



Policy and Priorities Committee Agenda

March 25, 2019, 9:00 AM

Council Chambers

4912 - 50 Avenue

Kitscoty Alberta, Canada

Pages

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Recommendation:

THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities Committee approve the March 25, 2019 Policy and Priorities Committee Meeting Agenda as presented.

4. **APPOINTMENTS**

9:00 AM Garth Rowsell, UCP Candidate for Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright

5. **COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS**

5.a **FINANCE**

2019 Budget Update - For Information

Recommendation:

THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities Committee receive the 2019 Verbal Budget Update for information.

Request for Information

5.b **PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES**

Request for Information

5.c NATURAL GAS UTILITY

Request for Information

5.d AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (ASB)

**Agriculture and Environment Director's Report March 2019 –
For Information**

4

Recommendation:

THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities
Committee receive the March 2019 Agriculture and
Environment Director's Report for information.

**Cost information for ALUS Vermilion River and Green Acreages
Vermilion River – For Information**

8

Recommendation:

THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities
Committee receive the cost analysis for ALUS Vermilion River
and Green Acreages Vermilion River for information.

Request for Information

5.e PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Request for Information

5.f PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Request for Information

5.g GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Chief Administrative Officer Recruitment - For Information

Recommendation:

THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities
Committee receive the Chief Administrative Officer Recruitment
Verbal Update for information.

2019 DIVISION MEETINGS – MOTION REQUIRED

10

Recommendation:

THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities Committee recommend that the County of Vermilion River approve the scheduling of the 2019 Division Meetings.

2019 SPRING ROAD AND COMMUNITY TOUR – MOTION REQUIRED

12

Recommendation:

THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities Committee direct administration to schedule and organize the 2019 Spring Road and Community Tour.

NOVEMBER 7, 2018 SECONDARY REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR THE VERMILION ICE PLANT REPLACEMENT – MOTION REQUIRED

13

Recommendation:

THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities Committee recommend that the County of Vermilion River approve/disapprove the request from the Town of Vermilion to assist in funding the replacement of their ice plant at a cost of \$475,000.

Request for Information

6. POLICIES

7. BYLAWS

8. DELEGATIONS

9:00 AM Garth Rowswell, UCP Candidate for Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright

9. DISPOSITION OF DELEGATIONS

10. CLOSED SESSION - CONFIDENTIAL

FOIP Section 25 (1) - Disclosure harmful to economic and other interests of a public body - Annexation

11. ADJOURNMENT

COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 2019-03-25

BRIEFING NOTE - TO COMMITTEE

SUBJECT

Agriculture and Environment Director's Report March 2019 – For Information

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities Committee receive the March 2019 Agriculture and Environment Director's Report for information.

DETAILS

Background: The Agriculture and Environment Department has summarized ongoing operations.

Desired Outcome (s): THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities Committee receive the Agriculture and Environment Director's Report March 2019 for information.

Response Options: Receive the Agriculture and Environment Director's Report March 2019 for information.

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

Organizational: Administration to update report on a monthly basis.

ATTACHMENTS

March 15 2019 Ag Directors Report to Council.docx

PREPARED BY: Cathie Erichsen Arychuk

DATE: 2019-03-15



AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MARCH 15, 2019

PREPARED BY: CATHIE ERICHSEN ARYCHUK

AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD (ASB) ACT

- Northlands and BMO are requesting nominations of a County of Vermilion River outstanding farm family for the 2019 Farm Family Award by May 31, 2019.
- Advertising and interviewing for Agriculture staff.
- Prepared articles on strychnine sales and vegetation management for spring newsletter.

AGRICULTURAL PEST ACT

- County of Vermilion River and partnering municipalities (County of St Paul, Lac La Biche County, MD of Provost, County of Two Hills and Lamont County) received almost \$250 000 from the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) – Surveillance Program Grant to support detailed municipal clubroot surveillance, clubroot pathotype monitoring, clubroot extension activities and research into movement of clubroot spores by wind erosion. Partnering municipalities will match this amount through In-Kind contributions, allowing for enhanced clubroot management.
- Strychnine sale is running from March 11 to May 15, 2019, for \$11/bottle (includes GST). Purchase amount is capped at either the maximum amount purchased by the farm in past years or 2 cases per farm. Health Canada and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) continue to review the strychnine registration, with a decision expected by November 2019.
- Working on a CVR program through Pest Control and ALUS Vermilion River to encourage area farmers to take steps to proactively prevent/manage clubroot on their farms by establishing perennials at field entrances, in grassed waterways, and low/wet areas at increased risk of clubroot introduction or spread. Farmers are encouraged to seed an area at the field entrance to perennials to provide a non-host area to remove soil from equipment and park equipment to reduce soil movement between fields. They could also seed water runoff channels to perennials to reduce the introduction of clubroot spores through runoff. These perennial areas seeded to a diverse, easily managed grass/legume/forb stand could be enrolled as ALUS Vermilion River projects, making farms eligible for assistance in establishment costs and even land payments for ecosystem services provided, including carbon sequestration and pollinator habitat.

CVR Pest Control could partner with ALUS Vermilion River to provide access to a diverse blend of perennial seed to farmer participants for clubroot management. This would provide area farmers the opportunity to enter into a proactive clubroot management program with minimal effort, improve clubroot management for both their operation and the county overall, and get some cash return on the seeded area.

WEED CONTROL ACT

- Sent out Request for Quotes for purchase of a side-by-side for roadside spraying, as per 2019 Agriculture Capital Budget.
- Preparing herbicide order for spring.

ALUS VERMILION RIVER

- Working with the ALUS Vermilion River PAC to update their Strategic Plan for 2019-2021.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

- Video documenting the CVR/Minburn Ag Plastics Recycling Program has been sent for final editing.

ENVIRONMENT

- Editing/review of “An Evaluation of Municipal-Provincial Wetland Management Partnerships in Alberta” report summarizing the experiences of municipal Wetland Restoration Agents and examining opportunities and constraints for future municipal-provincial partnerships in wetland management.
- Working on advocacy of wetland restoration and wetland enhancement opportunities with AEP, including presentation of Fiera report at the 2019 RMA Spring Convention.
- Preparing for BioBed construction outside of the Ag Chem Building to assist in managing herbicide contamination and residue in an environmentally friendly manner and demonstrate opportunities for crop producers.
- Planning for Spring/Summer workshops (shared Green Acreages/ALUS):
 - Native Pollinator workshop (with bee house construction)
 - Bat Viewing (maybe with bat house construction workshop)
 - Dutch Elm Disease, Emerald Ash Borer workshop

COMING EVENTS

- *March 14: Wetland Education Network Workshop, Nisku*
- *March 19: Alberta Invasive Species Council Meeting, Lacombe*
- *March 20: RMA Wetland Restoration Presentation, Edmonton*
- *March 21: Alberta Farm Animal Care Conference and TLAER (Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue) workshop, Olds*
- *April 17: Young Farm Worker Safety Training, Lakeland College, Vermilion*

COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 2019-03-25

BRIEFING NOTE - TO COMMITTEE

SUBJECT

Cost information for ALUS Vermilion River and Green Acreages Vermilion River – For Information

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities Committee receive the cost information for ALUS Vermilion River and Green Acreages Vermilion River for information.

DETAILS

Discussion: Council requested administration provide information on the cost to the municipality of the ALUS – Vermilion River and Green Acreages – Vermilion River programs.

For 2018, actual costs for ALUS – Vermilion River were:

County costs after grant income received \$80 765

ALUS Grants received \$70 914

CVR % of total costs = 53%

For 2019, budgeted costs for ALUS – Vermilion River are:

County costs after expected grant income \$86 224

ALUS Grants expected \$73 000

CVR % of total costs = 54%

The MOU with ALUS Canada requires the County to match ALUS Grants received 1:1, with either expenses or fundraising.

For 2018, actual costs for Green Acreages – Vermilion River were \$1763

For 2019, budgeted costs for Green Acreages – Vermilion River are \$3010

No grant funding is expected associated with the Green Acreages – Vermilion River program.



In addition, because of the ALUS and County of Vermilion River partnership, the County's ratepayers have been able to get funding in the amount of \$82 000 from the Vermilion River Watershed Alliance.

Desired Outcome (s): THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities Committee receive the cost information for ALUS Vermilion River and Green Acreages Vermilion River for information.

Response Options: Receive the cost information for ALUS Vermilion River and Green Acreages Vermilion River for information.

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

Organizational: Update Council on program costs for 2018 and 2019.

PREPARED BY: Cathie Erichsen Arychuk

DATE:2019-03-18

COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: MARCH 25, 2019

REQUEST FOR DECISION - TO COMMITTEE

SUBJECT

2019 DIVISION MEETINGS – MOTION REQUIRED

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities Committee recommend that the County of Vermilion River approve the scheduling of the 2019 Division Meetings.

DETAILS

Background: As per the communication strategy in the Hamlet Management Policy AD 005, yearly meetings are to be held with ratepayers in order to provide the opportunity for input into hamlet projects and the expression of any concerns. The policy further stipulates that the County will provide residents with updates as to ongoing projects, grants, finances, etc.

At a previous meeting of Council, Council directed administration to bring back the Hamlet Management Policy to remove the necessity for yearly meetings and rather, make them optional at the discretion of the Councillor. Administration has already made this amendment in draft format and is awaiting further changes from the public works department prior to bringing the policy back for Council approval.

Discussion: Should Councillors wish to host an annual meeting for their hamlet, division or both, administration will schedule it accordingly.

Relevant Policy/Legislation Practices: Hamlet Management Policy AD 005

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

Organizational: Administration to prepare the agenda and book the meeting place.

Financial: Staff time, hall rental and refreshments.

Communication Required: Administration to advertise the meetings to the public via social media and printed flyers.



PREPARED BY: Shannon Harrower, Executive Secretary

APPROVED BY: Pat Vincent, Interim CAO

DATE: March 19, 2019

COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: MARCH 25, 2019

REQUEST FOR DECISION - TO COMMITTEE

SUBJECT

2019 SPRING ROAD AND COMMUNITY TOUR – MOTION REQUIRED

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities Committee direct administration to schedule and organize the 2019 Spring Road and Community Tour.

DETAILS

Background: Each year, Council and administration embark on a tour to view and visit the County's vast road network, communities and facilities. This tour provides Council with the opportunity to discuss their concerns as it relates to the quality and maintenance of the County's infrastructure as well as visit many of the communities and facilities within the County's boundary. The road tour has always typically been scheduled in the spring and therefore administration is seeking Council direction as to their availability in the coming months for the full day excursion.

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

Organizational: Administration to book a bus or van to accommodate both Council and staff on the road tour.

Financial: Bus/van rental, refreshments and staff time.

PREPARED BY: Shannon Harrower, Executive Secretary

APPROVED BY: Pat Vincent, Interim CAO

DATE: March 19, 2019

MEETING DATE: MARCH 25, 2019

REQUEST FOR DECISION - TO COMMITTEE

SUBJECT

**NOVEMBER 7, 2018 SECONDARY REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR THE VERMILION
ICE PLANT REPLACEMENT – MOTION REQUIRED**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities Committee recommend that the County of Vermilion River approve/disapprove the request from the Town of Vermilion to assist in funding the replacement of their ice plant at a cost of \$475,000.

DETAILS

Background: The Town of Vermilion is in the process of applying for grant funding to support their plans of replacing their ice plant. The Town first requested a contribution of \$300,000 of which was not approved by Council and is now asking for reconsideration for a contribution amount of \$475,000. This item was presented at the November 13, 2018 Regular Council Meeting and deferred to a future policy and priorities committee meeting for further review.

Response Options: THAT the County of Vermilion River approve the request from the Town of Vermilion to assist in funding the replacement of their ice plant at a cost of \$475,000.

THAT the County of Vermilion River disapprove the request from the Town of Vermilion to assist in funding the replacement of their ice plant at a cost of \$475,000.

THAT the County of Vermilion River receive the request from the Town of Vermilion to assist in funding the replacement of their ice plant at a cost of \$475,000 for information.

THAT the County of Vermilion River approve the request from the Town of Vermilion to assist in funding the replacement of their ice plant at a cost of \$_____.

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

Financial: Potential \$475,000 contribution to be funded by a levy in the Vermilion Recreation Area. Administration would prepare, if approved, the debenture and payment schedule.

Communication Required: Should Council approve/disapprove the request for funding, a letter will be drafted outlining Council's position and contribution, if applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Letter from the Town of Vermilion

PREPARED BY: Shannon Harrower, Executive Secretary

APPROVED BY: Pat Vincent, Interim CAO

DATE: November 8, 2018



5021 - 49 Avenue
Vermilion, AB Canada T9X 1X1
www.vermilion.ca

November 7, 2018

County of Vermilion River
Box 69
Kitscoty, AB T0B 2P0
Attn: Reeve Dale Swyripa

Re: Ice Plant Funding

Dear Reeve Swyripa and County of Vermilion River Council,

In response to your letter dated October 29, 2018, the Town of Vermilion Council is very disappointed and shocked with CVR Council's decision to decline a contribution to the replacement of the Ice Plant. This plant serves our two ice skating surfaces and 5 sheet curling rink. In the past, our councils have always had a shared understanding of the challenges of maintaining aging infrastructure and its use by all residents, and as such have supported contributions to maintaining the infrastructure.

This facility has served our greater community for over 50 years and is coming to the end of its life. Last season was fraught with difficulty, as we experienced numerous breakdowns. We continue to overtax the system to meet the user demand; which was a factor in the deaths of the 3 workers in the facility in Fernie B.C. It has become imperative that we address this issue from a safety and functionality perspective.

The project was originally estimated at \$1.25 to 1.75 Million and we were waiting for our consultants who have now projected the cost near \$1.9M. The Town is willing to share all cost estimates, and technical data with your staff, to verify the projections.

Your letter refers to the funding you provide which is part of our cost sharing agreement (Agreement to Work Together between the Town and the County). Currently the County contributes 27% to the operating costs only, to provide services to County residents in accordance to the cost sharing formula within the "Agreement to Work Together between the Town and County". This agreement speaks only to supporting the operational costs and not the capital costs, which is what this request is. We would be happy to share this agreement with you as requested. The Agreement also outlines how the County Council could seek clarification for budget items requests from the Town if they are required. (C4)

The Town of Vermilion is at a loss to understand how the County can completely decline the funding of a piece of equipment that is so critical to the provision of ice services for your residents. Case in point, in the 2017-2018 Minor Hockey season, 57% of the registrations were rural residents, and for Figure Skating, the split was 50/50. In addition, over the past 5 years the Town has strategically invested capital dollars in the stadium, arena and curling rink complex in the way of a new roof, heating, lighting, a new Zamboni, pavement, and many other improvements to optimize the operation and enjoyment of the facilities. These improvements total more than \$1.8 Million of Town of Vermilion dollars, with no requests for support from the County. In addition, we have made improvements to our other recreation facilities including the Tennis Courts, Spray Park, Outdoor Rink, and the Skate Park to the tune of over \$600,000.00. These projects provide recreation services to your County residents; again with no requests for County funding support.

The contribution we requested was much lower than the percentage used to calculate the operating agreement and yet the request was totally denied. At our Council meeting of November 6, the Council for the Town of Vermilion agreed a contribution of \$475,000 is more in line with what would support your residents. We feel this recognized the intricate nature of the relationship between our two communities, wherein we are actually one community, as our boundaries are only recognized by political leaders, not residents.

We respectfully ask the County Council to re-consider your decision, recognizing that your contribution is not a gift to the Town, but an investment in your own residents.

Yours sincerely,

SEVERED

Caroline McAuley, Mayor
Town of Vermilion
On behalf of Vermilion Town Council

cc: Vermilion Town Council
George Rogers, CAO
Shawn Bell, Director of Community Services