

To: Chris Ross, Councillor;
Thalia Hibbs, Councillor
Cc: Council
From: Matthew Goudy, CAO
Date: June 7, 2019

Reference: 11/154/2019-164

RE: Wolf Creek Recycling Depot

Administration has received several questions about the Wolf Creek Recycle Depot from members of Council recently so this response is intended to address CQ's 164, 174 and 175. One question from a citizen (CQ 178) will be addressed in a separate response.

Commercial Businesses Disposing of Yard Waste, Grass Clippings, Sod, and Branches

Bylaw 393 s87.7 permits the use of the site by residents and businesses of the City of Lacombe as well as residents of Lacombe County:

The City provides residents, businesses and Lacombe County residents an area to dispose of recyclable material within the City of Lacombe. See Schedule "D" for accepted materials at the Recycle Depot site.

The Wolf Creek Recycle site accepts yard waste, grass clippings, sod, and branches to provide a local option for their disposal. The Prentiss Transfer station also accepts these materials. This material is handled by the City for further reuse or disposal for which there are additional internal and external costs. From a cost perspective it would more efficient for the City's residents and businesses to utilize the Prentiss Transfer station instead but since it is located 12km outside the City, the inconvenience may overshadow their desire to dispose of the material at the transfer site. When the recycling depot became an option for users and residents to transport and deposit yard waste, grass clippings, sod, and branches, the City's alleys and garbage bins saw a substantial decrease of material being deposited in and around them. If the recycling depot stops accepting these organics, Administration is concerned that the alleys and garbage bins will once again be cluttered and congested with trees, brush and grass piles.

City crews will be working to haul the large branch and brush pile that has accumulated at the Wolf Creek Recycle Depot to the Prentiss Transfer Station starting today pending road conditions at the transfer station.

Administration will soon be reviewing proposals for the comprehensive solid waste review and assessing improvements to the Wolf Creek Recycle Depot will be a key scope of work in that review. More information on the solid waste review will be forthcoming once a contractor has been selected.

A Councillor may put forward a Notice of Motion at any regular meeting to direct Administration to make changes to the Wolf Creek Recycle Site. However, I recommend Council await the results of the solid waste review before making additional changes to the solid waste system.



Recyclable Material Collected at the Wolf Creek Recycle Depot

Administration is in the process of reviewing the City's arrangement with Waste Management (WM) to ensure it meets our needs. An additional pickup at the Recycle Site has been added starting next week in response to the increased usage of the site. Pickups will now occur weekly on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Staff are also meeting with WM next week to discuss other ways, in the short term, to avoid the overflow of materials in the bins including updating and improving the site signage. However, any material that does spill over does have to be cleaned up by staff.

Administration has arranged for a tour of WM's recycling facility later this month. Director Thompson shared information on this tour with Council this week but don't hesitate to contact him if you have any questions. This tour will offer an opportunity for Administration and Council to see first hand how recycling material from the Wolf Creek Recycle Site is processed for the wholesale market or landfill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew Goudy". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "M" and a long, thin tail extending upwards and to the right.

Matthew Goudy, P.Eng
Chief Administrative Officer