



Governance & Services Committee

TO: Governance and Services Committee

FROM: Brian Reardon
Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: March 5, 2021

SUBJECT: Air Quality – Agricultural Wood Chipping Program Update

Purpose: To provide the Committee with an update to the Air Quality – Agricultural Wood Chipping Program.

Executive Summary:

At the February 26th, 2021 Governance & Services Budget Workshop meeting, Committee members raised some questions regarding the Air Quality – Agricultural Wood Chipping Program. The following resolution was passed:

“THAT staff report to the March 18th budget meeting on the operation of regional air quality chipping program.”

The agricultural wood chipping program in the Regional Air Quality function currently has an annual budget of \$80,000 and is used to provide chipping services to orchardists in the Central Okanagan. This program has two components; agricultural chipping for large acreages and a Mow/Chip rental rebate component for smaller acreages. This program is oversubscribed every year leaving some orchardists to find other ways to dispose of their wood waste. In 2020, our chipping contractor had a major mechanical failure that made this situation worse.

In order to address last years backlog and provide better service to our orchardists, it is recommended \$40,000 be added to the Agricultural Chipping Program in 2021.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee recommend the Regional Board approve adding \$40,000 to the Air Quality - Agricultural Wood Chipping Program in 2021.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Reardon".

Brian Reardon, CAO

The table below provides some important statistics for our Agricultural Wood Chipping Program for the last three years.

Year	2020	2019	2018
No. of registered orchards	43	60	59
Total Orchards Finished	17	25	20
Volume of Wood Chips (m3)	3618	4891	7238
Agricultural Chipping Program (acres cleared)	111	128	119
Mow Chip Rent It (acres cleared)	139	53	73
Total Mow Chip Rent Rebates Granted	19	17	17

Further background information on the Regional Air Quality Service is provided in the attached 4th Quarter Report.

Staff are currently developing a formal business case for the agricultural wood chipping component of our Air Quality Service that will be presented to the Board in the 2nd Quarter of 2021.

Attachment: 2020 4th Quarter Air Quality Report