



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ENV-BRD-020

From: Paulo Eichelberger, General Manager of Environmental Services Date: November 17, 2020

Subject: November 5, 2020 Solid Waste Committee recommendations

The following recommendations from the November 5, 2020 Solid Waste Committee meeting are presented to the Regional Board for its consideration:

RECOMMENDATION #1: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board approve the 2021 Solid Waste Committee meeting schedule as presented, specifying one meeting per month on the first Thursday of the month, except July and August, which are omitted, and October, November, and December, which will be held the first Friday of each month to avoid conflict with Board meeting dates.

RECOMMENDATION #2: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board approve a change to the Solid Waste Committee Terms of Reference by replacing “the Committee shall meet on a monthly basis, on the first Thursday of every month” to “the Committee shall meet on a monthly basis, as included in the annual adoption of a Board meeting schedule; and further, that the ability to reschedule meetings or call special meetings of the Committee when required, be added to the Terms of Reference as an authority of the Committee that does not require Board approval.

RECOMMENDATION #3: [Corporate Weighted]

That the Regional Board authorize a partnership with CleanFarms to fund an Agricultural Plastics Waste Characterization Study currently underway, at a cost of up to \$5,000, to be paid from Solid Waste Operations.

RECOMMENDATION #4: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board defer consideration of a partnership with CleanFarms to develop and deliver a pilot agricultural plastics program, with each party paying 50% of the costs, to 2021 budget meetings.

RECOMMENDATION #5: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board authorize submission of applicable comments regarding the “Provincial Recycling Regulation – Policy Intentions Paper” to the Province, to reinforce to the Province how recycling works in the Peace River Regional District, and includes the comment that “population control criteria has to be re-evaluated to assist remote communities with under 5,000 residents” be included in the submission.

RECOMMENDATION #6: [Corporate Weighted]

That the Regional Board approve the establishment of a three year vermicomposting pilot beginning in 2021 at the Bessborough Landfill.

RECOMMENDATION #7: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board submit an application for funding under the CleanBC Organic Infrastructure and Collection Program (OICP), for development of organic waste infrastructure and collection at the Bessborough Landfill, to divert organic wastes from the landfill.

RECOMMENDATION #8: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board submit an application for funding under the CleanBC Organic Infrastructure and Collection Program (OICP), for development of organic waste infrastructure and collection at the Charlie Lake Trucked Wastewater Site.

RECOMMENDATION #9 [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board approve a review of the Solid Waste Committee Terms of Reference to identify options and opportunities for expansion to include other Board members and First Nations, for review by the Solid Waste Committee at a future meeting.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:Recommendations 1 & 2

The draft 2021 meeting schedule was reviewed by the Solid Waste Committee (SWC). Key takeaways were:

- a) Cancellation of the July and August meetings to accommodate the busy project work season.
- b) Modification of the October, November and December meeting dates to accommodate the 2021 Board meeting schedule.
- c) Modification to the (SWC) Terms of Reference to allow the Committee meeting schedule to be changed as needed without Board approval.

Recommendations 3 & 4

CleanFarms is a non-profit environmental stewardship organization that helps to create programs that offer a tangible way to address agricultural waste management. CleanFarms has received a grant from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada under the Canadian Agriculture Strategic Priorities Program (CASPP) to conduct three year pilot programs across the country for the collection and recycling of agricultural plastics that are not currently being collected through existing CleanFarms programs. Since there are no existing ag-plastics programs established by CleanFarms in British Columbia, CleanFarms reached out to staff about a partnership in developing and delivering such a pilot in the Peace River Regional District (PRRD). This program would provide a much needed option for farmers to dispose of soft ag-plastics safely. The Committee discussed the program and agreed to recommend funding of \$5,000 towards a waste characterization study performed by CleanFarms to assess the amount of material which could be captured in the region. The next step of the pilot is to establish a partnership with CleanFarms for collecting the material at key PRRD solid waste sites. The decision to move forward with this next step is recommended for deferral to the 2021 budget discussions, where a formal partnership with CleanFarms will be considered.

Recommendation 5

The Province has released a Policy Intentions Paper for consultation which will be utilized to amend the existing Recycling Regulation. Key discussion points with the Solid Waste Committee included:

- How the proposed changes to the Recycling Regulation could affect Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs, which are programs that provide for “free” takeback of divertible waste from consumers.
- The opportunity for inclusion of recyclables from all sources (residential, industrial, commercial and institutional) into stewardship programs, as opposed to only residential material.
- The need to remove barriers so that all communities in a region may participate in collection programs under a stewardship model¹.

The deadline for submission of comments on the paper is November 20, 2020. However, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MoECCS) will accept all comments provided after the deadline via email at ExtendedProducerResponsibility@gov.bc.ca and include consideration of those comments into the next version of the Recycling Regulation.

Recommendation 6, 7 & 8

The committee discussed the opportunity to build on the small scale vermicomposting pilot conducted at the North Peace Landfill by conducting a 3 year vermicomposting pilot at the Bessborough Landfill. This larger pilot will utilize approximately 400 tonnes of feedstock provided from the City of Dawson Creek Yard & Garden Waste collection program.

Further to this discussion, the Committee was made aware of the recently announced CleanBC Organic Infrastructure and Collection Program (OICP). The OICP was developed to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions, by diverting increased amounts of organic waste from material that is currently being landfilled. The OICP will support communities throughout BC, by investing up to \$25.7 million. Funding under this program will support the building of new, or expansion of existing, organic waste processing infrastructure that will result in increased processing capacity.

This gives the PRRD the opportunity to capture funding for establishing organics processing capacity under the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR). As a result, there are recommendations to submit 2 applications for grant funding to design and construct organics facilities in the South Peace (Bessborough Landfill) and the North Peace (Charlie Lake Wastewater Facility). These facilities provide enough space to expand organics processing which would accommodate biosolids (from wastewater treatment plants) as well as future organics collection from communities.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- Partnerships
 - Collaboration with Local and First Nations governments
- Responsive Service Delivery

¹ Collection programs, such as curbside recycling, are only available to communities greater than 5,000 people.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):Recommendations 3 & 4

Estimated costs provided by Cleanfarms for developing and running an ag-plastics program at three PRRD sites that focuses on grain bags and twine are shown below (Table 1). All program costs would be shared between Cleanfarms and the PRRD with a 50/50 Split, as the CASPP funding requires 50% cost sharing on all projects.

Table 1.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Ag-Waste Characterization Study	\$10,000.00				
Communication		\$7,500.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	
Collection		\$35,020.00	\$37,900.00	\$43,280.00	
Administration		\$8,755.00	\$9,475.00	\$10,820.00	Total
Estimated Expense Total	\$10,000.00	\$51,275.00	\$49,375.00	\$56,100.00	\$166,750.00
PRRD Costs (50%)	\$5,000.00	\$25,637.50	\$24,687.50	\$28,050.00	\$83,375.00
Total Estimated Revenue from the Sale of Twine and Grain Bags		\$13,000.00	\$15,500.00	\$18,000.00	\$46,500.00
PRRD Revenue		\$6,500.00	\$7,750.00	\$9,000.00	\$23,250.00

The initial estimate from Cleanfarms to operate the pilot at three PRRD Transfer Stations is approximately \$26,150 annually. Combined with an estimate of \$10,500 for renting bins to collect the material, the total annual estimated cost to the PRRD for the pilot \$36,650 or \$12,216 per site.

Once the waste characterization study is complete, more detailed program costs can be calculated to reflect estimated tonnage in the PRRD and materials that would be targeted. There are several factors that could affect program costs such as access to balers, hauling, and market costs.

The cost of the 2020 Waste Characterization study totaling \$5,000 can be split operationally between the three sites that will receive the pilot. At this time the proposed locations are Cecil Lake TS, Prespatou TS, and Rolla TS due to the predominantly agricultural nature of the surrounding areas.

Recommendation 6

Estimated costs for the pilot project are included in the table below:

	2021	2022	2023
QP Work plan for OMRR	\$15,500		
Pad Development	\$25,000		
Worm Transportation	\$5,000		
Operating Staff costs	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
Consultant costs	\$13,500	\$18,000	\$12,000
Testing		\$2,500	\$2,500
Total Estimated Annual Cost	\$81,000	\$42,500	\$36,500
Potential Lost Revenue for 300 tonnes of organics	\$27,500	\$27,500	\$27,500

If approved, staff will incorporate these estimates into the draft 2021 Financial Plan.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

External Links:

1. 2021 Solid Waste Committee Meeting Schedule - See [Item 9.1](#)
2. Agricultural Plastics Pilot in Partnership with CleanFarms – See [Item 9.2](#)
3. Provincial Recycling Regulation – Policy Intentions Paper – See [Item 9.3](#)
4. Vermicomposting Pilot for the Bessborough Landfill – See [Item 9.4](#)