

DATE: August 8, 2018**FILE:** 5380-03/CV**TO:** Chair and Directors
Comox Valley Regional District
(Comox Strathcona Waste Management) BoardSupported by Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer**FROM:** Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer***R. Dyson*****RE:** Comox Valley Waste Management Centre organics composting pilot project –
finished material utilization update**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide information for the finished compost material from the Comox Valley Waste Management Centre (CVWMC) organics composting pilot project.

Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:

This report is for information purposes only.

Executive Summary

The CVWMC organics composting pilot project, approved by the Comox Strathcona Waste Management Board (CSWM Board) in September 2012, commenced operation in June 2013, processing co-mingled food and yard waste collected from the Town of Comox and the Village of Cumberland curbside collection programs.

In February 2018 staff provided four options to the Board to address the growing volume of organic compost material at the CVWMC from the organics composting pilot project. The following motions were passed and the current status is as follows:

- 1) *Sell finished compost material to the public through an auction process with an upset bid of \$10/yard and a minimum lot of 50 yards (not including transportation costs);*

The volume of material has decreased significantly since the report was provided to the Board in February of this year. Approximately 3600 cubic metres have been removed from the site since February. In order to maintain the opportunity to the municipalities and community groups, the bulk sale was not pursued at this time, but will be considered if warranted.

- 2) *Utilize remaining finished compost material at the CVWMC for the closure of the historical cell planned for 2019;*

The closure of the historical cell will require material. After the next screening the material will be moved and stored in an area to provide the cover material required for closure in 2019.

- 3) *Amend Bylaw No. 170 to provide for the sale to the public for pickup at the CVWMC at \$10 cubic yard (\$13/m³).*

The bylaw will be presented with amendments to enable the sale of the organic compost material should the product meet the British Columbia Organic Matter Recycling Regulation, and is considered a Class A compost, safe for growing crops for human consumption.

- 4) *Waive the insurance requirement for Fireweed Farms with respect to the agreement endorsed by the Board on March 9, 2017.*

Fireweed Farms (FF) took 260 cubic yards of material for no cost, as a one-time transaction associated with the contract executed when we waived the insurance requirement. FF will provide an assessment of the impact to the analytical testing of the soil amended with the compost, and create an educational compost comparison garden. Early results of the comparison garden have been “stunning” to quote the farm owner. We should receive the report from Fireweed Farms later this year.

Prepared by:

A. McGifford

Andrew McGifford, CPA, CGA
Senior Manager of CSWM
Services

Concurrence:

K. La Rose

Kris La Rose, P.Eng.
Acting General Manager of
Engineering Services