

DATE: November 23, 2020

FILE: 5360-20/Gold River

TO: Chair and Directors
Comox Strathcona Waste Management Board

Supported by Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

R. Dyson

RE: Implications of extending operating hours at the Gold River transfer station

Purpose

To provide the Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) Board (Board) with information on the implications of extending the operating hours at the Gold River transfer station, as per the Board request at the September 10, 2020 Board meeting.

Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:

THAT the hours of the Gold River transfer station remain at their current service level;

AND THAT the two non-Recycle BC bins be removed from within the Village of Gold River effective January 1, 2021.

Executive Summary

The Board considered the closure of two non-Recycle BC bins, located within the Village of Gold River (Village), at the September 10, 2020 Board meeting. The item was deferred with a request to provide the implications of extending the operating hours at the Gold River transfer station to compensate for removal of the bins.

- The Gold River transfer station is open twenty hours per week from 10:00 am to 2:45 pm Wednesday to Sunday and these hours of operation are on par with the level of service offered at other facilities, with similar and larger seasonal populations (refer to Table 1).
- Increasing the days of operation by including Monday and/or Tuesday is not supported as this will cause scheduling challenging for the Village.
- The cost to increase the hours of operation by six hours per week would be \$13,500 annually which includes staffing and equipment time.
- Based on the above, the Gold River transfer station and recycling depot provides an appropriate level of service to the community at the current hours of operation even with removal of the non-Recycle BC bins.

Prepared by:

Concurrence:

Concurrence:

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Stakeholder Distribution

Village of Gold River	✓
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Background/Current Situation

The current operating hours at the Gold River transfer station are twenty hours per week (refer to Table 1). The hours of operation have been in place for a long period of time. There has not been an operational need to extend the hours at this facility.

Staff are not recommending the consideration of providing access to the transfer station on Mondays or Tuesdays, as this would pose scheduling challenges for the Village, the contract operator for the transfer station.

Recycle BC Depot location	Hours of operation	Total hours / week	Population served (2016 census)
Cortes Island	Thursday – Sunday 9 am – 1 pm	16	1,035 *
Hornby Island	Thursday – Sunday 9 am – 1 pm	16	1,016 *
Denman Island	Wednesday & Thursday 2 pm – 7 pm Saturday 9 am – 5 pm	18	1,165
Gold River	Wednesday – Sunday 10 am – 2:45 pm	20	1,500

*Note these facilities have significant seasonal population increases.

Options

The Board has the following options:

1. Close the two non-Recycle BC bins located within the Village, effective January 1, 2021 and do not increase hours of operation at the transfer station;
2. Close the two non-Recycle BC bins located within the Village, effective January 1, 2021 and increase the operating hours of the Gold River transfer station to a maximum of six hours per week);
3. Status quo – continue to operate the two non-Recycle BC bins as is.

At this time staff are recommending option 1, with the provision that staff will monitor the hours of operation and re-evaluate following the closure of the two non-Recycle BC bins in the Village. At this time it is unknown if the additional operational hours can be justified.

Financial Factors

The operational costs to operate the non-Recycle BC bins within the Village, including the tipping fee and transportation, is approximately \$31,000 per year. The material collected at these bins cannot be placed with the Recycle BC material, therefore the service receives no incentives for this material and is currently paying \$16,000 in tipping fees annually, to process the recyclables.

The estimated cost to increase the hours of operation to a maximum of six hours per week would be \$13,500 annually which includes staffing and equipment time.

The current operating budget for the Gold River transfer station is approximately \$164,000 annually. This includes staffing, equipment time and the lease of the facility.

Intergovernmental Factors

CSWM staff will work closely with the Village to ensure residents are aware of the closures and their alternatives for recycling. CSWM staff have considered the potential staffing issues that may affect the Village should the service considering extending operating hours beyond one hour per day.

Citizen/Public Relations

Communication, including social media posts and signage at the two non-Recycle BC bins will be posted in advance to advise residents that the bins are closing. The communication will include information on the benefits of using the Recycle BC depot.