

Council members believe waste commission making progress

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The Town of Didsbury will not only remain a member of the Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission, but town officials have proposed becoming its managing partner.

Council members recently decided to revoke the letter of withdrawal town officials sent to the commission late last year.

In a closed session following the council meeting of May 26, council members made a resolution to bring the matter forward and indicate to the commission they were no longer going to withdraw from the commission.

Council members made the decision to withdraw from the commission at the Dec. 9 council meeting, primarily based on the poor financial condition the commission was in at the time. Since that time, however, the commission's board of directors and staff have made an effort to address financial issues.

"Council thought that they're moving ahead on their plans (for reform), so we thought it was a

choice of ours that we ... show good faith," said Didsbury mayor Rick Mousseau.

Mousseau said he wasn't sure last week how Didsbury's latest move might impact the commission in the future, but he said council members will be eagerly awaiting the outcome of a waste commission meeting that was due to take place today.

He said town staff and council members are also interested to find out what commission members decide to do with an application from Didsbury officials to become the commission's managing partner.

In a letter earlier this spring to the commission's chair Mary Ann Overwater, Roy Brown, the town's chief administrative officer, said he saw many benefits of the town managing the commission's affairs.

He said since the town originally developed and managed the landfill, and some of the public works staff that oversaw the landfill are still employed by the Town of Didsbury, they have some experience with the site. Since the landfill is also in close proximity to the town limits, Brown suggested the commission could save considerable amounts of money on hauling costs.

Brown wrote in the letter that the town could also provide the commission with office space, financial services expertise, operational and human resource support as well as governance support to the board.

"Once the Commission has established precisely what their needs may be, the Town of Didsbury is willing to provide a more in-depth summary of the services that we would be able to offer the Commission. The Town of Didsbury feels that with its key location to the landfill as well as within the region and with the resources the town has available to the commission, this partnership may be beneficial to both parties and provide the stability that the waste management commission requires," Brown stated in the letter.