



REPORT

To: Solid Waste Committee

Report Number: ENV-SWC-012

From: Paulo Eichelberger, General Manager of Environmental Services

Date: August 25, 2020

Subject: **Spring Clean Up 2020 Review**

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Solid Waste Committee receive the report "Spring Clean Up 2020 Review – ENV-SWC-012" for information.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The purpose of this report is to:

- a. compare customer and tonnage statistics for the pilot program; and
- b. summarize the successes and opportunities of Spring Clean Up 2020 compared the Spring Clean Up 2019 campaign.

Customer Counts Comparison

There was a 50% overall increase of customers at the manned Transfer Stations (TS) and the Landfills (LF) during the 2020 campaign, compared to the 2019 campaign, as shown in chart 1a of Appendix 1. A quick overview of the chart is provided below:

- a. Landfills saw a total increase of 51% in customers, the highest being Chetwynd (89%).
- b. Tier 1 TS saw a total increase of 34% in customers, with the highest being Rose Prairie (134%) and the lowest being Kelly Lake (10%).
- c. Tier 2 TS saw a total increase of 173% in customers.
 - i. The highest being Goodlow (513%) and lowest being Pink Mountain (6%).
 - ii. Rolla saw 253 customers in the two period, which was the highest of all the Tier 2 TS and second highest of all Tier 1 and 2 TS.
 - iii. The high increase of customers was a result of situating the bulky bins within the transfer station site, which is discussed below in "Successes."

Tonnage Comparison

There was a 77% overall tonnage increase during the Spring Clean Up 2020 compared to 2019, as shown in chart 2a in Appendix 1. A quick overview of the chart is provided below:

- a. Landfills saw a total increase of 117% in tonnage, the highest being Chetwynd (137%).
- b. Tier 1 TS saw a total increase of 53% in tonnage, the highest being Kelly Lake (260%).
- c. Tier 2 TS saw a total increase of 14% in tonnage, the highest being Rolla (405) and Buick Creek saw the largest decrease (-68%).
 - i. This is quite different compared to the 2019 Spring Clean-Up where there was a decrease of waste brought into the site. This could be explained from increase hours, which is discussed below in "Successes."

- d. Bulky Bins at Tier 2 sites saw 8% less in tonnage, overall (with the exception of Upper Halfway which had an increase (97%)).
- e. Bulky Bins at unmanned Transfer Stations received 3% more in tonnage.

Successes

1. One of the operational challenges experienced during the 2019 Spring/Fall Clean Ups was that Tier 2 Bulky Bins were located outside the Transfer Station site. The result was overfilled bins and disposal of material not accepted at PRRD Landfills. To address this challenge in the 2020 campaign, bins were placed within the Tier 2 compounds with tipping fees still waived. Performing this action reduced the amount of unaccepted material deposited in the bins but resulted in bin tonnages remaining similar to the 2019 campaign. Due to this success, it is recommended that this change be made a standard operating practice for future Spring/Fall Clean Up Campaigns.
2. For the 2020, Rural Transfer Stations operating hours were extended to be open 7 days a week (46 hours/week¹). The extended hours during the Clean Up weeks proved to be very successful, which was evident in an increase of customers to Tier 1 Transfer Stations (34%) and Tier 2 Transfer Stations (173%). The additional days and hours were utilized at all transfer stations except Pink Mountain and Prespatou². Due to this success, it is recommended that this change be made a standard operating practice for future Spring/Fall Clean Up Campaigns.

Opportunities

1. Historically, Spring Clean Up has operated the week before and the week after the May long weekend. After the 2019 Spring Clean Up, it was decided to push the Spring Clean Up back to the first two weeks of June 2020. As a result of this change, the PRRD received a number of customer complaints, despite the fact that the campaign was heavily advertised in advance. These complaints were likely driven from people who were home for an extended period of time due to the COVID-19 Pandemic³.
2. Leading up to the Spring Clean Up weeks staff received four inquiries regarding bring in demolition of a private resident or cleaning up acreages. In all of these inquiries they resident was hiring a third party contractor to haul the waste. This waste was eligible for the program as the residents were not the hauling the waste themselves. Staff will continue to monitor requests like this for the fall event.

Overall, the pilot program of waiving tipping fees during the Spring Clean Up 2020 was successful. Through the implementation of waived tipping fees during the Spring/Fall campaigns to date, instances of illegal dumping has reduced as customers have used the opportunity to dispose of materials at PRRD SW facilities for free. This provides increased opportunities to educate customers on proper segregation and diversion of waste material as well as location of their nearest available solid waste site. Additionally, based on customer comments, the campaign has been well received.

¹ They are regularly open for 4 days or 26 hours a week, except Moberly Lake which is open 5 days or 26 hours a week.

² Prespatou residents utilized the additional week days (Monday and Thursday) but not Sunday.

³ Since many people were sitting idle at home during the early weeks of the pandemic, they began cleaning their properties much earlier and arriving in larger numbers at solid waste sites not only in the PRRD but throughout the Province.

There remains an ongoing operational opportunity with the bulky bins at the unmanned TS. Waste that is not accepted or waste that should be separated and diverted are dropped off within those bins. However, many of the other operational opportunities were mitigated with the improvements made from 2019. There will be continual opportunities for education of accepted materials and proper disposal. The pilot encountered some challenges, but from those come opportunities to improve moving into future Spring and Fall Clean-Up.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Solid Waste Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Responsive Service Delivery

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Spring Clean 2020 Financial Implications:

A summary of the actual Spring Clean Up 2020 costs is shown below:

Operational Cost Items	Spring 2020	Spring 2019
Haulage Costs for Unmanned Bins	\$54,923.50	\$50,808.10
Haulage Costs for Bulky Bins at Rural Transfer Stations	\$36,668.29	29,373.52
Additional Equipment Costs at Landfills	\$11,638.00	12,609.00
Sub-total	\$103,229.79	\$92,790.62
Additions to the Spring 2020 Clean Up		
Additional Staff Costs at Manned Transfer Stations	\$35,704.90	N/A
Additional Staff At Landfills (Sundays at Bessborough Landfill)	\$8,384.62	
Advertising Costs	\$1,160.00	
Sub-total	\$45,249.52	\$0.00
Total	\$ 148,115.55	\$92,790.62

As shown above, there was an increase in operating costs of \$55,324.93 to the Spring Campaign pilot in 2020.

The “Additions to the Spring 2020 Clean Up” details the changes made to the program including the extended hours of operation for the Bessborough Landfill and the Rural Transfer Stations to 7 days/week as well as expanding advertising of the Clean Up on the radio. The total cost for this improved level of service was \$45,249.52 and has been accounted for in the 2020 Spring/Fall Clean Up budget.

The budget for Spring/Fall Clean-Up in 2020 is \$266,000.00. Fall Clean Up costs have always been historically less than spring, which indicates the Clean Up budget is on track.

Potential Lost Revenue Cost Items	Spring 2020	Spring 2019
Waiving of Tipping Fees	\$163,986.87	\$89,497.74

It is important to note, that during the Clean Up events, the lost tipping fees reflect potential revenue only, as these clean up events encourage customers to use the site when they would previously find other avenues for disposal.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

The Spring Clean Up 2020 was advertised via posters at PRRD Solid Waste Facilities, social media and website posts, and radio ads. The same method will be utilized for the fall 2020 program.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None.

Attachments:

1. Appendix 1: Clean-Up Data Charts