

Notice of Motion – January 10, 2018 Environmental Services Committee

Background

In mid-December, the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Project received the good news that all the biosolids in the region would be processed *and* dried - to the same level they were in the original proposed sewage project. This product has a market as a fuel source in cement kilns and perhaps other uses. The original sewage project proposed that the CRD would pay to have this product taken away and I imagine we still would, but the costs of disposal as an alternate fuel source are a fraction of the cost of developing an IRM facility or facilities. In short, as of mid-December the CRD has a beneficial re-use of biosolids available to us, that does not involve land application. The push to IRM in part, had been a need to meet the Ministry's requirement for a beneficial use. This requirement can now be met in another way while still respecting CRD policy with regard to land application.

Reviewing and participating in the presentation for the December 13th IRM workshop, alarm bells began to go off for me as similarities began to emerge to procurement on the Johnson Street Bridge Project. Put simply – there are far too many risks and too many unknowns. All the options laid out in terms of procurement, project ownership, responsibility for siting, as well as feedstock source leave far too much risk in the hands of the CRD. And the biggest risk of all is the experimental nature of some of the options. The Johnson Street Bridge was an expensive experiment with too many risks at the procurement stage.

Finally, and most importantly, it became abundantly clear to me in December IRM workshop that a guaranteed, ongoing supply of municipal solid waste for the long term is key to the successful operation of an IRM facility. This defies logic as well as true climate action. If we go in the direction of IRM we will need to guarantee that our current waste production habits as a region will continue. The City's Climate Leadership Plan released in December notes that by 2050 only 5% of everything our residents and businesses consume will end up in the landfill; the remaining 95% will be rethought, reduced, reused, recycled, or recovered as part of a move to a circular, zero waste economy. This is the City's approach to lengthening the life of the Hartland Landfill. Victoria does not guarantee that it will keep producing waste in order to serve an IRM solution for the region. In fact, we guarantee the opposite.

Recommendations

1. Direct staff to explore markets for a beneficial use for the dried biosolids produced as part of the sewage treatment project that does not involve land application and report back on the costs and benefits.
2. Direct staff to begin procurement for an in region processing facility for the region's kitchen scraps and yard waste at Hartland Landfill.
3. Direct staff to cease work on IRM procurement.

Respectfully Submitted,



Director Helps