

The Public Works Committee is a standing Committee of Council responsible for developing and evaluating matters of policy and providing oversight and recommendations for Transportation Services, Utilities and Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Management.

#### Waste Reduction Goals

- Council discussed the County's current waste reduction goals as set on May 6, 2013—to reduce the waste entering County landfills and transfer stations by 80 per cent over seven years through waste diversion, recycling, composting and other waste management strategies.
- To attempt to reach this goal, the County implemented the Curbside Pick Up Program, which has since been expanded. The municipality has also established expanded recycling and waste management programs for residents and commercial industry at the County's landfills and transfer sites.
- Despite these enhancements, the County is currently at a diversion rate of lower than 40 per cent, and as low as 15 per cent in some service areas. A report by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities indicates that even a 50 per cent waste reduction target is a relatively ambitious goal for the average municipality.
- Administration recommended the revision of the County's waste reduction targets in order to bring them to a more manageable standard.
- Council approved a motion directing Administration to look at resetting the County's waste reduction target to 40 per cent, as part of a 10-year waste reduction plan.

#### Solid Waste Task Force/Solid Waste Management Committee

- Council discussed the current Solid Waste Management Committee and the possible creation of a Solid Waste Task Force to replace the committee.
- The Solid Waste Management Committee was created in 2011 to help guide solid waste management in the municipality.
- It is the opinion of Council and Administration that a small, subcommittee of Council will be better able to provide effective direction to the County's Environmental Services department.
- Council approved a motion directing Administration to prepare a bylaw and Terms of Reference for a Solid Waste Task Force and prepare for the termination of the Solid Waste Management Committee; however a few final items were assigned to the committee's review prior to its disbandment:
  - Amendments to the County's Waste and Resource Recovery Bylaw.
  - Revisions to the County's Tipping Fee Policy, following public consultation on proposed policy changes.

- The feasibility of a 24-hour recycling station in the hamlet of Lac La Biche.
- The processing of non-hazardous recycling material.

#### Extended Landfill Hours

- Council discussed the optimal schedule of operating hours for the Plamondon and Beaver Lake landfills.
- Council directed Administration to bring forward a Request for Decision regarding the following updates to landfill hours:
  - Beaver Lake landfill to open at 8 a.m. daily.
  - Beaver Lake landfill to close on Sundays during the winter and open on Sundays during the summer from 1 to 5 p.m.
  - Beaver Lake landfill open Thursday and Friday year-round.
  - Plamondon landfill to open at 8 a.m. daily.
- These scheduling options will be brought forward to a future Council meeting.

#### Amendments to Waste and Resource Recovery Bylaw

- The County's Waste and Resource Recovery Bylaw (12-050) was adopted in June 2013 in order to provide guidelines for the County's waste management programs and services.
- Over the past few years a number of areas have been flagged for revision and Administration brought forward a list of suggested amendments to the bylaw.
- Council deferred the review of the bylaw and the proposed amendments to the Solid Waste Management Committee.
- The committee will review the bylaw and proposed amendments and prepare recommendations for Council.

#### Revisions to Tipping Fee Policy

- Council discussed the possibility of charging tipping fees at the County's landfills to a per-tonne basis. Currently, tipping fees are charged by the load.
- Council deferred this discussion to the Solid Waste Management Committee, who will provide recommendations to Council.



**Public Works Committee Meeting**  
May 19, 2015

24/7 Recycling Site

- The County is looking at developing a 24-hour recycling station in the hamlet of Lac La Biche, in order to increase recycling in the municipality.
- Council deferred discussion of this facility to the Solid Waste Management Committee, who will provide recommendations to Council.