Request for Decision – to Council

Council Meeting Date: February 11, 2020

Subject
Bylaw 20-008 Establishing the Lac La Biche Watershed Management Steering Committee (Request for Decision)

Confidential
No

Recommendation
That Bylaw 20-008 be given first reading this 11th day of February 2020.

That Bylaw 20-008 be given second reading this 11th day of February 2020.

That Bylaw 20-008 be submitted for third reading this 11th day of February 2020.

That Bylaw 20-008 be given third reading this 11th day of February 2020.

That Councillors ______ and_______ be appointed to the Lac La Biche Watershed Management Steering Committee.

Background
Discussion:
- The Watershed Management Plan (WMP) is a best management practice guideline for the protection of the Lac La Biche Watershed. The update for the existing draft plan from 2009 was requested by Council in 2018. Work for the update started in 2019 and additional funding was approved as part of the 2020 budget.
- A stakeholder information session on this initiative was held in December 2019.
- Administration recommends the WMP update be developed by a Steering Committee, for which Bylaw 20-008 has been drafted.
- Some of the key items to highlight from proposed Bylaw 20-008 are:
  - The Steering Committee will recommend its terms of reference for Council’s adoption. The draft terms of reference, titled “Operating Principles and Processes” are attached for Council’s information;
  - Membership will consist of stakeholder organizations, and Lac La Biche County Council Members and Staff;
  - Remuneration will only be paid to those members who are representing their organization on a volunteer basis. Employees or other paid members are not intended to receive additional remuneration from the County. Council Members appointed to the Committee would be eligible for remuneration under the applicable policy;
- The WMP Steering Committee will be an ad-hoc committee that will conclude once the final plan is forwarded to Council for adoption.
A tentative meeting of the Steering Committee has been scheduled for February 24th. At that meeting the draft terms of reference for the Steering Committee will be reviewed. Once finalized by the Steering Committee, the terms of reference for the Committee will be forwarded to Council for adoption.

It should be noted that the Agricultural Services Board (ASB) has selected Councillor Borgun to serve on the Steering Committee on behalf of ASB.

Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices:
- The Municipal Government Act states that Council may pass bylaws in relation to the establishment, functions and procedures of Council committees or other bodies.
- Provisions of the County’s Committee Member Selection Policy and Committee Member Remuneration Policy have been varied or waived by this bylaw.

Desired Outcome(s):
- That the Steering Committee be established in order to update the Lac La Biche Watershed Management Plan.
- That two Council members be appointed.

Response Options:
- Council may choose to not establish the Steering Committee and request presentation of other options.

Strategic Alignment
- Strategic Goal 5: We will protect and sustain the valuable natural assets our citizens and visitors enjoy.

Implication of Recommendation
Organizational:
- The Environmental Services department will work as part of the Steering Committee to update the WMP.
- A consultant has been hired to facilitate this project.

Financial:
- $30,000 has been approved in the 2020 budget for this initiative.
- In accordance with policy, the CAO may transfer funds in order to provide remuneration to any volunteer members.
- Council Members will be provided with remuneration in accordance with the Councillor Remuneration Policy.

Implementation:
- The Bylaw will be signed and sealed.
- Once approved by the Committee, the Steering Committee’s terms of reference will be forwarded to Council for adoption.

Communication:
- The Environmental Services Department will liaise with stakeholder organizations to facilitate the work of the Steering Committee.

Attachments
1. Draft Bylaw 20-008
2. Draft Operating Principles and Processes – Lac La Biche WMP Steering Committee.
Prepared by: Melanie McConnell

Presented by: Melanie McConnell and Molly Fyten