

No big projects for waste commission

BY Craig Lindsay, MVP Staff

DIDSBURY – After a busy year filled with several big projects, the Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission (MVRWMC) is looking at a relatively quiet 2017.

“We don’t have too much on the go,” said Pat Sliworsky, CAO. “We’ve had a busy last year building a cell and bringing a ton of dirt. This next year is pretty quiet. We’ve got nothing planned. We just want to keep everything as cost effective and low key as possible— running smoothly with no issues.”

Sliworsky did say MVRWMC does have to dispose of its shingle pile.

“We have about 5,000 metric tonnes of shingles that we are going to get ground up this year,” he said. “We had a pilot project last year of 4,000 tonnes and realized it was a good thing, but it’s not cheap. So this year we’re going to get the rest of it done.”

MVRWMC is planning to bring in a contractor to take care of the shingles.

“We have a company that comes out from Manitoba,” he said. “They do kind of milk run all the way through. They ended up getting a couple of other landfill sites involved so they don’t have to come all the way out to Alberta just for one landfill.”

Sliworsky said the shingle work will take place in the spring when the weather warms up.

The contractor will grind the shingles on site and the grounds will be used for the roads at the site to keep dust down.

Last year’s other big project at the Didsbury landfill was the 120,000 tonnes of hydrocarbon- contaminated soil that was brought in and used as cover.

“We finished the project about a month ago,” he said. “Everything was done right. We had no issues. We had no complaints from the public nor the contractor. We had no safety issues. It was a very safe operation.

“It was a full team effort from my team in handling that much waste, when you consider we take in 15,000 tonnes a year and we took in 120,000. That’s a huge difference.”

Sliworsky said the soil was brought in without affecting regular operations.

A board of directors oversees the regional waste commission with representatives from the six local municipalities (Olds, Mountain View County, Carstairs, Didsbury, Sundre and Cremona).

Mary Anne Overwater, chair of the MVRWMC, said the board is pleased with the direction the site is taking.

“We completed our cell development—our one cell we dug last year,” said Overwater. “We completed that in September I believe. That came in right around budget so we were happy with that.”

Overwater said the board is also excited that they can repurpose the ground-up shingles.

“We have a big pile of shingles we’re going to be shredding this year,” she said. “What we used some of the shingles for last year was for roads and throughout the parking area of the landfill. It just worked out amazing for us.”

Overwater said the ground shingle material acts like asphalt and keeps the landfill area from getting sloppy and muddy. “It’s quite nice to drive on,” she said. “It’s just like asphalt. We don’t need to water our roads. We use the shingles and it works great.”

She believes that local residents are recycling more and being more conscious of what they put in the garbage.

“We’re always looking at different ways to reduce what goes into the landfill,” she said. “We have quite a few recycling stations throughout the municipalities and the county. I think people are being more respectful of the environment.”



Pat Sliworsky, CAO of the Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission, holds a shingle and some finished product from processing of shingles.

Noel West/MVP Staff