, and is a positive first step in providing options for diversion in the region.

Recognizing that the ability for processing organics will likely result in sites in the north and south portions of the PRRD, staff is considering a second vermicomposting pilot at the Bessborough Landfill. The intent of the pilot is to replicate an organics diversion program, with feedstock continuing to arrive to the site over a two-year period.

In an effort to understand potential feedstock for the second pilot, staff has been discussing potential tonnages and volumes with City staff around their yard waste collection program, which initiated the request letter from the City.

While the City’s request to move 400m<sup>3</sup> is somewhat timely, the pilot is still in the early stages of planning. It was hoped that the pilot could be implemented in spring of 2021, but additional works need to be done at BBLF as there is currently no dedicated area for organics onsite. A location for the pilot has been identified but requires some civil works such as grading, leachate sump, pad build, and a water source.

For the material to be received at the site, a temporary pit would need to be created to manage any leachate generation until the material could be moved to a new pilot pad.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

1. That the Solid Waste Committee defer the report titled “City of Dawson Creek Request – Vermicomposting Pilot Support ENV-SWC-013” to the October 1, 2020 meeting when more financial information is available for consideration.
2. That the Solid Waste Committee provide further direction.

**STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

- ☒ Partnerships
- ☒ Responsive Service Delivery

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

The cost of the second pilot is unknown at this time. Staff are working towards a report for the October 1, 2020 SWC Meeting to outline the potential cost implications of the project.

If a temporary pit was to be established to hold the materials until such a time the pad could be built for the pilot, the estimated cost is \$1,000.

**COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

The City will have to be contacted regarding the SWC’s and ultimately Regional Board’s decision to accept or reject the request for the material.

**OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

While the City’s material may be accepted, if work to prepare a pad area with leachate containment is unable to be completed or the pilot does not happen in 2021, it is likely that the material will have to be buried off in the active face of the landfill.

**Attachments:**

1. June 29, 2020 Letter from the City of Dawson Creek