

**DATE:** December 5, 2019**FILE:** 5360-30**TO:** Chair and Directors  
Electoral Areas Services Committee**FROM:** Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative OfficerSupported by Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative Officer*R. Dyson***RE:** Roadside Collection in Electoral Areas A, B and C**Purpose**

To provide an update, present a public engagement approach and secure funding to further investigate the roadside collection of garbage and recyclable materials in the regional districts rural areas.

**Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:**

THAT total funding of \$60,000 is included in the 2020-2024 Financial Plan allocated as \$20,000 from each of the feasibility services for Baynes Sound (part Electoral Area A), Lazo North (Electoral Area B) and Puntledge-Black Creek (Electoral Area C) to support the necessary public assent process and communication efforts.

**Executive Summary**

- The roadside collection of garbage and recycling from select rural areas provides several advantages including, increase diversion of recyclables, convenient disposal and removal, reduced greenhouse gas emissions related to driving and significant costs savings for residents.
- The identification of a service area(s) where the public has expressed a keen interest in conjunction with meeting appropriate population and density parameters is critical to the successful implementation of rural roadside collection.
- Recycle BC has provided their proposed criteria for unincorporated regions to form a service area, and consultation recently closed. The criteria are expected to be finalized in January 2020, and a financial offer available in Q1 2020.
- Assessment of the Comox Valley Regional District electoral areas in relation to the proposed Recycle BC criteria has begun and will be refined for presentation to the Electoral Areas Services Committee (EASC) at the February 10, 2020 meeting. Geographic information analysis is underway and will evaluate the population density, taking into consideration vacant properties, land use, seasonal occupancy and any delivery constraints for collection vehicles.
- Staff workload and associated projects would not provide opportunity to undertake engagement in the first half of 2020. Direct outreach is already planned for regional organics, liquid waste management, water asset management and alternative approval processes for Mount Washington and Merville local fire service areas in the first half of 2020. The recommended approach is to develop public engagement plan that will be executed in two phases as follows:
  - Phase one will include a consultation with electoral area residents in 2020 to determine the level of support for curbside collection and identify any barriers to implementation of a program. The initial consultation is important since a previous referendum to provide curbside service failed and this due diligence will determine if support exists for this direction. This phase would include direct mail with an online survey over the

summer and an open house in fall 2020. Phase one can also utilize the EASC communications strategy as a means to disseminate information to the community.

- o All feedback gathered in this initial phase will be reported back to the EASC directors for a decision about next steps, which could include a referendum in late 2020 or early 2021 depending on the direction of the community. Once an assent process is identified, phase two would inform electors about the assent process and detail why a roadside recycling program will be the best way to meet the needs of the community. This rollout of information will allow for a greater chance at a successful outcome.

For the upcoming 2020-2024 Financial Plan the EASC will need to budget the follow:

- Staff are proposing a budget of \$60,000 in 2020 for this process as part of the 2020-2024 financial planning to undertake the public engagement process.
- Additional funding in 2021 may be required, staff recommend \$20,000 depending on the assent approach based on public engagement.
- Funding will come from three feasibility study services proportionately based for Electoral Area A, Electoral Area B and Electoral Area C, Functions 151-153
- The cost of the prior unsuccessful referendum may need to be recovered depending on the approach that is selected.

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