

Lac La Biche County

Report

to Council

SUBJECT: Fork Lake boat launches and beach access

COUNCIL MEETING DATE: March 9, 2021

CONFIDENTIAL: No

Purpose:

Administration provide updated information regarding boat launches and beach access to Fork Lake

Proposed Motion:

That County Council accept the fork Lake boat launches and beach access as information

Options:

That County Council accept the Fork Lake boat launches and beach access as information.

That County Council increase the budget allocation from \$150,00.00 to \$1,300,00.00.

That county Council direct administration to explore more option on providing proper beach access at fork Lake

Recommendation:

The estimated amount of \$1.3 million dollar to provide proper beach access at Fork Lake is higher that anticipated and administration explore alternate opportunities to provide access to0 beach area.

Background:

- Due to a number of concerns from County Council and the Public regarding access to ER and Fork Lake beach areas, County Council approved \$150,000.00 for proper access and washroom facilities to Fork Lake Beaches.
- Administration has been working with a consultant to provide concept plans and costs to develop proper access to the beach area at Fork Lake.

- Following a number complaints and concerns from residents regarding safety with vehicles accessing the beach area by Bennet Beach a gate was installed to restrict vehicle access on to the beach and a gravel parking lot was established by the gate.
- The plan is to have the gate open over the winter months for residents to access the lake for winter activities. And close the gate over the summer months to restrict vehicle access. Parks operation would allow residents to access the gate to install and remove docks and lifts from the lake.
- Bennett Beach originally had a boat Launch but was removed about 10 years ago. There was also a previous boat launch at the Fork Lake Campsite but was also closed down a number of years ago. There is an established and maintain County boat Launch down the road from Bennett Beach.
- There was also a past boat Launch at the beach by Fork Lake estates and was replaced with a float dock about 7 years ago.
- The attached concept plans show a number of options to establish a proper access to the beach with parking, and washrooms. Due to the slope of the bank and access a retaining wall needs to be established. The estimated cost to create this area is \$1,354,839.75. This is significantly more than anticipated to create the appropriate access to Fork Lake Beach area.
- We have consulted Planning and Development, this area is being proposed to be developed on County ER.
- Presently residents and visitors of the area cross the ER with motorized vehicles to access the beach areas. This has brought up a number of concerns of safety and damage to sensitive environment areas. A proper access and parking area needs to be established.

Strategic Alignment:

Recreation and Tourism

Financial Implications:

Costs: \$1,354,839.75

Source of funding: \$150,000.00

Relevant Legislation, Policy or Practices:

Land Use Policy

Internal Impacts:

We need to find a solution to this issue, it is a continuing concern for residents and visitors

Communication:

Communicate to appropriate staff and residents in the area

Attachments:

Concept Drawings

Estimated Costs

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Presented By:

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