



# REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ENV-BRD-015

From: Gerritt Lacey, Solid Waste Manager

Date: September 3, 2020

**Subject: September 3, 2020 Solid Waste Committee Recommendations**

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The following recommendations from the September 3, 2020 Solid Waste Committee Meeting are being presented to the Regional Board for its consideration:

**RECOMMENDATION #1: *[Corporate Unweighted]***

That the Regional Board approve the updated Regional Solid Waste Management Plan timeline, and authorize two Special Committee of the Whole meetings, on October 1 and October 16, 2020, to review the updated strategies for the Plan; further, that a Solid Waste Management Plan, prepared by another regional district using broad, non-specific strategies be provided for information.

**RECOMMENDATION #2: *[Corporate Unweighted]***

That the Regional Board approve the preparation of an information report for the next Solid Waste Committee meeting, outlining potential cost implications to the 2021 budget for implementation of a vermicomposting pilot project, in partnership with the City of Dawson Creek's composting program, including infrastructure development of a pad area with leachate containment at the Bessborough Landfill.

**RECOMMENDATION #3: *[Corporate Unweighted]***

That the Regional Board provide support for the Provincial Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) program in Northeast BC by allowing access to wildlife carcasses brought into the Bessborough, Chetwynd and North Peace Regional Landfills from August 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021.

**RECOMMENDATION #4: *[Corporate Weighted]***

That the Regional Board waive tipping fees for the disposal of sample materials associated with the Provincial Chronic Wasting Disease program between August 1, 2020 and April 30, 2021.

**RECOMMENDATION #5 *[Corporate Unweighted]***

That the Regional Board approve the development of a marketing campaign to increase awareness and importance of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD); further that collaboration with First Nations, area Road Contractors, Guides and Outfitters, and other related agencies be undertaken to increase understanding of the significance of CWD in the region.

**BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

The draft minutes of the September 3, 2020 Solid Waste Committee meeting are on the Consent Calendar.

**Recommendation #1:**

At the September 3, 2020 Solid Waste Committee Meeting (SWC), a timeline for a revised draft of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (the Plan) was presented. The new timeline allows staff to work with the consultant to incorporate comments the Regional Board had around the draft Plan, which was presented to the Regional Board on August 13, 2020.

The revised draft Plan will be condensed from the current 26 strategies, down to approximately 15 strategies. The reduction in overall strategies will allow greater flexibility in the future as technologies and markets change. The newly condensed strategies will contain the same content as the original draft Plan, but where some strategies were once individual standalone strategies, they will become the support and structure under the new broader strategy title as details of what is considered under the strategy.

The revised Draft will then be reviewed by the Committee of the Whole (CoW) in two halves at two special meetings, held October 1, 2020 and October 16, 2020, with the consultant, Morrison Hershfield, to present the new draft Plan and answer questions at both meetings. After the second meeting, the revised draft Plan will be presented to PTAC for their consideration. The revised draft will then be presented to COW, during the November meeting, in its entirety for final approval. Once the revised draft Plan has been approved by the Regional Board, the Plan will be ready for the public consultation phase.

**Recommendation #2:**

Staff is looking to implement a second vermicomposting pilot at the Bessborough Landfill (BBLF) in 2021. The pilot is intended to replicate an organics diversion program within the region.

An opportunity to partner with the City of Dawson Creek and their current yard waste program presented an initial feedstock for the pilot. Additionally, the pilot would look to restaurants as additional sources of feedstock.

At this time, the BBLF does not have a dedicated area for composting. A report will be provided to look at the total cost of the pilot, and implications to the 2021 budget year. The report will summarize the estimated costs of infrastructure, machinery, and staffing costs. With the addition of estimated tonnages and waiving of tipping fees.

**Recommendations #3, 4, 5:**

Staff was approached by the Regional Chronic Wasting Disease Coordinator in an effort to help increase their sample size and waive tipping fees for collected materials at landfills.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal nervous system disease known to naturally infect ungulates such as deer, moose, and elk. Currently, the CWD coordinator uses roadkill carcasses to populate the

majority of their samples but the current road contractor has been taking the carcasses to landfill, where the CWD Coordinator is unable to collect the needed sample material.

During the September 3, 2020 SWC Meeting, the importance of providing support for the program was discussed. The opportunity to collaborate with member First Nations, road contractors, guides and outfitters and other agencies to increase awareness and understanding of CWD in the region was expressed as a priority.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

**STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

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

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**Recommendation #1:

The revised draft will result in an additional four meetings that the consultant did not include in their original proposal. Additional meetings for the consultant to attend cost \$2,500 each. Additionally, the revisions to the draft Plan will add extra consultant time, which is estimated at between \$3,500 and \$6,000 depending on depth of the consolidation.

During the 2020 budget process, \$100,000 dollars was allotted for the RSWMP renewal. The additional \$16,000 was not allocated as part of that budget number. The extra \$16,000 can be absorbed in the overall envelope for consulting services, which was budgeted at \$150,000.

Recommendation #3, 4, 5:

Tipping fees for carcasses brought to the landfill are paid when the carcass is initially dropped off by whomever brought it, at a rate of \$55/tonne. By allowing the CWD Coordinator to take the material from the site to test it, then return it to be disposed of, the tipping fee for that material will have already been collected when it first crossed the scale; therefore no tipping fee revenues are lost through the process.

For materials found and brought to the site by the Coordinator on their own, the waiving of tipping fees would be potential lost revenue. Last year the CWD Coordinator was able to collect 150 samples, which translate to approximately \$250 in tipping fees<sup>1</sup>.

**COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

None at this time.

**OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

None at this time.

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<sup>1</sup> Estimate uses 30kg per head as weight