

Priorities Committee Meeting_Sep15_2020

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE**Warning Signs – Dumping in Rural Ditches****Report Purpose**

To provide information regarding sign options and fines for dumping in rural grid road ditches.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Governance Requirement

Report

Transportation and Agriculture Services responds to rural dumping as a result of concerns raised by the public via telephone, e-mail, or County Connect as well as through internal sightings and response protocols. Most instances are relatively minor in terms of quantity and effort to clean up. Locations that are determined to be “hot spots” are currently signed to dissuade the activity and are monitored more often.

Current levels of illegal dumping activity in the rural area is noted as:

	2017	2018	2019	2020 Jan-June	2020 July-Aug 15
Rural North	53	22	51	14	3
Rural South	106	98	111	53	5

The RCMP and Enforcement Services department can fine for littering/dumping via either one provincial Act and/or two municipal Bylaws:

Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act:

- Section 178 Improper Disposal of waste on Public Land
- Section 179(1) Improper Disposal of Waste on Highway
- Section 179(2) Improper Transportation of Waste on Highway
- Section 180 Improper Disposal of Waste on Land Owned/Administered by Local Authority
- Section 181 Improper Disposal of Waste on/into/under water or ice
- Section 182 Disposal of Waste on another persons Land without Agreement
 - o \$120 Fines for all sections

Traffic Bylaw 16-2015:

- Section 11.1 Placing or Permitting to be placed Foreign Matter onto any Roadway or Sidewalk.
 - o \$200 Fine

Unauthorized Use of County Property Bylaw 8-2007:

- Section 4.1 No Person shall create or allow an unauthorized use of County Property or any other Property under the direction, control or management of the county.
 - o \$1,000 Fine for 1st offence
 - o \$2,500 Fine for 2nd offence
 - o \$5,000 Fine for 3rd offence

Priorities Committee Meeting_Sep15_2020

County Property definition includes "Municipal rights-of-way including highways, roads, roadways, boulevards, sidewalks, walkways, road allowances, streets, lanes, road diversions, public space, water bodies, public utility lots" in addition to "any property owned and or titled to the County, including those lands which have been developed with a building, structure or parking lot."

Between August 1, 2019 and January 31, 2020 there were four reported instances of illegal dumping to the RCMP and Enforcement Services. One resulted in a verbal warning, three had no action taken. Between February 1, 2020 and July 31, 2020 these departments had 15 reported instances of illegal dumping. One was unfounded, one resulted in a verbal warning and 13 had no action taken.

Both departments consider that signage throughout the County (not inclusive of hot spots) is unreasonable. It is not expected that a sign being present would alter the decision of someone that has loaded a vehicle with refuse to dispose of it. Or that if we are in an area that does not have littering/dumping signage that it becomes less enforceable. An overabundance of signage starts to drown each other out, reducing effectiveness of traffic control signs.

Possible recommendations:

That littering/dumping be considered for inclusion within a Community Standards Bylaw to clearly and specifically define it and introduce a consistent level of fine(s).

That a communications plan be created to inform on the penalties for littering/dumping. That dumping be specifically identified as being punishable of a fine of \$1,000 and up to \$5,000 for subsequent offences and include the location and times of where waste can be taken for deposit/recycle and upcoming big item pick up event dates.

Should signs be desired, they take the form of informational signs, similar to what was undertaken for the distracted driving bylaw prior to provincial legislation. We recommend that 10 sites be chosen, at major entrances to the County, and could rotate locations as patterns adjust or present. Cost would be a maximum of \$1,200 per site, total cost of \$12,000. As a comparison, the hot-spot type signs are approximately \$150 per location.

Examples of both the existing hot-spot sign and a proposed information sign are enclosed. Final wording should be agreed to by a number of departments and the fine values may need to be looked at as some surcharges for disposal of some products comes close to these amounts of the fines.

Council and Committee History

June 23, 2020	That administration provide a report, by September 8, 2020, on the feasibility of, and estimated costs associated with, installing "violation warning signage", including the identification of appropriate fines, for littering and dumping of garbage in the rural ditches within the County. (2020/241)
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Other Impacts**Policy:** n/a**Legislative/Legal:** n/a**Interdepartmental:** n/a**Master Plan/Framework:** n/a**Enclosure**

1

Sign Examples