

STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 19, 2026 **FILE:** 0550-04 Board

TO: Chair and Directors,
Regional Board

FROM: Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: **BYLAW NO. 627 – PROPOSED WOODCHIPPING & CLIMATE RESILIENCY SERVICE**

PURPOSE/PROBLEM

To consider the ballot question to be asked of electors when voting on Bylaw No. 627 which proposes to establish a woodchipping and climate resiliency service for Electoral Areas B (Cortes Island) and C (Discovery Islands-Mainland Inlets).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its November 19, 2025 meeting the Board considered the attached report and gave Bylaw No. 627 first 3 readings. The Board also passed the following resolution:

Mawhinney/Chapman: SRD 945/25

THAT elector approval of Bylaw No. 627 be authorized to be obtained by assent voting to be held in conjunction with the 2026 general local elections, and

THAT the results of the vote in each electoral area be combined for the purpose of determining if electoral approval has been obtained throughout the proposed service area.

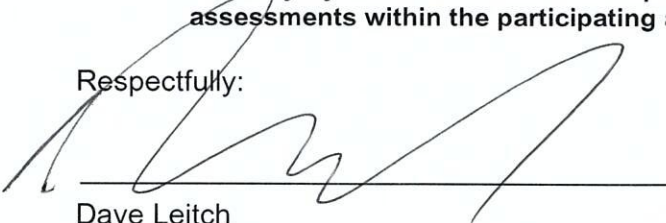
Bylaw No. 627 has now been approved by the Province and it would be appropriate to determine the question to be decided by electors regarding this service. Once the question has been confirmed, ballots can be prepared for use by electors and other arrangements can be finalized to ensure that the question is decided in conjunction with the 2026 local government elections.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT the ballot question to be asked of electors when voting on Bylaw No. 627 be confirmed as follows:

“Are you in favour of Bylaw No. 627 which would establish a woodchipping and climate resiliency service within Electoral Area B (Cortes Island) and Electoral Area C (Discovery Islands-Mainland Inlets) with costs to be shared on the basis of converted hospital assessments provided that the maximum amount that can be requisitioned annually by taxation of land and improvements will be \$0.059 per \$1,000 of property assessments within the participating areas.”

Respectfully:



Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by: *T. Yates, Corporate Services Manager*

Attachments: Bylaw No. 627
Copy of November 10, 2025 report to the Board



BYLAW NO. 627

A BYLAW TO AUTHORIZE THE PROVISION OF A WOODCHIPPING AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY SERVICE WITHIN PART OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS the Regional District may, pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, operate any service that it considers necessary or desirable for all or a part of the Regional District;

AND WHEREAS the Strathcona Regional District wishes to establish a woodchipping and climate resiliency service within Electoral Area B and Electoral Area C;

AND WHEREAS the approval of the electors has been obtained pursuant to Section 342 of the *Local Government Act*;

NOW THEREFORE the Board of Directors of the Strathcona Regional District, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

Service Established

1. There is hereby established a service to be known as the woodchipping and climate resiliency service.

Description of Service

2. The service authorized by this bylaw includes the following:
 - a) the collection, chipping, transport and upcycle of wood waste, and
 - b) funding projects that prepare the service area for the impacts of climate change or reduce the area's greenhouse gas emissions.

Participating Areas

3. The participating areas for the service are Electoral Area B (Cortes Island) and Electoral Area C (Discovery Islands-Mainland Inlets).

Service Area Boundaries

4. The boundaries of the service area include the entirety of Electoral Areas B and C.

Cost Recovery

5. The annual net cost of the service shall be recovered by one or more of the following methods;
 - a) property value taxes imposed in accordance with Division 2 of Part 11 of the *Local Government Act*;
 - b) revenues received by way of agreement, enterprise, gift, grant or otherwise;
 - c) revenues raised by other means authorized by the *Local Government Act* or another Act.

Annual Limit on Requisition

6. The maximum amount that may be requisitioned annually for the service is the equivalent of \$0.059 per \$1,000 of the net taxable value of land and improvements in the service area.

Citation

7. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as Bylaw No. 627, being Woodchipping and Climate Resiliency Service Establishing Bylaw 2025.

READ A FIRST TIME ON THE 19TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2025

READ A SECOND TIME ON THE 19TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2025

READ A THIRD TIME ON THE 19TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2025

APPROVED BY THE INSPECTOR OF MUNICIPALITIES ON THE DAY OF ,2026

APPROVED BY THE ELECTORS ON THE DAY OF ,2026

RECONSIDERED, FINALLY PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THE DAY OF , 2026

Chair

Corporate Officer



STAFF REPORT

DATE: November 10, 2025 **FILE:** 0550-04 EASC

TO: Chair and Directors
Regional Board

FROM: David Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: **BYLAW NO. 627 – WOODCHIPPING AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY SERVICE**

PURPOSE/PROBLEM

To consider Bylaw No. 627 which proposes to establish a woodchipping and climate resiliency service for Electoral Areas B (Cortes Island) and C (Discovery Islands-Mainland Inlets).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The attached report was considered by the Board at its October 22, 2025 meeting at which time the following resolution was passed:

Rice/Mawhinney/Rice: EASC 240/25

THAT a bylaw to establish a woodchipping and climate resiliency service within Electoral Areas B and C be prepared for consideration at the November 19, 2025 meeting.

The attached Bylaw No. 627 has been prepared for the Board's consideration based on the above resolution. It is believed that the Board desires that the bylaw be subject to elector approval by voting in conjunction with the 2026 local government elections. For that to occur the bylaw will need to be approved by the Inspector of Municipalities within the 80 day period prior to the 2026 local government elections.

If Bylaw No. 627 is supported by the Board, additional reports will be forthcoming to the Board in due course seeking to confirm the ballot question and other matters relevant to the approval process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT Bylaw No. 627, being a bylaw to authorize the provision of a woodchipping and climate resiliency service within part of the Regional District, be now introduced and read a first time.
3. THAT the rules be suspended and Bylaw No. 627 be given second and third readings.
4. THAT elector approval of Bylaw No. 627 be authorized to be obtained by assent voting to be held in conjunction with the 2026 general local elections, and

THAT the results of the vote in each electoral area be combined for the purpose of determining if electoral approval has been obtained throughout the proposed service area.

Respectfully:



David Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Proposed timetable for woodchipping and climate resiliency service approval.

Schedule	Action
October 22, 2025	Regional Board reviews report on woodchipping and climate resiliency service and authorizes preparation of service bylaw.
November 19, 2025	Board gives first 3 readings to Bylaw No. 627, being Woodchipping and Climate Resiliency Service Establishing Bylaw 2025, and authorizes use of assent voting for obtaining elector approval.
November 24, 2025	Bylaw No. 627 submitted to Inspector of Municipalities for approval under s.349 of the <i>Local Government Act</i> .
June 17, 2026	Board approves ballot question and other particulars regarding voting process for Bylaw No. 627.
July 20, 2026	Inspector of Municipalities approves Bylaw No.627.
August 19, 2026	Board approves ballot question for Bylaw No. 627.
September 16, 2026	First publication of public notice for Bylaw No. 627 voting opportunities.
September 23, 2026	Second publication of public notice for Bylaw No. 627 voting opportunities.
September 30, 2026	Scrutineers appointed for voting on Bylaw No. 627.
October 7, 2026	Advance voting day for Bylaw No. 627.
October 17, 2026	General voting day for Bylaw No. 627.
October 21, 2026	If approved by electors, Board adopts Bylaw No. 627.
March 31, 2027	Operating budget for first year of climate resiliency service adopted

Prepared by: T. Yates, Senior Corporate Services Manager

Attachment: Bylaw No. 627
Copy of October 16, 2025 report to the Board



BYLAW NO. 627

A BYLAW TO AUTHORIZE THE PROVISION OF A WOODCHIPPING AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY SERVICE WITHIN PART OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS the Regional District may, pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, operate any service that it considers necessary or desirable for all or a part of the Regional District;

AND WHEREAS the Strathcona Regional District wishes to establish a woodchipping and climate resiliency service within Electoral Area B and Electoral Area C;

AND WHEREAS the approval of the electors has been obtained pursuant to Section 342 of the *Local Government Act*;

NOW THEREFORE the Board of Directors of the Strathcona Regional District, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

Service Established

1. There is hereby established a service to be known as the woodchipping and climate resiliency service.

Description of Service

2. The service authorized by this bylaw includes the following:
 - a) the collection, chipping, transport and upcycle of wood waste, and
 - b) funding projects that prepare the service area for the impacts of climate change or reduce the area's greenhouse gas emissions.

Participating Areas

3. The participating areas for the service are Electoral Area B (Cortes Island) and Electoral Area C (Discovery Islands-Mainland Inlets).

Service Area Boundaries

4. The boundaries of the service area include the entirety of Electoral Areas B and C.

Cost Recovery

5. The annual net cost of the service shall be recovered by one or more of the following methods;
 - a) property value taxes imposed in accordance with Division 2 of Part 11 of the *Local Government Act*;
 - b) revenues received by way of agreement, enterprise, gift, grant or otherwise;
 - c) revenues raised by other means authorized by the *Local Government Act* or another Act.

Annual Limit on Requisition

6. The maximum amount that may be requisitioned annually for the service is the equivalent of \$0.059 per \$1,000 of the net taxable value of land and improvements in the service area.

Citation

7. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as Bylaw No. 627, being Woodchipping and Climate Resiliency Service Establishing Bylaw 2025.

READ A FIRST TIME ON THE DAY OF , 2025

READ A SECOND TIME ON THE DAY OF , 2025

READ A THIRD TIME ON THE DAY OF , 2025

APPROVED BY THE INSPECTOR OF MUNICIPALITIES ON THE DAY OF ,2025

APPROVED BY THE ELECTORS ON THE DAY OF ,2025

RECONSIDERED, FINALLY PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THE DAY OF , 2025

Chair

Corporate Officer



STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 16, 2025

FILE: 0550-04 EASC

TO: Chair and Directors
Regional Board

FROM: David Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: WOODCHIPPING AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY SERVICE PROPOSAL

PURPOSE/PROBLEM

To consider a recommendation from the Electoral Areas Services Committee that a bylaw to establish a woodchipping and climate resiliency service for Electoral Areas B and C be considered for elector approval by assent voting in 2026.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The attached report was considered by the Electoral Areas Services Committee at its October 8, 2025 meeting at which time the following resolution was passed:

Rice/Mawhinney/Rice: EASC 240/25

THAT the woodchipping and climate resiliency service proposal be forwarded to the Board for consideration of seeking elector approval via a referendum in 2026.

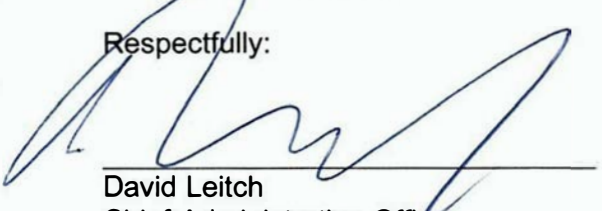
Based on Committee discussions over the last several months, the attached bylaw is presented for the Board's consideration. The intent of the bylaw is to establish a service to finance woodchipping and other activities, programs and events that support climate resiliency within Electoral Areas B and C. The Committee has recommended that the bylaw be the subject of assent voting by electors within the proposed service area in conjunction with the 2026 local government elections.

If supported by the Board, a formal bylaw will be prepared for consideration at the next meeting together with details regarding additional matters that must be considered in relation to the approval process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT a bylaw to establish a woodchipping and climate resiliency service within Electoral Areas B and C be prepared for consideration at the November 19, 2025 meeting.

Respectfully:



David Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Table 1: proposed schedule for woodchipping and climate resiliency service approval.

Schedule	Action
October 8, 2025	Electoral Areas Services Committee reviews report on woodchipping and climate resiliency service and recommends the Board proceed with initiative.
October 22, 2025	Board considers Committee recommendation and authorizes preparation of service establishing bylaw.
November 19, 2025	Board gives first 3 readings to Bylaw No. [REDACTED], being Woodchipping and Climate Resiliency Service Establishing Bylaw 2025, and authorizes use of assent voting for obtaining elector approval.
November 24, 2025	Bylaw No. [REDACTED] submitted to Inspector of Municipalities for approval under s.349 of the <i>Local Government Act</i> .
June __, 2026	Board approves ballot question for Bylaw No. [REDACTED].
July 20, 2026	Approval for Bylaw No. [REDACTED] received from Inspector of Municipalities.
August __, 2026	First publication of public notice for Bylaw No. [REDACTED] voting opportunities.
August __, 2026	Second publication of public notice for Bylaw No. [REDACTED] voting opportunities.
October 7, 2026	Advance voting day for Bylaw No. [REDACTED].
October 17, 2026	General voting day for Bylaw No. [REDACTED].
October __, 2026	If approved by electors, Board adopts Bylaw No. [REDACTED].
March 31, 2027	Operating budget for first year of woodchipping and climate resiliency service.

Prepared by: T. Yates, Senior Corporate Services Manager

Attachment: Copy of September 30, 2025 report to the EASC



STAFF REPORT

DATE: September 30, 2025 **FILE:** 0550-04 EASC

TO: Chair and Directors
Electoral Areas Services Committee

FROM: David Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: CLIMATE RESILIENCY SERVICE PROPOSAL - ELECTORAL AREAS B AND C

PURPOSE/PROBLEM

To further consider the proposed climate resiliency service for Electoral Areas B and C before the matter is offered for consideration by the Board.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The attached report was considered by the Committee at its September 3, 2025 meeting at which time the Committee passed the following resolution:

Vonesch/Mawhinney: EASC 221/25

THAT a report reflecting a revised service name which includes the term 'wood chipping', and an amended maximum requisition amount of \$0.59 per \$1,000 be prepared and returned to the Electoral Areas Services Committee for consideration.

The attached draft bylaw has been amended in accordance with the Committee's direction and is scheduled for further discussion by the Committee before being presented for consideration by the Regional Board.

ALTERNATIVES

Option A: THAT the woodchipping and climate resiliency service proposal be forwarded to the Board for consideration of seeking elector approval.

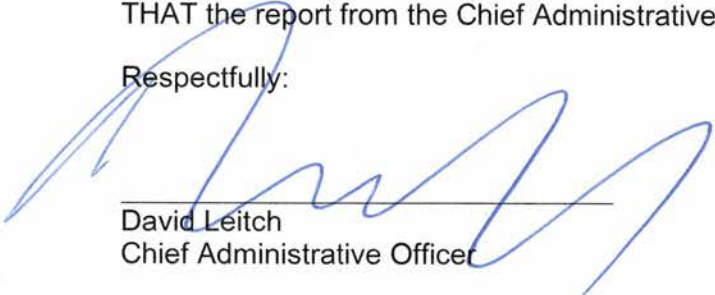
Option B: THAT the Committee undertake further research in respect of the proposed woodchipping and climate resiliency service before it is forwarded for the Board's consideration.

Option C: THAT further consideration of a woodchipping and climate resiliency service for Electoral Areas B and C not be pursued at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.

Respectfully:



David Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by: T. Yates, Senior Corporate Services Manager

Attachment: DRAFT Climate Resiliency Service Bylaw
Copy of August 29, 2025 report to the EASC

COPY



BYLAW NO. [REDACTED]

A BYLAW TO AUTHORIZE THE PROVISION OF A WOODCHIPPING AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY SERVICE WITHIN PART OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS the Regional District may, pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, operate any service that it considers necessary or desirable for all or a part of the Regional District;

AND WHEREAS the Strathcona Regional District wishes to establish a woodchipping and climate resiliency service within Electoral Area B and Electoral Area C;

AND WHEREAS the approval of the electors has been obtained pursuant to Section 342 of the *Local Government Act*;

NOW THEREFORE the Board of Directors of the Strathcona Regional District, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

Service Established

1. There is hereby established a service to be known as the woodchipping and climate resiliency service.

Description of Service

2. The service authorized by this bylaw includes the following:
 - a) the collection, chipping, transport and upcycle of wood waste, and
 - b) funding projects that prepare the service area for the impacts of climate change or reduce the area's greenhouse gas emissions.

Participating Areas

3. The participating areas for the service are Electoral Area B (Cortes Island) and Electoral Area C (Discovery Islands-Mainland Inlets).

Service Area Boundaries

4. The boundaries of the service area include the entirety of Electoral Areas B and C.

Cost Recovery

5. The annual net cost of the service shall be recovered by one or more of the following methods;
 - a) property value taxes imposed in accordance with Division 2 of Part 11 of the *Local Government Act*;
 - b) revenues received by way of agreement, enterprise, gift, grant or otherwise;
 - c) revenues raised by other means authorized by the *Local Government Act* or another Act.

Annual Limit on Requisition

6. The maximum amount that may be requisitioned annually for the service is the equivalent of \$0.059 per \$1,000 of the net taxable value of land and improvements in the service area.

Citation

7. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as Bylaw No. , being Electoral Area Woodchipping and Climate Resiliency Service Establishing Bylaw 2025.

READ A FIRST TIME ON THE DAY OF , 2025

READ A SECOND TIME ON THE DAY OF , 2025

READ A THIRD TIME ON THE DAY OF , 2025

APPROVED BY THE INSPECTOR OF MUNICIPALITIES ON THE DAY OF ,2025

APPROVED BY THE ELECTORS ON THE DAY OF ,2025

RECONSIDERED, FINALLY PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THE DAY OF , 2025

Chair

Corporate Officer



STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 29, 2025

FILE: 0550-04 EASC

TO: Chair and Directors
Electoral Areas Services Committee

FROM: David Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: CLIMATE RESILIENCY SERVICE PROPOSAL - ELECTORAL AREAS B AND C

PURPOSE/PROBLEM

To further consider the proposed climate resiliency service for Electoral Areas B and C before the matter is offered for consideration by the Board.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The attached report was considered by the Committee at its December 11, 2024 meeting at which time the Committee indicated that it would prefer to have additional research done before finalizing the proposed climate resiliency service. The costs related to wood chipping are relatively easy to determine since there is an historical context from which they can be estimated. The costs of other programs are more difficult to estimate since the Regional District has little information in the types of services anticipated that specifically prepare for the impacts of climate change or that reduce carbon emissions.

The discussion from a previous meeting suggested that natural asset management and planning could be appropriate subjects to include in the service. However, it was also stated that listing specific programs in the service bylaw may be unnecessarily prescriptive and could curtail the ability of the service to address broader initiatives that would harmonize with its goals.

The attached draft bylaw is preliminary in nature and intended simply to remind directors of the content and process requirements of the *Local Government Act* with respect to establishing services that rely on property taxation for their operation. With regard to the annual requisition limit of \$0.069 per 1,000 of property assessment proposed by the Committee, the following table shows how this would impact the availability of funds for programs if implemented on this basis:

Project or Program	Annual Expenditure	Tax Rate Equivalent	Cost per home/yr	
			Area B	Area C
Wood chipping	\$83,065	\$0.038 per 1,000	-----	
Other programs (ie. natural asset management)	\$66,140	\$0.031 per 1,000	-----	
Total	\$149,205	\$0.069 per 1,000	\$45.70	\$41.63

As may be seen, the annual funding that would be available for other programs (assuming the costs associated with wood chipping did not exceed \$83,065 annually) would be approximately \$66,000. This may include costs associated with natural asset management, planning, etc. which are currently unknown.

Once the Committee is satisfied that the bylaw accurately represents the level of service desired, the question of elector approval will need to be addressed. Given the relatively high cost of

seeking approval by voting the Committee may wish to recommend an alternative approval process (AAP). Under that process, if less than 10% of the electors affected by the proposed bylaw object in writing, the Board may proceed with adoption. The cost of conducting the AAP would be less than \$1,000 compared to several thousands of dollars to conduct voting opportunities throughout Electoral Areas B and C. The costs of seeking elector approval would be covered out of the Electoral Area B and C feasibility reserve fund.

At this time the following alternatives are available for consideration by the Committee:

ALTERNATIVES

Option A: THAT the climate resiliency service be forwarded to the Board for consideration of seeking elector approval.

Option B: THAT the Committee undertake further research in respect of the proposed climate resiliency service before it is forwarded for the Board's consideration.

Option C: THAT further consideration of a climate resiliency service for Electoral Areas B and C not be pursued at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.

Respectfully:



David Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by: *T. Yates, Senior Corporate Services Manager & E. Watson, Manager Corporate Operations*

Attachment: DRAFT Climate Resiliency Service Bylaw
Copy of December 6, 2024 report to the EASC



BYLAW NO. [REDACTED]

A BYLAW TO AUTHORIZE THE PROVISION OF A CLIMATE RESILIENCY SERVICE WITHIN A PART OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS the Regional District may, pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, operate any service that it considers necessary or desirable for all or a part of the Regional District;

AND WHEREAS the Strathcona Regional District wishes to establish a climate resiliency service within Electoral Area B and Electoral Area C;

AND WHEREAS the assent of the electors has been obtained pursuant to Section 342 of the *Local Government Act*;

NOW THEREFORE the Board of Directors of the Strathcona Regional District, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

Service Established

1. There is hereby established a service to know as the climate resiliency service.

Description of Service

2. The service authorized by this bylaw includes the following:
 - a) the collection, chipping, transport and upcycle of wood waste, and
 - b) funding projects that prepare the service area for the impacts of climate change or reduce the area's greenhouse gas emissions.

Participating Areas

3. The participating areas for the service are Electoral Area B (Cortes Island) and Electoral Area C (Discovery Islands-Mainland Inlets).

Service Area Boundaries

4. The boundaries of the service area include the entirety of Electoral Areas B and C.

Cost Recovery

5. The annual net cost of the service shall be recovered by one or more of the following methods;
 - a) property value taxes imposed in accordance with Division 2 of Part 11 of the *Local Government Act*;
 - b) revenues received by way of agreement, enterprise, gift, grant or otherwise;
 - c) revenues raised by other means authorized by the *Local Government Act* or another Act.

Annual Limit on Requisition

6. The maximum amount that may be requisitioned annually for the service is the equivalent of **\$0.069** per \$1,000 of the net taxable value of land and improvements in the service area.

Citation

7. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as Bylaw No. [REDACTED], being Electoral Area Climate Resiliency Service Establishing Bylaw 2025.

READ A FIRST TIME ON THE DAY OF , 2025

READ A SECOND TIME ON THE DAY OF , 2025

READ A THIRD TIME ON THE DAY OF , 2025

APPROVED BY THE INSPECTOR OF MUNICIPALITIES ON THE DAY OF ,2025

APPROVED BY THE ELECTORS ON THE DAY OF ,2025

RECONSIDERED, FINALLY PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THE DAY OF , 2025

Chair

Corporate Officer



STAFF REPORT

DATE: December 6, 2024

FILE: 0550-04 EASC

TO: Chair and Directors,
Electoral Area Services Committee

FROM: David Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: ELECTORAL AREA WOODCHIPPING COSTS

PURPOSE/PROBLEM

To provide the Committee with the estimated costs of providing an annual wood debris removal (chipping) service to all road accessible properties on Quadra Island and Cortes Island.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its November 6, 2024 meeting the Committee considered the attached report and passed the following resolution:

Vonecsh/Mawhinney: EASC 399/24

THAT staff prepare a report for EASC outlining cost estimates on a wood chipping service.

From 2020 to 2022 an annual wood debris removal service was provided using funding from the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) FireSmart grant. All road accessible properties were able to place an unlimited amount of wood debris at the end of their driveway for processing. In 2020 and 2021 the wood chips were disposed of in Campbell River. In 2022 the UBCM allowed the Regional District to consider proposals from community organizations to use the woodchips in a manner consistent with FireSmart principles provided that the use was beyond 100 meters from residential structures.

Over a three-year period the average cost of providing the wood debris removal service for Cortes Island was \$25,715 and \$57,350 for Quadra Island respectively. As can be seen in the table below, the annual costs can be subject to significant fluctuation depending on the degree of use by the public. It is expected that the local use of woodchips would result in the reduction of transportation costs for the program since the cost of shipping to a UBCM approved disposal site would be eliminated, and no woodchips would be shipped by ferry outside of the electoral area in which they are produced.

Table: Cost of Woodchipping Debris Removal Service in Prior Years

Year	Cost (Cortes Island)	Cost (Quadra Island)
2020	\$6,926	\$19,800
2021	\$57,718	\$29,050
2022	\$12,500	\$123,200
3-year average	\$25,715	\$57,350

When considering the future costs associated with a publicly funded woodchipping service, the Regional District may want to consider the above information when estimating costs for years when grants may not be available to offset costs to local property owners.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.

Respectfully:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Leitch', is written over a horizontal line.

David Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by: S. Koopman, Manager of Emergency Services

COPY



STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 30, 2024 **FILE:** 0550-04

TO: Chair and Directors,
Electoral Areas Services Committee

FROM: Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: PROPOSED ELECTORAL AREA CLIMATE RESILIENCY SERVICE

PURPOSE/PROBLEM

To consider information regarding a draft bylaw that would establish a climate resiliency service for Electoral Areas B and C of the Regional District.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The attached report was considered at the October 9, 2024 meeting of the Committee at which time the following resolution was passed:

Vonesch/Mawhinney: EASC 336/24

THAT the activities of the Climate Resiliency Service be updated to:

- i) the collection, chipping, transport, and upcycle of wood waste
- ii) funding community projects that prepares the service area for the impacts of climate change or reduces the areas carbon emissions.

Vonesch/Mawhinney: EASC 337/24

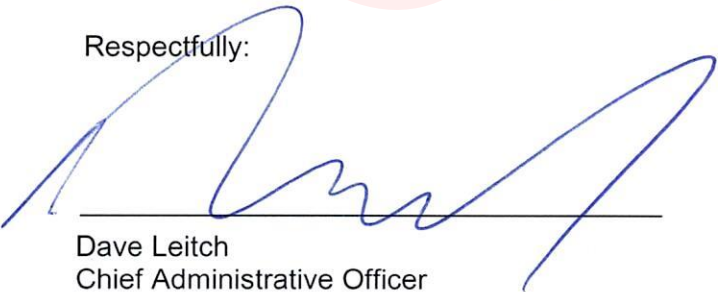
THAT the maximum tax requisition for the Climate Resiliency Service be set to \$0.069 per \$1,000.

The bylaw has been updated to reflect the wording recommended by the Committee and is being presented for further review should there be changes that the Committee wishes to sponsor before being presented to the Board for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.

Respectfully:



Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by: T. Yates, Corporate Services Manager

Attachments: Copy of September 26, 2024 report to the EASC



BYLAW NO.

A BYLAW TO AUTHORIZE THE PROVISION OF A CLIMATE RESILIENCY SERVICE WITHIN SPECIFIED ELECTORAL AREAS

WHEREAS the Regional District may, pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, operate any service that it considers necessary or desirable for all or a part of the Regional District;

AND WHEREAS the Strathcona Regional District wishes to establish a climate resiliency service within Electoral Area B and Electoral Area C;

AND WHEREAS the assent of the electors has been obtained pursuant to Section 342 of the *Local Government Act*;

NOW THEREFORE the Board of Directors of the Strathcona Regional District, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

Service Established

1. There is hereby established a service to know as the electoral area climate resiliency service.

Description of Service

2. The service authorized by this bylaw includes the following components;
 - a) the collection, chipping, transport and upcycle of wood waste,
 - b) funding community projects that prepare the service area for the impacts of climate change or reduce the area's carbon emissions.

Participating Areas

3. The participating areas for the service are Electoral Area B (Cortes Island) and Electoral Area C (Discovery Islands-Mainland Inlets).

Service Area Boundaries

4. The boundaries of the service area include the entirety of Electoral Areas B and C.

Cost Recovery

5. The annual net cost of the service shall be recovered by one or more of the following methods;
 - a) property value taxes imposed in accordance with Division 2 of Part 11 of the *Local Government Act*;
 - b) revenues received by way of agreement, enterprise, gift, grant or otherwise;
 - c) revenues raised by other means authorized by the *Local Government Act* or another Act.

Annual Limit on Requisition

6. The maximum amount that may be requisitioned annually for the service is the equivalent of \$0.069 per \$1,000 of the net taxable value of land and improvements in the service area.

Citation

7. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as Bylaw No. [REDACTED], being Electoral Area Climate Resiliency Service Establishing Bylaw 2024.

READ A FIRST TIME ON THE DAY OF , 2024

READ A SECOND TIME ON THE DAY OF , 2024

READ A THIRD TIME ON THE DAY OF , 2024

APPROVED BY THE INSPECTOR OF MUNICIPALITIES ON THE DAY OF ,2024

APPROVED BY THE ELECTORS ON THE DAY OF ,2025

RECONSIDERED, FINALLY PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THE DAY OF , 2025

Chair

Corporate Officer



STAFF REPORT

DATE: September 26, 2024

FILE: 0550-04

TO: Chair and Directors,
Electoral Areas Services Committee

FROM: Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: PROPOSED ELECTORAL AREA CLIMATE RESILIENCY SERVICE

PURPOSE/PROBLEM

To consider information regarding a draft bylaw that would establish a climate resiliency service for Electoral Areas B and C of the Regional District.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The attached report was considered at the August 21, 2024 meeting of the Board at which time the following resolution was passed:

Mawhinney/Whalley: SRD 690/24

THAT an establishing bylaw for a climate resiliency service that includes wood debris removal within Electoral Areas B and C be prepared for review at the Electoral Areas Services Committee.

The attached draft bylaw has been prepared for consideration by the Committee, however it is noted that there is much required information still to be included that is currently unknown by staff. This includes the other activities (aside from wood debris removal) that are intended to be included as part of the service offering, and the costs associated with those activities. Until such time as the full suite of activities to be provided as part of the service are identified, staff are unable to project annual service costs and tax requisitions limits. In accordance with the *Local Government Act*, this information is required for any service establishing bylaw that is submitted to the Province for approval.

Once the Committee has clarified the scope of the proposed service and the activities, programs and events to be included, a revised bylaw can be prepared for further review.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.

Respectfully:



Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by: T. Yates, Corporate Services Manager

Attachments: Copy of August 9, 2024 report to the Board

COPY



BYLAW NO.

A BYLAW TO AUTHORIZE THE PROVISION OF A CLIMATE RESILIENCY SERVICE WITHIN SPECIFIED ELECTORAL AREAS

WHEREAS the Regional District may, pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, operate any service that it considers necessary or desirable for all or a part of the Regional District;

AND WHEREAS the Strathcona Regional District wishes to establish a climate resiliency service within Electoral Area B and Electoral Area C;

AND WHEREAS the assent of the electors has been obtained pursuant to Section 342 of the *Local Government Act*;

NOW THEREFORE the Board of Directors of the Strathcona Regional District, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

Service Established

1. There is hereby established a service to know as the electoral area climate resiliency service.

Description of Service

2. The service authorized by this bylaw includes the following components;
 - a) the collection, chipping, transport and disposal of wood waste,
 - b) _____, and
 - c) _____.

Participating Area

3. The participating areas for the service are Electoral Area B (Cortes Island) and Electoral Area C (Discovery Islands-Mainland Inlets).

Service Area Boundaries

4. The boundaries of the service area include the entirety of Electoral Areas B and C.

Cost Recovery

5. The annual net cost of the service shall be recovered by one or more of the following methods;
 - a) property value taxes imposed in accordance with Division 2 of Part 11 of the *Local Government Act*;
 - b) revenues received by way of agreement, enterprise, gift, grant or otherwise;
 - c) revenues raised by other means authorized by the *Local Government Act* or another Act.

Annual Limit on Requisition

6. The maximum amount that may be requisitioned annually for the service is \$ or the equivalent of \$ per \$1,000 of the net taxable value of land and improvements in the service area.

Citation

7. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as Bylaw No. , being Electoral Area Climate Resiliency Service Establishing Bylaw 2024.

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RECONSIDERED, FINALLY PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THE DAY OF , 2025

Chair

Corporate Officer



STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 9, 2024

FILE: 0550-04

TO: Chair and Directors,
Regional Board

FROM: Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: WOOD DEBRIS REMOVAL & CLIMATE RESILIENCY SERVICES

PURPOSE

To consider a recommendation from the Electoral Areas Services Committee regarding the provision of wood debris removal services in the electoral areas.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its August 7, 2024 meeting, the Electoral Areas Services Committee considered the attached report and passed the following resolution:

Vonesch/Rice: EASC 270/24

THAT the Committee recommend that the Regional District establish a locally financed wood debris removal service for Area D and a climate resiliency service that includes wood debris removal service for Areas B and C.

The actions outlined below are offered in support of the Committee's recommendation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT an establishing bylaw for a wood debris removal service within Electoral Area D be prepared for review at the Electoral Areas Services Committee.
3. THAT an establishing bylaw for a climate resiliency service that includes wood debris removal within Electoral Areas B and C be prepared for review at the Electoral Areas Services Committee.

Respectfully:



David Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by: T. Yates, Corporate Services Manager

Attachment: Copy of August 2, 2024 report to the EASC



STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 2, 2024

FILE: 0550-04 EASC

TO: Chair and Directors,
Electoral Area Services Committee

FROM: David Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: WOOD DEBRIS REMOVAL SERVICE – ELECTORAL AREAS B, C AND D

PURPOSE/PROBLEM

To consider information regarding the provision of an annual wood debris removal (chipping) service within Electoral Areas B, C and D.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The attached report was considered at the April 24, 2024 Regional Board meeting at which time the following resolution was passed:

Chapman/Colborne: SRD 326/24

THAT the feasibility of establishing a service to cover annual wood chipping and debris removal operations within Electoral Areas B, C, and D be investigated.

In previous years the wood chipping service was provided using funding provided by FireSmart grants wherein all road accessible properties were able to place an unlimited amount of wood debris at the end of their driveway for processing by the Regional District (see Attachment 'A'). The Regional District has never adopted an establishing bylaw for this service although it probably should since not all costs incurred under the program are covered by grant awards. For the purpose of this report, it is assumed that the service would continue to be offered in the same fashion as in previous years rather than, for example, having one or more centralized locations that the public would use for disposal of wood waste. It is noted that the Regional District has more flexibility regarding the collection and disposal of wood waste when not using grant funds to operate the service.

Based on information from previous years, it is estimated that the costs to provide this level of service in Electoral Areas B, C and D could be approximately \$215,000 annually. This is based on the maximum amounts incurred annually for each of the identified electoral areas in the period 2020-22, those being \$58,000 (Electoral Area B), \$123,000 (Electoral Area C) and \$45,000 (Electoral Area D). Part of the revenue requirements for the service may continue to be met through FireSmart grants but these grants have been reduced from the level of previous years. This means that the FireSmart grant program cannot be relied upon to provide sustainable funding for an annual wood chipping service. In order to maintain the services levels of previous years, it would be necessary to recover a portion of the operating costs through property taxation or user fees while utilizing grant funding to offset costs in years when those are available. To raise the estimated \$215,000 through requisition within the above electoral areas would require a residential tax rate of approximately \$0.06 per 1,000 of property assessment.

Should the Regional District move forward with a wood debris removal (chipping) service it would need to adopt a bylaw to authorize access to the local tax base. The bylaw will also need to define the boundaries of the service (benefitting) area, the method of sharing annual costs between properties, and the maximum amount that may be requisitioned in any given year. In accordance with the *Local Government Act*, the costs of operating a Regional District service must be charged against the area receiving the benefit of that service.

ALTERNATIVES

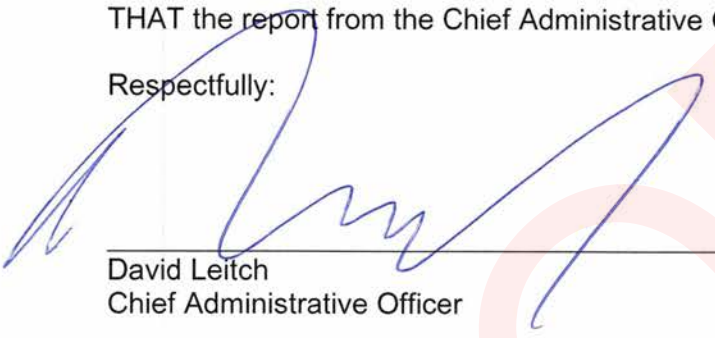
Option A – THAT the Committee recommend that the Regional District establish a wood debris removal service within Electoral Areas B, C and D that reflects funding by grants only.

Option B – THAT the Committee recommend that the Regional District establish a locally financed wood debris removal service within Electoral Areas B, C and D that assumes some level of grant funding will continue to be provided.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.

Respectfully:

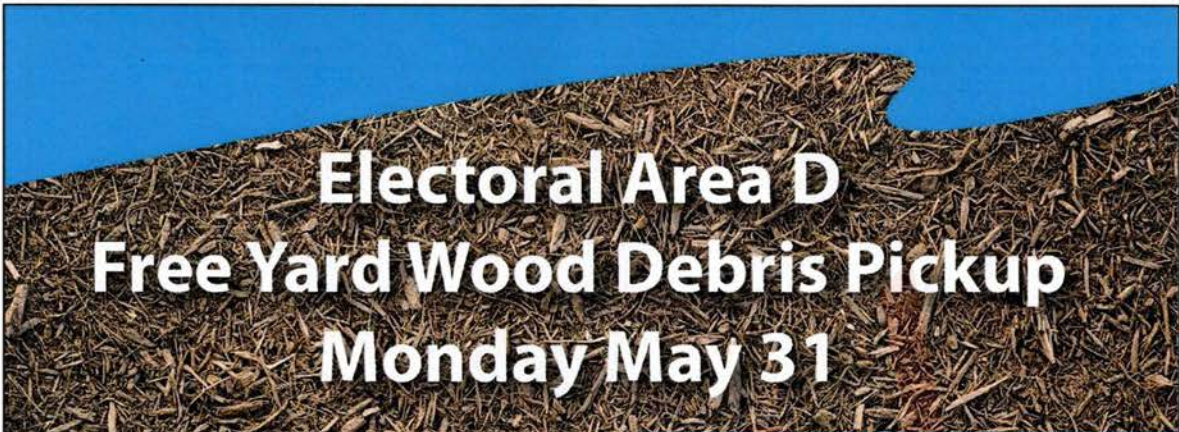


David Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by: S. Koopman, Manager of Emergency Services

Attachments: A – Wood Debris Pickup Promotional Poster

Attachment 'A' – Wood Debris Pickup Promotional Poster



Electoral Area D Free Yard Wood Debris Pickup Monday May 31

Electoral Area D residents residing between the Oyster River and Jubilee Parkway please FireSmart your home and property by bringing excess wood debris to the end of your driveway by 9:00 am Monday May 31st. Depending on how many residents participate, it may take a couple of days for the chipper to get to your property.

Debris will be disposed of for free as part of the FireSmart Community Chipper program offered through the 2021 Community Resiliency Investment grant.

No sign-up is required but if you feel your driveway may be hard to locate then please let us know and we'll put you on a special list.



Rules

- No rocks, no nails & no roots.
- Ideally all the "butt ends" of branches are pointed the same way so they can be fed efficiently into the chipper.
- Tree trimmings must be under 16 cms in diameter and 10 m length max.
- No invasive species such as Scotch Broom, English Holly, Giant Hogweed and Knotweed.
- The contractor reserves the right not to pickup any piles that they feel does not meet these rules.
- Do not block traffic by piling debris on the road.
- Any debris brought to the end of driveways after 9 am on May 31st may not be picked up.
- Wood chips cannot be returned to residents as they are considered fuel under the FireSmart principles. The SRD requested a grant policy amendment to allow wood chips to be returned to residents, however this request was denied.

Questions or comments, please contact:
Shaun Koopman - Strathcona Regional District
Protective Services Coordinator

Strathcona
REGIONAL DISTRICT

250-830-6702 | preparedness@srd.ca
www.srd.ca/emergency-management



STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 16, 2024

FILE: 0550-04 Board

TO: Chair and Directors,
Regional Board

FROM: Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: INVESTIGATION OF WOOD CHIPPING SERVICE

PURPOSE/PROBLEM

To consider a recommendation from the Electoral Areas Services Committee that the Regional District investigate the feasibility of establishing a service to cover annual wood chipping and debris removal operations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The topic of the annual wood chipping and removal operations within the electoral areas was discussed at the April 10, 2024 meeting of the Electoral Areas Services Committee at which time the following resolution was passed:

Mawhinney/Vonesch: EASC 132/24

THAT a report with cost estimates for providing an annual wood-debris removal (chipping) service for Electoral Areas B, C, and D prepared for consideration of the Electoral Area Services Committee.

If supported by the Board, the report would examine the parameters of such a service, alternative cost recovery and cost-sharing options, and how such a service would align with broader regional initiatives that seek to mitigate wildfire and other environmental concerns.

The following actions are offered in support of the Committee's recommendation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT the feasibility of establishing a service to cover annual wood chipping and debris removal operations within Electoral Areas B, C and D be investigated, and

THAT a further report with recommendations be prepared for further consideration following the investigation.

Respectfully,

A blue ink signature of Dave Leitch is written over a horizontal line.

Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by: T. Yates, Corporate Services Manager

COPY