

**REPORT TO PARKS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2019**

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**SUBJECT**     **Solid Waste Management Plan – Proposed Strategies and Targets for the First Round of Public Consultation**

**ISSUE**

To present the proposed strategies and targets for consideration in advance of drafting the new Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) and initiate the first round of public consultation.

**BACKGROUND**

The Provincial Environmental Management Act requires regional districts to develop plans for the management of municipal solid waste and recyclable materials. A SWMP sets goals and targets and identifies strategies for achieving them. Plans can be submitted only after sufficient public and stakeholder consultation has occurred.

In November 2017, the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board directed staff to resume work on Revision 3 of the SWMP. A Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was appointed in February 2018. SWAC has met 10 times since April 2018.

In October 2018, the CRD Board reviewed an assessment of the existing solid waste system, which outlined current challenges and opportunities. At the same meeting, the Board approved the guiding principles, objectives and goals for the SWMP (Appendix A). The goals are:

1. to have informed citizens that participate effectively in proper waste management practices
2. to surpass the provincial per capita waste disposal target of 350 kg/capita by 2020/2021
3. to extend the life of Hartland Landfill to 2100
4. to ensure that the CRD's solid waste services are financially sustainable

**Proposed Strategies and Targets**

From November 2018 to May 2019, SWAC worked on developing a number of options based on the 5R pollution prevention hierarchy of reduce, reuse, recycle, recover and residuals management. The CRD has a complex and mature solid waste management system, and many of the strategy options discussed focus on enhancing existing programs. Appendix B provides the list of the 15 endorsed strategies and associated actions. SWAC supported allocating funding for the following initiatives:

- enhance education programs, with a focus on behaviour change to reduce and prevent waste
- develop a new waste diversion incentive program to support community-based reduction initiatives
- promote depot recycling programs for materials that cannot be recycled at the curb (two-year pilot program)

- increase diversion from the multi-family and business sectors that are serviced by private service providers
- conduct an illegal dumping prevention campaign (two-year pilot program)
- develop a comprehensive strategy for diverting construction, renovation and demolition materials

The detailed technical memorandums on strategy development are attached as Appendix C.

Based on the proposed strategies and considering the region's current 380 kg per capita disposal rate, the consultant conducted a diversion potential analysis of materials that could be removed from the waste stream in the short, medium and long term and recommended the following targets over the 10-year length of the new SWMP:

- short-term (3 years) - 340 kg/capita
- medium-term (5 years) - 285 kg/capita
- long-term (10+years) - 250 kg/capita

The majority of proposed strategies focus on the first 3Rs of reduce, reuse and recycle, with the goal of preventing waste in the first place to save resources and landfill space. Hartland Landfill is a significant regional asset; an approved goal for the SWMP is to extend its life to 2100 plus. Appendix D provides an overview of the Hartland 2100 design concept, which creates a long-term vision of how to extend Hartland's capacity. The extended landfill capacity created by Hartland 2100 will allow time to explore new waste management technologies for proven, reliable and cost-effective recovery of additional resource from the waste stream.

The Province requires regional districts to consider the financial impacts of its solid waste management system, including the new initiatives. Appendix E presents the potential financial impacts of the proposed strategies and waste reduction targets, which would increase diversion spending and decrease tipping fee revenues. The current solid waste sustainability reserves have sufficient funding for the 10-year span of the new SWMP.

The proposed goals, strategies and targets support the CRD Board priority of Climate Action and Environmental Stewardship by reducing emissions from solid waste, identifying best practices to further reduce waste, increase recycling and find beneficial uses for waste.

In addition, the SWMP plays an important role in responding to the CRD's climate emergency declaration and commitment to working toward carbon neutrality. By focusing on the 3Rs and diverting waste from the landfill, the CRD is reducing both the upstream emissions associated with the production of goods, and the downstream emissions associated with the management of products at their end-of-life. The CRD is also working to optimize landfill gas capture and its beneficial use.

## **Public Consultation**

The CRD has engaged Judith Cullington & Associates to provide communication and consultation services for the SWMP. If approved, the first round of public consultation on the proposed

strategies and targets is expected to commence in October 2019. The objective of this initial conversation with the community is to gather feedback and identify issues and potential solutions.

In addition, the CRD will also be consulting with specific stakeholder groups that may be directly impacted by some of the proposed strategies as outlined below.

- Mount Work – Hartland mountain bike trail impacts
  - maximizing the landfill operating footprint within the existing Hartland property boundary (Hartland 2100) will impact trails that have been developed within the Hartland lands by CRD Parks
- Potential traffic impacts associated with:
  - eventual transition of commercial truck traffic to Willis Point entrance
  - removal of excess aggregate from Hartland, beyond landfill site needs, for CRD projects with the region

All input collected will be included in a consultation summary, which will be presented to SWAC, the Parks & Environment Committee and the CRD Board and will inform the draft SWMP. A second round of public engagement seeking feedback on the draft plan is expected to take place in the late spring of 2020. Another consultation summary will be prepared and will inform the development of the final plan. Appendix F provides the consultant's overview of the public consultations. There will be ongoing opportunities to engage with stakeholders and provide input.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

That the Parks & Environment Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:

### *Alternative 1*

That staff initiate the first round of public consultation on the proposed strategies and targets for the new Solid Waste Management Plan.

### *Alternative 2*

That staff revise the proposed strategies and targets as directed by the Parks & Environment Committee prior to initiating public consultation.

## **CONCLUSION**

The provincial Environmental Management Act requires regional districts to develop plans for the management of municipal solid waste and recyclable materials, with input from a Solid Waste Advisory Committee. In October 2018, the CRD Board approved the guiding principles, objectives and goals for the new plan. This report presents the 15 proposed strategies and recommended targets that were identified with input from SWAC. A first round of public consultation is planned for the fall 2019, which will help inform the development of the draft plan.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Parks & Environment Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:

That staff initiate the first round of public consultation on the proposed strategies and targets for the new Solid Waste Management Plan.

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Concurrence:	Larisa Hutcheson, P.Eng., Acting Chief Administrative Officer

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Attachments: Appendix A – Solid Waste Management Plan – Revision 3 – Guiding Principles, Objectives and Goals  
Appendix B – Solid Waste Management Plan – Proposed Strategies  
Appendix C – Solid Waste Management Plan Strategy Development – Summary Report – Tetra Tech (May 2019)  
Appendix D – Hartland 2100 Design Concept  
Appendix E – Financial Model  
Appendix F – Solid Waste Management Plan Consultations: Communications and Engagement Strategy (Judith Cullington & Associates)