



REPORT

To: Solid Waste Committee

Report Number: ENV-SWC-010

From: Paulo Eichelberger, GM of Environmental Services

Date: August 25, 2020

Subject: Solid Waste Management Plan Survey and Update

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Solid Waste Committee approve the updated Regional Solid Waste Management Plan timeline, and authorize two Special Solid Waste Committee Meetings, on October 1 and October 16, 2020, to review the updated strategies for the Plan; further, that an invitation be extended to all Board Members to attend the Special Meetings.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (the “Plan”) has been undergoing review and amendment as part of the PRRD Strategic Plan. Through several meetings in 2020, the Public Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC)¹ and the Committee of the Whole has reviewed multiple strategies to be incorporated in the new Plan. During the summary review of these strategies and the draft Plan on August 13, 2020, concerns were expressed that Directors felt they had not been able to provide significant input to the plan to date. To that end, a survey previously issued to the Regional Board for input on 26 proposed strategies was extended until August 24, 2020 to allow Board Members the opportunity to review and provide comment.

The results of the survey are attached as Appendix 1. In general, Board Members were in favour of the strategies presented. 67% of the votes supported the strategies as written, 15% of the votes supported the strategies but with changed priorities, while the remaining 16%² of the votes did not support some strategies.

Some Board Members comments that were noted during the last presentation are listed below:

1. The structure of the updated Plan with respect to the strategies was too prescriptive. There was a need to make the strategies more high level.
2. A higher-level outlook on strategies needs to allow consideration of specific options to execute each strategy.
3. The draft Plan was perceived as PTAC driven, with very little input from Board Members.
4. There was preference for combining strategies into smaller groups, based on key themes.

¹ PTAC is a required stakeholder group consisting of members at large, waste haulers, agricultural and industry members, First Nations, municipal staff, private/non-profit groups. The purpose of PTAC is to provide input, feedback on the Plan review, and to provide input and recommendations to the Peace River Regional District on proposed programs and policies that would make up the updated Regional Solid Waste Management Plan.

² There was 2% of the votes unregistered as the survey was left blank in some responses.

The Regional Board's updated Plan needs to be robust and relevant for the next 10 years, with flexibility to adjust direction in Solid Waste initiatives as things change over that time. To give the Board Members adequate time to review and approve revised draft strategies, the following is proposed:

1. Strategies will still be based on those already presented to PTAC and CoW but will be revised and placed in high level groups based on common themes. Structure will follow these high-level strategies.
2. SWC to review the revised, newly consolidated strategies (based on survey comments) in two parts, to be conducted at two special SWC meetings in October 2020 (October 1st and October 16th).
3. SWC recommendations from these two meetings will be combined to revise the draft SW Plan for review in November 2020.
4. Pending approval of the revised plan, the draft consultation plan will also be reviewed.
5. Recommendations for both the revised plan and the draft consultation plan will be forwarded to the Regional Board for approval in November 2020.

The proposed process should ensure that the SWC and the Regional Board become comfortable with the revised Plan to allow the process to proceed.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Solid Waste Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Responsive Service Delivery
- ☒ Review and Amend Solid Waste Management Plan

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

The RSWMP guides how taxpayer money is spent to achieve a reduction in waste disposal, operate the PRRD solid waste sites as per MOECCS regulations, and extend the life of the existing landfills. Costs to operate the Solid Waste Function are:

- \$11-\$14 million in operations; and
- \$3-\$6 million in capital.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

Final review of the preferred options of the RSWMP will be reviewed by PTAC for any final input prior to public consultation. From there, the draft public consultation plan will be reviewed for approval. Once approved, consultation is expected to take place over the winter months into 2021.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

The Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy (MOECCS) requires key sections within a Solid Waste Management Plan, reflected in the 5R's to be considered for approval as shown below:



Once approved, MOECCS also requires annual reporting as to the status of the Plan. These annual reports will be reviewed by the SWC and Regional Board prior to submission to MOECCS.

Attachments:

1. Draft Report Survey Results