



THE CORPORATION OF THE
DISTRICT OF SUMMERLAND
REQUEST FOR DECISION

DATE: March 22, 2019 FILE: 5330-163
TO: Linda Tynan, Chief Administrative Officer
FROM: Candace M. Pilling, Solid Waste and Recycling Operations Project Manager
SUBJECT: Grant Application to B.C. Organics Infrastructure Program for a Summerland
Organics Processing Facility

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

That council pass the following resolution:

THAT staff be directed to prepare and submit a grant application to the B.C. Organics Infrastructure Program for a Summerland Organics Processing Facility, proceeding with the relocated receiving area concept;

AND THAT \$88,000 be allocated in the 2019 budget for completing the design and engineering phases of the Summerland Organics Processing Facility to meet the requirements of the B.C. Organics Infrastructure Program.

PURPOSE:

To consider if the District should prepare and submit a grant application for the B.C. Organics Infrastructure Program for a Summerland Organics Processing Facility, and if so, to allocate funding in the 2019 budget for the required design and engineering phases of the project to support the application.

BACKGROUND and DISCUSSION:

The District of Summerland has been reviewing its current composting operations at the Summerland Sanitary Landfill (Landfill) to determine what improvements and upgrades need to be made at the composting operation facility in order to meet regulatory requirements and to advance operational and environmental benefits.

At the March 18, 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting, GHD Ltd. presented information regarding the B.C. Organics Infrastructure Program and a Summerland Organics Processing Facility (the Facility) including information on the:

- current composting system;
- Ministry of Environment inspection results;
- grant opportunity;
- viability of residential food scrap composting;
- forecast of materials to be composted;
- composting facility feasibility; and
- potential next steps.

We need to state that we have received some communication and are working through them and will continue to engage individuals and consider comments as this progress.

Members of the public attended this presentation and to date we have only received a few communications from residents regarding the project. Staff has been communicating and working with these residents. Engineering and design are required in order to provide further information regarding some of the requests. Moving forward, staff will continue to engage individuals and consider comments as the project progresses through design, grant application and public consultation. It is expected that residents will have a high level of interest in the project and District staff want to assure them that their questions and comments have been and will continue to be heard and considered. A Summerland Organics Processing Facility page has been created on the District of Summerland website where information regarding the project and funding application will be posted as it becomes available.

Although the following items have not been fully designed and determined at this stage of the project, they and others have been considered and will be address as part of the design and through public consultation:

- Odour modeling and mitigation;
- Traffic impacts, if any, and mitigation;
- Wildlife mitigation;
- Curbside collection options and impacts to residents;
- Which residential and agricultural food scraps will be accepted;
- Agricultural use of the final product;
- Leachate management;
- Education; and
- End use of the compost.

Taking into consideration odour, traffic and wildlife concerns, and financial implications, longevity of the composting site, leachate collection, operational and environmental benefits, product end uses, Ministry regulations and other contemplations, District staff and GHD Ltd. are recommending that the Facility be designed and constructed with a relocated receiving area at the Landfill, and it is inclusive of the removal and processing of Summerland residential food scraps from our garbage for composting and sale.

The District has an opportunity to submit a grant funding application through the B.C. Organics Infrastructure Program (OIP) for the construction of a Facility at the Landfill. This funding would help supplement the cost of the improvements and upgrades to the composting operations. The OIP fund will provide two-thirds funding for the project's eligible costs. Staff recommend that the District prepare and submit a funding application to the program. The funding application closes May 22, 2019 and the funding ranking will be based on the program's objectives:

- To support infrastructure projects in B.C. that process municipal and/or agricultural organic wastes for beneficial re-use;
- Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions;
- Divert new organic wastes to higher value end uses; and
- Support the use of nutrient recovery transformation technologies in the agricultural sector.

The concepts of the OIP funding application and the Facility were discussed at the March 12, 2019 meeting of the Community Climate Action Advisory Committee, and the committee passed the following motion:

THAT the Community Climate Action Advisory Committee support in principle the District's proposed application to the Organics Infrastructure Program Fund, and the diversion of food waste from the waste stream.

The annual potential GHG emissions reductions from the project are approximately 250 tCO₂e (tonnes of CO₂ equivalent), which could be applied both against the community-wide GHG footprint and to offset approximately one-quarter of the District's corporate GHG footprint. The Committee noted that more details would need to be worked out before they could give full support to a specific project, but they were strongly in favour of removing food waste from the waste stream and were pleased the District has an opportunity to apply for funds to help with this endeavour.

In order to prepare the required information and documents for submission to the OIP funding application the District must proceed with engineering and design.

LEGISLATION and POLICY:

- Environmental Management Act; and
- Organic Matter Recycling Regulation.

The proposed project supports council's strategic priorities for Infrastructure Investment and Community Resilience. Reduction of waste to the landfill and the associated GHG emissions from that waste (most of which originates from organic materials not currently diverted from the waste stream) are also identified in the Official Community Plan and Community Climate Action Plan as initiatives the District should pursue to reach their climate action goals. The proposed Facility will also help to address several issues of non-compliance at the landfill, as identified by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The OIP Funding is a matched funding program through the Province of British Columbia, the Government of Canada and successful applicants. Should the District of Summerland be successful in our application, the District will be required to fund one-third of the infrastructure project. The pre-design cost estimate for Concept #2 - Relocated Receiving Area is \$1,542,000, of which the District would be responsible for \$514,000. The additional funding will enable the District to construct a long-term composting operation facility. The proposed five-year financial budget notes the District's share of the costs of this project will be covered by debt.

Additional items will require funding outside of the OIP Funding such as potential revisions to the curbside collection program and contract, possible additional staffing at the landfill to maintain and operate the enhanced compost operation, public education and final compost product marketing to enhance sales of this material.

GHD Ltd. has estimate that it would cost \$635,000 to bring the current composting operations into compliance, should this project not proceed.

GHD Ltd. has complete the initial phases of the Summerland Organics Processing Facility Project (background information, site and technology investigation, viability of residential food waste removal). The cost to proceed with the remaining engineering and design, in order to prepare the information and documents required for submission to the B.C. Organics Infrastructure Program funding application, is \$88,000.

CONCLUSION:

Staff is requesting approval to prepare and submit a grant application to the B.C. Organics Infrastructure Program for a Summerland Organics Processing Facility, proceeding with the relocated receiving area concept, and that \$88,000 be allocated in the 2019 budget for completing the design and engineering of the Summerland Organics Processing Facility to meet the requirements of the B.C. Organics Infrastructure Program.

OPTIONS:

1. Move the motion as recommended by staff.
2. Refer back to staff for other options.

Respectfully submitted,



Candace M. Pilling, AScT, PMP
Solid Waste and Recycling Operations Project Manager

Approved for agenda,



Linda Tynan
Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed by:



Kris Johnson, P.Eng.
Director of Works & Utilities