PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

REPORT

To: Solid Waste Committee Report Number: ENV-SWC-153

From: Gerritt Lacey, Solid Waste Manager Date: April 5, 2024

Subject: Kelly Lake Transfer Station Break-in Events and Generator Replacement

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Solid Waste Committee receive the report titled "Kelly Lake Transfer Station Break-in Events and Generator Replacement ENV-SWC-153" that updates committee members on break-in events that have occurred at the Kelly Lake Transfer Station from fall 2022 to March 2024 for information.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

This report has been brought forward to update the Solid Waste Committee members on the recent break-in events that have taken place at the Kelly Lake Transfer Station. The first break-in event was discovered in 2022 following the evacuation of the Kelly Lake area due to the Bearhole Lake wildfire. Since then, seven additional break-in events have taken place. A list of dates has been provided below in Table 1.

Table 1: Kelly Lake Transfer Station Break-in Events

Date	Damages	Theft
October 6, 2022	Walked in, cut wildlife fencing, fuel lines cut	Diesel taken ~20L
November 26, 2022	Road gate lock cut	None
February 25, 2023	Walked in, cut wildlife fencing, fuel lines cut	Diesel taken ~20L
December 15, 2023	Walked in, squeezed through gate, siphoned fuel from tank	Diesel taken ~20 - 50L
January 10, 2024	Entered from rear of site by lagoons, squeezed through gate, attempted to siphon fuel from tank but hose was not long enough.	None
January 27, 2024	Drove in to site, road gate lock cut, entrance gate lock cut, siphoned fuel from tank	Diesel taken ~20 - 50L
February 6, 2024	Used ATV to drive around gate, cut wildlife fencing, siphoned fuel from tank	Diesel taken ~20 - 50L
February 16, 2024	Used truck to force road gate open, cut lock on entrance gate, drove into the site, siphoned fuel from tank, spilt approximately 20 - 50L on ground requiring vac truck to clean the area	Diesel taken ~50 - 100L

The Kelly Lake Transfer Station is powered by an onsite diesel generator as there is no Hydro connection available near the site. During all the break-in events, the target has been diesel fuel which is stored in

an above ground tank. To date, the quantity of diesel taken during each event is estimated to be between 20 and 100L.

Police Reports have been initiated for each of the events, and staff have corresponded with local RCMP regarding the string of break-ins seen in 2024. Removing the attractant of the diesel fuel is suggested to be the best option to try curb the break-ins. The generator that currently powers the site is approaching its end of service life. As such, replacement options such as replacing the diesel generator with a propane unit, are being investigated.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Solid Waste Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

☒ Asset and Infrastructure Management

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

To date, the 8 break-in events have cost the PRRD approximately $15,000. This includes 1-2 days of staff time at each event for repairs or upgrades to the site, repair materials, and a vac truck to remove and dispose of the diesel that was spilt on the ground during the February 16 event.

The existing diesel generator is 12 years old and has approximately 17,600 hours on the unit. These generators are anticipated to be replaced after 20,000 hours; therefore, staff have started planning for the replacement to take place in 2025. The estimated cost to replace the diesel generator with a propane unit is approximately $100,000. The initial purchase price of each unit (diesel versus propane) is comparable.

Should the break-in events pick up again as seen in January and February of this year, there could be a potential to move the replacement up to this year, pending Capital budget availability. Should the need to replace the unit in 2024 arise, a business case and report will be brought forward to a future Solid Waste Committee Meeting for consideration.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.