

DATE: November 23, 2020

FILE: 5360-30/Organics

TO: Chair and Directors
Comox Strathcona Waste Management Board

FROM: Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

Supported by Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

R. Dyson

RE: Regional Organics Compost Project Update

Purpose

To provide an update on the Regional Organics Compost Project.

Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:

For information only.

Executive Summary

The Regional Organics Compost Project is a strategic priority of the Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) Board, which supports the diversion of organic material from the region's landfills providing the benefits of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing landfill airspace use, improving leachate quality, and providing nutrient rich soil back to the community.

In July of 2020, the design-build (DB) procurement process fell through with the three shortlist proponents not submitting a bid. The main feedback from the shortlisted proponents were concerns due to the affordability limit as well as the operational contract not being included in the DB process.

The project will now be delivered as a traditional design-bid-build (DBB) project, and in September 2020, a request for proposal (RFP) was released for the detailed design of the compost facility and transfer station.

The DBB process will provide added benefits to the Comox Valley Regional District by:

- Allowing for value engineering exercises during the design phase of the project
- Providing a defined budget prior to tendering
- Allowing bidding from smaller local contractors, which usually are not suited to DB contracts
- Allowing for direct purchase of pre-engineered items (transfer station building, fabric building, etc.) providing cost savings

There were three submissions to the RFP in October, after review, a contract was awarded to Sperling Hansen Associates (Sperling Hansen). Sperling Hansen is a solid waste engineering firm out of North Vancouver which has experience working with smaller regional districts on all aspects related to solid waste management.

Sperling Hansen has also teamed up with Net Zero Waste, which has been operating the compost pilot project at Comox Valley Waste Management Centre successfully since 2013. By including private sector operators during the design phase, innovative features and design optimization can be utilized to balance capital and operation costs, while maintaining the high performance of the facility and environmental protection.

Timeline:

The project timeline presented in September is below. The design engineer is optimistic on the schedule, which may be able to be accelerated by three to six months depending on the permitting phase of the project.

Proposed Timeline	2020	2021				2022			
	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
RFP for design									
Design award									
Design									
Phase 2 Public engagement									
Regulatory approval*									
IIT for construction									
Construction award									
Construction									
Commissioning									
Pick-up collection phased in**									
RFP for operation									
Operation award									

The project team will continue to provide the CSWM Board with project updates as major design, procurement and construction milestones are achieved. The CSWM staff will also continue to work closely with the municipal staff as the collection of organics at the curbside will be an important change for the Cities of Courtenay and Campbell River.

Prepared by:

Concurrence:

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Government Partners and Stakeholder Distribution

City of Campbell River	✓
City of Courtenay	✓
Town of Comox	✓
Village of Cumberland	✓