Request for Decision – to Council

Council Meeting Date: February 11, 2020

**Subject**
Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) Grant Application – Inter-jurisdictional Access Road Feasibility Study

**Confidential**
No

**Recommendation**
Motion by Councillor ________ that Lac La Biche County Council supports the submission of the Inter-jurisdictional Access Road Feasibility Study under the 2019/2020 intake of the Alberta Community Partnership grant program, with Lac La Biche County serving as the managing partner for this project.

**Background**

**Discussion:**
- In early January 2020, Heart Lake First Nation spoke to County Administration regarding the possibility of a partnership for the purpose of applying for provincial grant funding and carrying out the project.
- The project in question revolved around examining the feasibility of developing a secondary access road to the Heart Lake First Nation.
- The project involves hiring an engineering firm to collect data, hold consultations, analyze route suitability, and perform environmental and land-use assessments, as well as outline recommendations regarding the overall feasibility of a secondary access road (see attached grant application).
- The provincial grant funding in question is the Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) grant, under the intermunicipal collaboration stream. This program offers up to $200,000 in funding for studies, plans, reports, etc. that are meant to explore opportunities to projects that require intermunicipal collaboration.
- The program allows projects to be fully funded through the grant (no cost sharing requirement). Should funding be approved, the grant will cover the full cost of the project.
- Submissions must be made by two or more municipal organizations, with one organization designated as the managing partner.
- As a managing partner, the County will oversee and manage the project, including the procurement of contractors. That being said, the County will work collaboratively with Heart Lake First Nation to ensure the project satisfies both parties.
- Lac La Biche County worked in conjunction with Heart Lake First Nation and an engineering firm to develop the grant application.
- The deadline to apply for funding was January 20, 2020.
- Lac La Biche County submitted an application as the managing partner.
- Applicants must have a Council motion in place by March 2, 2020 in order to be considered for funding.
- Historically, the County used ACP grants to purchase wildfire apparatus with neighbouring Metis settlements, and lately have received ACP funding to complete intermunicipal development plans and intermunicipal collaboration frameworks with the County’s municipal neighbours.

**Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices:**
- Characteristics of the ACP grant program have been previously discussed above.

**Desired Outcome(s):**
- That the County engage with its municipal neighbours on projects that necessitate collaboration.
- That the County make use of grant funding opportunities.

**Response Options:**
- Council could choose to proceed with the application by making the recommended motion.
- Council could choose to withdraw the application by determining that no motion will be provided.

**Strategic Alignment**
- Although this does not fit specifically with any one strategic goal, it pertains to the development of arterial transportation infrastructure, which is an essential service for Lac La Biche County and its municipal neighbours.
- This project is an opportunity to collaborate with our municipal neighbours to assist them in a project that:
  - Requires County collaboration to complete.
  - That could benefit from County experience in completing similar projects.

**Implication of Recommendation**

**Organizational:**
- None

**Financial:**
- There will be no net cost to the County should this project be approved.

**Implementation:**
- Administration will confirm with the province that the required motion is in place.

**Communication:**
- Administration will let Heart Lake First Nation know that it (the County) had made the required motion.

**Attachments**
1. Grant Application (submitted January 20, 2020)

**Prepared by:**
Carl Kurppa

**Presented by:**
Carl Kurppa