

DATE: January 31, 2019**FILE:** 1700-02/2019/345**TO:** Chair and Directors
Committee of the Whole**FROM:** Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative OfficerSupported by Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer***R. DYSON*****RE: 2019 - 2023 Financial Plan – Pesticide Awareness – Function 345**

Purpose

To present the proposed 2019-2023 financial plan for the Pesticide Awareness Service, Function 345, which includes a recommendation that the service be repealed.

Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:

1. THAT the proposed 2019 - 2023 financial plan for the Pesticide Awareness Service, Function 345 be approved.
2. THAT actions be initiated in 2019 to repeal the Pesticide Awareness Service, which includes obtaining consent for the service repeal from the participants in writing from the Electoral Area A, B and C directors and by resolution from the Village of Cumberland council.

Executive Summary

The Pesticide Awareness service was established in 2004 to develop an awareness and education program for the use of pesticides in relation to the control of pollution, nuisances, pests, noxious weeds and unsightly premises. Participants in the service are Electoral Areas A, B and C and the Village of Cumberland. The City of Courtenay and the Town of Comox partner with the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) on pesticide awareness and education by way of a financial contribution.

One of the initial considerations under this service was the development of a regulatory regime for pesticide use in rural areas. Municipalities already had, and continue to have, the ability to regulate pesticide use. Rural areas must obtain provincial approval to regulate pesticides and to date this approval has not been achieved.

Since its inception, this service has produced advertising, brochures and other materials to support pesticide free lawns and gardens in the Comox Valley. The CVRD has partnered with School District No. 71 on occasion and combined the efforts and resources from the pesticide awareness service with other CVRD services to help deliver its messages. In 2016 the Province of British Columbia updated its regulations associated with restricted use pesticides and is working more closely with vendors and pesticide distributors. The update and subsequent public education on pesticides has shifted the focus for the CVRD's Pesticide Awareness Service. Given that

- The service has not expended its budget for the past few years;
- Education and awareness on pesticide use, lawn and garden maintenance, invasive weeds and property care can all occur through separate CVRD services, including the ABC Parks Service and Weed Control Service;

- Municipalities can continue to regulate pesticide use and promote awareness for lawn and garden maintenance, invasive weeds and property care; and
- The CVRD can opt to partner with municipalities and other stakeholders through the other services named above.

Staff are recommending in this report that actions be initiated in 2019 to repeal the Pesticide Awareness Service, Function 345.

No revenues were identified in the 2018 or 2019 financial plans, neither tax requisition nor revenue by contract from the City of Courtenay or Town of Comox. In fact, the surplus from prior years is almost the entire budget, given that very few expenses occurred under this service. A 2017 work plan included specific efforts to recommend that the Comox Valley municipalities update their regulatory bylaws to align with the current Provincial regulations and excluded pesticides list. Those recommendations remain current and CVRD staff can provide municipal staff with updated bylaw language.

The current proposed financial plan includes expenses for the ongoing promotion of pesticide awareness, however for the purposes named earlier, staff are recommending that this service is repealed.

Prepared by:

J. Warren

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Stakeholder Distribution (Upon Agenda Publication)

City of Courtenay	
Town of Comox	
Village of Cumberland	

Policy Analysis


The Pesticide Awareness Service is established by Bylaw No. 2601 being “Regional District Pesticide Awareness Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2601, 2003.”

Financial Plan Overview

The Pesticide Awareness Service proposes not to requisition any funds and expends funds in a similar manner to previous years, in which advertising and brochure materials are developed to support pesticide free lawns and gardens in the Comox Valley. Based on the past number of years, where budgeted funds have not been expended and recognition that this service’s mission can be accomplished more effectively through separate services, including the Areas A, B, and C Parks and Weed Control Services and regular dialogue and operational partnerships with community stakeholders including the Comox Valley municipalities, staff are recommending that this service is repealed.

Table 1 summarizes the 2019 proposed budget as compared to the 2018 adopted budget. Significant variances from 2018 adopted budget will be discussed in the financial plan highlights section below.

Table 1: Financial Plan Highlights

 2019 Proposed Budget		#345 Pesticide Awareness		
Operating	2018 Budget	2019 Proposed Budget	Increase (Decrease)	
Revenue				
Prior Years Surplus	33,151	23,860	(9,291)	
	\$ 33,151	\$ 23,860	\$	(9,291)
Expenditures				
Personnel Costs	7,183	1,618	(5,565)	
Operating	25,968	22,242	(3,726)	
	\$ 33,151	\$ 23,860	\$	(9,291)

The 2019 - 2023 proposed five-year financial plan for the Pesticide Awareness Service, including the requisition summary and operating budget, is available within the full proposed budget binder, provided in both searchable PDF and e-reader formats, located on the CVRD financial plan web page at www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/currentbudget.

Highlights of the 2019 - 2023 proposed financial plan for Pesticide Awareness Service, Function 345, include:

- no tax requisition and no funds from contract sources, given that the prior year surplus can fund expenses in 2019.
- while the personnel and operating expenses are included in the proposed budget, the staff recommendation to repeal the service would result in these funds going unspent.
- any surplus that is remaining after the service is repealed would be returned to the City of Courtenay and Town of Comox based on assessed values and removed from the 2020 tax requisition for each of Electoral Areas A, B and C and also the Village of Cumberland.

The Board may consider an alternative to the staff recommendation and continue with this service. Staff would then execute a work plan based on the proposed expenses, however the successes anticipated under the service are uncertain, which in part has led to this report and proposal to repeal the service.

Revenue Sources

No revenue requirements are projected for this service.

Personnel

Personnel costs would be minimized for 2019 and eliminated for 2020, if this service is repealed.

Operations

CVRD staff would continue to provide updated language to municipal staff for their consideration to update municipal bylaws. Further, any public engagement that has occurred for this service could be accomplished through separate CVRD services including the Areas A, B, and C Parks and Weed Control. Partnerships could also be sought with School District No. 71, Comox Valley municipalities and other stakeholders to promote healthy lawns and gardens.

Capital

This service does not have any capital needs.

Reserves

This service does not have any reserve funds.

Citizen/Public Relations

No public engagement is anticipated to support the recommendation proposed in this report.