



REPORT

To: Solid Waste Committee

Report Number: ENV-SWC-182

From: Environmental Services

Date: April 11, 2025

Subject: PRRD Solid Waste Collection System Network Study

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Solid Waste Committee recommend that the Regional Board no longer pursue purchasing land or building attended transfer stations until a study can be completed to evaluate the existing solid waste collection system network and options for implementation are provided to move forward.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

On December 9, 2022 the Regional Board passed the following resolutions:

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED,

That the Regional Board receive the report titled “2023 Supplemental Request – Land Purchases Hasler Flats and Beatton River, ENV-SWC-123” and approve the business case as presented for land purchases at Hasler Flats and Beatton River for future attended transfer station sites; further, that \$200,000 be allocated for the project of the 2023 Solid Waste Budget.

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED,

That the Regional Board receive the report titled “2023 Supplemental Request – Transfer Station Design Groundbirch, Lebell, Lone Prairie, ENV-SWC-124” and approve the business case as presented for Engineering Services for Manned Transfer Station Builds – Groundbirch, Lebel, Lone Prairie; further, \$100,000 be allocated for the project as part of the 2023 Solid Waste Budget with additional funding to come forward as part of the 2024 budget process for construction of the facilities.

On May 4, 2023, the Regional Board passed the following resolution:

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED,

That the Regional Board award Request for Proposal 26-2023 titled “Attended Transfer Station Development Groundbirch, Lebell, Lone Prairie” to Morrison Hershfield Limited at a cost of \$286,238.75 (excluding taxes) for a two year contract; further, that the Chair and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the Peace River Regional District.

On July 20, 2023, the Regional Board passed the following resolution:

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED,

That the Regional Board authorize staff to investigate the option to purchase a 1-1.5 acre portion of land on the property identified as PID 006-154-620 for the future attended Lone Prairie Transfer Station as an alternative to a 25-year lease.

On November 21, 2024 the Regional Board passed the following resolution:

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED,

That the Regional Board provide capital budget pre-approval for the 2025 supplemental request/business cases:

- 1. Construction of Attended Tier 1 Transfer Stations – Groundbirch and Lebell \$4,000,000*
 - 2. Tumbler Ridge and Hudson’s Hope Transtor Replacement \$1,125,000*
- and authorize the inclusion of the expenses in Function 500 – Regional Solid Waste Management 2025-2029 PRRD Financial Plan.*

During the Special Board Meeting held February 26, 2025 the Regional Board passed an alternate recommendation which removed the construction of the Groundbirch and Lebell attended transfer station builds from Function 500 as part of the 2025 budget. This is the third instance since 2021 that the project has been deferred for design or construction. In 2021 the design of the project was removed through the 2021 budget process and in 2024, the construction of the Lebell attended transfer station was deferred to 2025.

On July 20, 2023, the Regional Board passed the following resolution:

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED,

That the Regional Board authorize staff to research and report back on different models of solid waste programs that are in place in other local governments and report back in 2024.

On February 25, 2025, staff was able to visit two attended and one unattended transfer stations in Saddle Hills County. The attended sites visited closely mirrored the PRRD’s tier one sites, offering collection of household bagged waste, separated wood, metal, and stewardship items such as used oil, agricultural plastics, tires, paint, and electronics. A share shed was present on site as well as 24-hour access bins for household bagged waste and commingled recycling. One station was open 40 hours per week, while the other was open 16 hours per week. The unattended site visited mirrored the PRRD’s system with 6-yard bins available for residents to dispose of household waste, however, they also had commingled recycling available.

As an alternative to proceeding with construction of new attended transfer stations, staff proposes working with a consultant to complete a network assessment for the existing collection network in 2026. The assessment will evaluate the level of service currently provided, identify gaps, and provide options for implementation. The study will also look at other models used in other local governments when preparing options for consideration.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Solid Waste Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- Asset and Infrastructure Management

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Through the 2025 budget process, \$200,000 was allocated as a carry forward project for the purchase of land in the Hasler Flats and Beatton River for future attended transfer station sites.

Although not included in the 2025 Function 500 Regional Solid Waste budget, the construction of Groundbirch and Lebell was estimated to cost \$4,000,000:

- Engineering \$400,000.
- Groundbirch Construction \$1,900,000.
- Lebell Construction \$1,700,000.

A supplemental request will be presented to the Solid Waste Committee for the 2026 Function 500 Budget for the PRRD Solid Waste Collection Network Assessment.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.