

SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT STAFF REPORT

TO: Finance Committee (Round 1 Budget) – November 25 and 26, 2024

AUTHOR: Marc Sole, Manager, Solid Waste Services

SUBJECT: **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE - INCLUSION OF LONG-RANGE DISPOSAL OPTIONS**

RECOMMENDATION(S)

THAT the report titled Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Inclusion of Long-Range Disposal Options be received for information.

BACKGROUND

At the November 14 Board meeting the Board adopted the following recommendation:

304/24 **Recommendation No. 10** *2025 Proposed Projects*
 (part) The Finance Committee recommended that staff report, after contacting the Ministry of Environment and Climate Changes Strategies, on the outcomes and implications of requesting an extension for the update of the Solid Waste Management Plan and how this extension impacts solid waste projects current and proposed for 2025.

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the projects, and associated timelines, directly or indirectly related to confirming a long-term solid waste disposal option after 2030.

DISCUSSION

Solid Waste Management Plan update

Since 2023 the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) has been working on an update to the 2011 Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). The development of the SWMP must be completed every ten years, as per Provincial guidelines, and will ultimately need to be submitted to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy for approval. This strategic service plan is required to describe how the SCRD will manage the community's solid waste, including an overview of any services provided, waste diversion and community engagement initiatives, and waste disposal options. The relocation of the current contact water pond is anticipated to extend the useful landfill life of the Sechelt Landfill until sometime in 2030. Given the 10-year term of the SWMP, the Plan would also need to outline the anticipated disposal option after 2030. The SMWP update therefore cannot be completed without this long-term disposal option being confirmed. It should be noted that any capital projects to support any of the initiatives included in the Plan are exempt from any further electoral approval requirements associated with securing a long-term loan required for the development of that infrastructure.

Provincial staff have advised the SCRD to submit a formal extension request with regards to the January 31, 2025 deadline provided in the 2023 amendment to the 2011 SWMP. This amendment temporarily allows the SCRD to export waste off Coast, should the Sechelt Landfill reach capacity while a new SWMP is being developed. Although this amendment is no longer

necessary in light of the Contact Water Pond Relocation Project currently being implemented, extending the useful landfill life of the Sechelt Landfill to 2030 and the SWMP-update process is expected to be completed in 2025 or 2026.

Detailed and updated feasibility study for waste export

One of the potentially feasible long-term waste disposal options is to export all the waste off Coast to a landfill within the United States or elsewhere in BC. This option would require a purpose-built transfer station to be developed near a barge facility. The development of such a facility could easily take four years to complete, making it essential that such development would commence in 2026 in order to meet the 2030 timeline for completion.

Vertical expansion of the Sechelt Landfill

The alternative long-term waste disposal option currently being further explored is the construction of a berm or wall along the outside perimeter of parts of or the entire Sechelt Landfill to allow for a further increase in height of the Landfill. This expansion would be constructed on the existing landfill property. This option could result in an increase in landfill life of anywhere between seven years and several decades. The development of a vertical expansion needs to commence in 2026 in order to meet the 2030 timeline for completion.

First Nation and public engagement

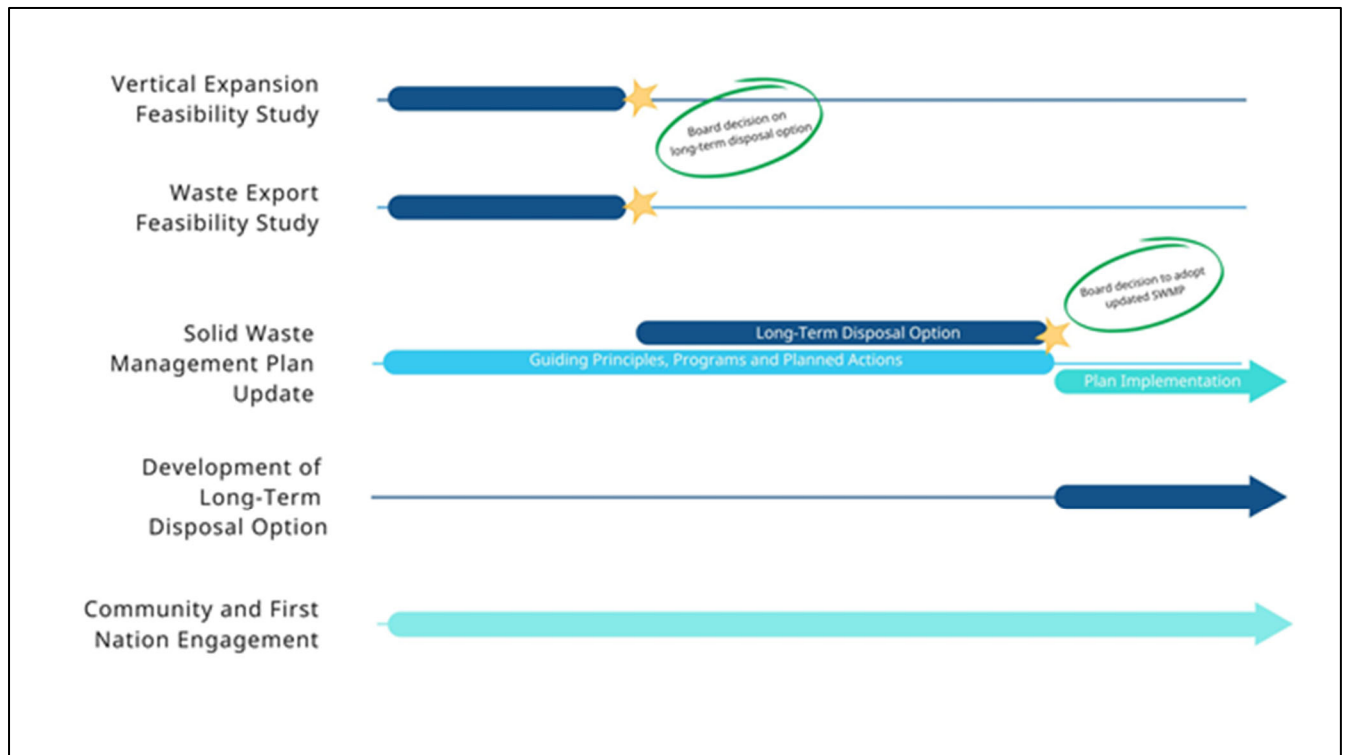
Staff is advancing the engagement with the shíshálh Nation and the Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw on the projects listed above. Public engagement on a draft SWMP update is also required and has been ongoing. The draft Plan can only be completed once a long-term waste disposal option is confirmed in principle.

Timeline for next steps

Staff are currently working with a consultant on feasibility studies focused on confirming the options for long-term waste disposal. These studies are anticipated to be completed by late Q1/early Q2 2025. This timeline would allow for the SCRD to confirm its preferred long-term waste disposal option. The preferred option would subsequently be included in the draft SWMP update that would then be referred to First Nations, member municipalities, and would be the subject of further public engagement.

Based on the feedback received during this engagement, funds to initiate the actual development of the preferred option could be considered for approval as part of the 2026 budget process.

The schematic presented below presents the connection between the above listed projects in a graphical manner.



STRATEGIC PLAN AND RELATED POLICIES

This staff report is aligned with the Board’s Service Delivery Focus Area of Solid Waste Solutions: Update and adopt the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan that includes new diversion targets and optimization of service delivery; and, Optimize use of Sechelt Landfill site to bridge to future long-term waste disposal solutions.

CONCLUSION

As per Provincial guidelines the SCRD has been working on an update to the 2011 SWMP. Given the 10-year term of the Plan, it cannot be completed without a long-term disposal option being confirmed after 2030. Feasibility studies focused on confirming the options for long-term waste disposal are anticipated to be completed early 2025.

Reviewed by:			
Manager		Finance	
GM	X - R. Rosenboom	Legislative	
CAO		Other	