



**COUNCIL MEETING  
HIGHLIGHTS  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 2, 2022**

**North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance & Vermilion River Watershed Alliance**

Michelle Gordy, Watershed Planning Coordinator, attended the meeting, via Zoom, and provided an update on the recent activities of the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance and the Vermilion River Watershed Alliance.

**V3 Companies of Canada – Municipal Development Plan (MDP) & Land Use Bylaw (LUB) Update Workshop**

Nick Pryce, Director – Planning Group and Elisa Stamatakis, Planner, V3 Companies of Canada, attended the meeting.

V3 provided Council with an overview on the Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw Update project.

Topics presented to Council included:

- The planning hierarchy and how documents interact.
- The purpose of a Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB).
- Potential challenges of updating the MDP and LUB (e.g. inconsistencies with other plans).
- Issues identified by Administration.
- Issues identified by V3.

The public will have an opportunity for input at a future date.

**Agendas Committee**

The agenda is central to the process of local government and one of the key instruments by which Council controls the decisions which impact the County.

Council passed a motion that Council establish, by resolution, an Agendas Committee consisting of the Reeve and Deputy Reeve or one Councillor, alternating monthly, that will review potential agenda items and ensure that these are appropriate for inclusion on a Council and/or the Governance and Priorities Committee agenda.

**Bylaw 21-1118 - Governance and Priorities Committee**

At the January 19, 2022 Regular Council meeting, Administration recommended that Beaver County Council consider establishing a “Governance and Priorities Committee” by bylaw. The Committee consists of all Councillors and its objective is to seek to understand various issues and to discuss and identify matters to be submitted to a formal Council meeting. At that time, Council passed a motion directing administration to prepare a Governance and Priorities Committee bylaw and bring for first reading to the next Council meeting.

Administration presented the Bylaw 21-1118 – Governance and Priorities Committee for Council's consideration. Council passed 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Bylaw 21-1118 to establish the Committee.

### **Lindbrook Drainage Issue Information**

Administration provided the following information regarding the Lindbrook Drainage issue:

1. Due to extraordinarily wet conditions in 2019/2020 (prolonged rainfall as well as sudden rainfall events), the County faced many drainage complaints. One such complaint was flooding from the municipal reserve lot in Lindbrook Estates.
2. Historically, Alberta Environment assisted the County with water management concerns throughout the County. In 2020, the County was advised that agricultural lands were the jurisdiction of Alberta Environment, while rural residential development was the jurisdiction of Beaver County (although Alberta Environment retains authority over wetlands and any alterations to creeks and drainage courses in these areas).
3. To address this confusion, at the June 17, 2020 Council meeting, administration was directed to forward a letter to the Minister of Environment.
4. Two letters were sent to Minister Nixon
5. Minister Nixon responded in August 2020.
6. At the August 19, 2020 Council meeting, Council reviewed and accepted the Minister's response and directed administration to take further action on the Lindbrook Estates issue.
7. In the Closed Session portion of the October 21, 2020 Council meeting, Council reviewed a drainage report prepared by Wood Environment (subsequently released to the public) and a legal opinion regarding the Lindbrook Estates drainage issue. No motions were passed on the issue at that time.
8. At the November 5, 2020 Council meeting, Council authorized administration to engage the landowner of Lot 5, Block 2 in Lindbrook Estates to re-institute a drainage course through the lot.

Council passed a motion directing administration to bring back an action plan, to include all the information and motions to resolve the Lindbrook drainage matter.

### **Public Participation Survey Results**

The Public Participation Survey that provided input on policies and programs related to water management, road maintenance programs, and road construction priorities was made available to Beaver County residents from January 5, 2022 to January 19, 2022.

There were 370 responses received through the online survey with an additional 24 surveys that were submitted in hard copy form. Administration also received feedback from residents on the length of the survey, accessibility of participation and the nature of information that was included for background.

Council reviewed the report provided by Administration and passed a motion to accept the Public Participation Plan Survey as information. Council will determine action to be taken at a later date.

### **Agricultural Board Service Board Terms of Reference**

The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Act was passed into legislation in the spring of 1945. This legislation assigned specific duties and powers to municipal and provincial partners, while encouraging cooperative and coordinated effort to develop agricultural policies and programs of mutual benefit.

As outlined in the ASB Act, municipalities may establish an ASB that will act as an advisory body and will assist County Council in promoting and developing agricultural policies and programs to meet the needs of the County.

Currently the ASB has an ASB Member and Meeting Policy that was last revised in 2013. Administration drafted a TOR that the ASB reviewed at the January 18, 2022 meeting. After a review, the Board made amendments and it was recommended that the document be forwarded to Council for approval.

Council passed a motion to accept the recommendation from the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) to adopt the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the ASB and to delete Policy AG-004 ASB Member and Meetings.

### **Seed Cleaning Cooperative – Memorandum of Understanding**

The Beaver County Seed Cleaning Plant is located in the Village of Holden and serves producers from the County as well as the surrounding area.

Beaver County has provided an annual operating grant to the Seed Cleaning Plant in the amount of \$30 000. Each year the Seed Cleaning Plant Board makes a presentation to Council requesting the funding allocation based on the past year's financial situation. In the past a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been completed between Beaver County and the Seed Cleaning Plant.

At the January 5, 2022 regular meeting of Council, the Seed Cleaning Plant Board Members made a presentation to Council and requested the \$30,000 annual funding allocation but requested that a commitment of 5 years be included in the MOU.

The information was also presented to the ASB on January 18, 2022, for review.

Council passed a motion to accept the recommendation from the ASB to provide the Seed Cleaning Plant Cooperative with a Memorandum of Understanding that includes an annual funding commitment of \$30,000, with a 5-year term.

### **Proclamation – Canada's Agriculture Day**

Canada's Agriculture Day is a time to showcase all the amazing things happening in the industry and help consumers see the connection between where their food comes from and the people who produce it. There are a number of ways for people to get involved and 'raise a fork to the food we love and the people who produce it'.

Council passed a motion proclaiming February 22, 2022 as Canada's Agriculture Day in Beaver County. this resolution will remain in effect for five years to coincide with the National Canada's Agriculture Day, set for each year.

### **Authority to Investigate Water Complaints**

At the January 19, 2022 Council meeting, Community Peace Officer Rick Ells presented information to Council with regards to Beaver County's authority in dealing with water management complaints.

Council subsequently passed a motion to approve Community Peace Officer Ells to investigate water complaints at Alberta Environment's request.

### **Property Tax Penalty Waiver Request**

The County has received a request for tax penalty waivers for Roll #190013022. Taxes for this property were not paid by October 31, 2021 and penalties were levied.

Beaver County tax notices were mailed on May 14, 2021. Taxes were due upon receipt and if not paid by October 31, 2021 (November 1, 2021 this year), penalties were levied.

The ratepayer indicated that he contacted the County Office in late October, 2021, and was told that his taxes were paid, then received a notice regarding a penalty. The taxpayer subsequently paid the original amount of taxes on November 22, 2021, but has not paid either the November or January 2022 penalties.

The ratepayer's request has been reviewed with all staff who could have been involved with the original phone call. None remember the call in late October, 2021.

All staff who field these types of calls are aware that neither administration nor individual Councillors have authority to waive a penalty. County policy indicates that all requests are to be decided by Council as a whole, and the taxpayer would have been given this information, and advised that requests are to be made in writing to the County Office.

Waiving the late payment penalty would set an undesirable precedent and would be unfair to other residents who have also been late in payment and have paid the penalty.

Council passed a motion to deny the request to waive late payment penalties for Roll #190013022.

### **Campground Vision**

At the January 19, 2022, Regular Council meeting, Cr. Hrabec discussed the Action Item list and the removal of the Campground Vision item. Administration advised that they would research the history of Campground Vision and report back to Council at a subsequent meeting.

Administration provided the report to Council.

Council passed a motion to accept the report and to further discuss Campground Vision at the upcoming Strategic Planning Session on February 10-11, 2022.

### **Motion 21-450**

At the January 5, 2022 Council meeting, Councillors Hrabec and Pederson questioned the validity of Motion #21-450 which rescinded Motion #21-306. They believed that the County's Procedural Bylaw and/or Robert's Rules of Order require that the rescinding motion be passed by 2/3 majority of the Councillors present, and that a rescinding motion is invalid if action has been taken on the matter before the rescinding motion is considered.

Administration sought a legal opinion and Council reviewed it at the January 19, 2022 Council meeting. The legal opinion cannot be shared publicly under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Council passed a motion to receive and file the legal opinion to document that Council received and considered the information.

### **Future Dates**

Council passed a motion to reschedule the March 16, 2022, Regular Council meeting to Thursday, March 17, 2022, commencing at 9:30 am.

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The next Regular Council Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday,  
February 16, 2022, commencing at 9:30 am.

For more information, contact Beaver County toll free at 1-866-663-1333 or 780-663-3730.  
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[www.beaver.ab.ca](http://www.beaver.ab.ca)