



Date: 22/09/2021

To: Chair and Directors, Cariboo Regional District Board

And To: John MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Tera Grady, Supervisor of Solid Waste Management

Date of Meeting: Cariboo Regional District Board_Oct01_2021

File: 5360-01 2021

Short Summary:

Canadian Red Cross Society - Fire Smart Wood Waste Program

Voting:

Stakeholder Vote – Weighted – All Electoral Areas, District of 100 Mile House, and District of Wells

Memorandum:

The fire smart wood waste program funded by the Canadian Red Cross Society (CRCS) ends in November of 2021, therefore this AIS provides information on the financial implications to continue the program without CRCS funding.

In response to the 2017 wildfires, the CRD entered into an agreement with CRCS to fund the management and disposal of wood waste that was:

1. Burnt during the 2017 fires, or
2. Generated in response to the 2017 fires by residents who removed wood waste fuels from their properties as part of “fire smart” activities

The term of the agreement was June 1, 2018 to November 30, 2021. The total amount of funding provided was 1.2M of which all is projected to be spent by the end of November.

Given the wildfire activity in 2021, Staff anticipate that 2022 fire smart activities will continue at the same rates as seen in 2018-2021. On average this will be about 5,000 tonnes per year.

CRCS funding for future fire smart programs will be pursued by staff, but at this time there is no indication of the likelihood of another agreement. If another agreement is possible, it may not be in place for 2022 given the time requirements for application and approval processes.

Prior to the CRCS funded fire smart program, the Solid Waste Management Service function on average spent \$355,000 per year on wood waste management and disposal. In anticipation of the completion of the CRCS funding, the 2022 wood waste management budget line item was

estimated to be \$400,000; however, Staff estimate the 2022 cost to manage and dispose of wood waste will be \$470,000.

If free disposal of wood waste generated from fire smart activities is to be extended, it will be at an additional cost of \$70,000. Alternatively, tipping fees for fire smart wood waste could be implemented at controlled sites with scales and for loads hauled by commercial vehicles at controlled sites without scales, in an attempt to recuperate management and disposal costs. However, tipping fees would not be guaranteed, given the accessibility of non-controlled sites, controlled sites without scales, and crown land.

Attachments:

None.

Financial Implications:

Projected 2022 wood waste costs are \$70,000 higher than currently budgeted for, but the increase could be managed by the Solid Waste Management Service.

Policy Implications:

None.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

- Communication:** Facilitate communication strategies throughout the entire Cariboo Regional District that meet the needs of residents, community stakeholders, and other levels of government.
- Planning:** Intentionally plan services and activities of the CRD to prepare for future needs of residents and community stakeholders.
- Economic Sustainability:** Foster an environment to ensure the economic sustainability of CRD communities and the region.
- Governance:** Ensure that CRD governance policy and practices are intentional, transparent, and respectful.

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CAO Comments:

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Options:

1. Endorse recommendation
2. Receipt
3. Receipt and further action at the discretion of the Board

Recommendation:

That the agenda item summary from Tera Grady, Supervisor of Solid Waste Management, dated September 23, 2021, regarding the continuation of the fire smart wood waste program,

be received. Further that the fire smart program, allowing free disposal of wood waste generated by removal of woody fuels from properties, be continued for the remainder of 2021, and extended to 2022.