



**REQUEST FOR DECISION**

**To: Board of Directors, CCRD**

**CC: Curtis Slingerland, CAO**

**From: Ken McIlwain, Operations Manager**

**Meeting Date: February 18, 2022**

**Subject: Request for Decision: Community Works Fund Budget Allocation for TCWRC Development, Operations and Closure Plan – Groundwater Monitoring**

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**Recommendation:**

**THAT the Central Coast Regional District Board of Directors approve \$97,500 from the Community Works Fund for advancing the groundwater monitoring portion of the Landfill Development, Operation and Closure Plan.**

**Issue/Background Summary:**

Over the past two years, the Central Coast Regional District (“CCRD”) has been implementing the Development, Operations and Closure Plan (“DOCP”) for the Thorsen Creek Landfill. The advancement of the plan was identified as a priority in the Regional District’s Solid Waste Management Plan.

Part of the DOCP involves groundwater and environmental monitoring during both the operating and closure phases of a landfill’s lifespan. Groundwater monitoring requires the installation of monitoring wells down-gradient of the landfill. Testing can determine the impact of the landfill on groundwater quality.

There are several important reasons to have groundwater monitoring in place:

- The provincial Landfill Criteria for Municipal Solid Waste requires a DOCP and groundwater monitoring.
- Our landfill engineers have recommended prioritizing groundwater monitoring work. In order to make a case to the Ministry of Environment to allow a minor lateral expansion to the landfill footprint, we will need to present environmental monitoring results to support our case.
- The Ministry of Environment has given verbal notice that groundwater monitoring will be a requirement of an updated Operating Certificate for the landfill.
- Groundwater monitoring will be a part of post closure obligations.

The CCRD Solid Waste Management Plan identifies where funding for future capital projects will be derived from. The plan acknowledges that there is insufficient funding available through the Solid Waste Services function to undertake major capital works and that funding for the DOCP and related activities would have to be sourced through grant funding.

Research by staff has indicated that there are no traditional grant funding programs that will assist with this kind of landfill costs.

**Policy, Bylaw or Legislation**

- Ministry of Environment - Operational Certificate 4223
- The Landfill Criteria for Municipal Solid Waste, 2nd Edition, British Columbia, BC Ministry of Environment; June 2016
- CCRD Solid Waste Management Plan 2017

**Strategic Plan**

The following excerpt is from the **CCRD 2019-2022 Strategic Plan Amendments**:

**Priority Projects by Priority Service Area:**

The following tables highlight service area priorities in order to guide staff in developing their Operations Plan for 2021:

Service Area	Priority Project	Related Strategic Goal	Timeline	Required Staff Capacity Actions
Solid Waste Management	Conformance review and compliance	<i>Good Governance and Administration; Improving Our Infrastructure</i>	2020	This is a non-negotiable top priority for this service area; the Board-endorsed Solid Waste Management Plan always guides top priorities for this service.
	Bylaw updates	<i>Good Governance and Administration</i>	2021	SWM bylaw updates to be prioritized, occurring before completion of Official Community Planning and subsequent bylaw update processes
	Composting facility design and construction	<i>Improving Our Infrastructure</i>	2021	Matching funds are needed for approved composting grant.

**Financial/Budgetary Implications**

For the 2022 year, the Solid Waste Services function has a budget of \$135,456 with a maximum taxation ceiling of \$175,477. The \$40,021 that could be derived from increasing the requisition is not adequate to pay for the project and due to the high likelihood that there will be changes to the operations certificate within the next year, the ability to increase the requisition and spread the timing of the project out is limited. An increase of the requisition to the Solid Waste function area to its maximum allowable will result in a 10.7% increase in overall taxes.

There are adequate funds available in the Community Works Fund to undertake this work, which will not impact taxes beyond what is being presented for the 2022 budget.

CCRD staff have confirmed the eligibility of the DOCP and other associated works for funding under the Community Works Fund Gas Tax Program.

**Time Requirements – Staff and Elected Officials**

It is estimated that this project will require approximately one to two weeks of staff time to assist the engineers with field work in Bella Coola and oversee the contract.

**Options to Consider**

1. That \$97,500 from the Community Works Fund be allocated towards the advancement of the groundwater monitoring portion of the Landfill Development, Operation and Closure Plan.
2. Do not proceed with the DOCP work and groundwater monitoring.

**Risk Management – Refer to Policy A-36**

The categories that account for potential risks that may be realized by the district during its regular operations are: financial, asset management, information technology and business continuity.

Recommended Option: the risk or potential risks associated with the recommended option have been evaluated and assessed as low.

Alternative Option: a high likelihood of not being able to proceed with a lateral expansion of the landfill which could result in a reduced lifespan for the facility. In addition to the reduced lifespan, the CCRD runs the risk of not being able to meet forthcoming regulatory requirements.

Submitted by:   
Ken McIlwain, Operations Manager

Approved by:   
Curtis Slingerland, CAO