



**COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 15, 2024**

## **REQUEST FOR DECISION - TO COMMITTEE**

### **SUBJECT**

**AG 014 HAMLET BEAUTIFICATION POLICY UPDATE – MOTION REQUIRED**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities Committee recommend that the County of Vermilion River approve the updated AG 014 Hamlet Beautification Policy as presented.

### **DETAILS**

**Discussion:** AG 014 Hamlet Beautification Policy has not been updated for since 2006 but has been used annually to provide grants to Community groups. The intent of Policy AG 014 in 2006 was to provide funding for hamlets within the County of Vermilion River to conduct mowing and grounds maintenance and to provide beautification within the hamlet. Mowing is an effective weed control practice and prevents the spread of weeds on properties. The intention of the Policy was to allow local residents to make decisions on community appearance and maintenance and have control over weeds and mowing within their hamlet. Over the years, the County of Vermilion River increasingly took responsibility for mowing on public lands in the hamlets. The Beautification Grants currently provide funding for additional activities to maintain the appearance of hamlets as desired by the community. Community organizations within County of Vermilion River hamlets have been receiving annual funding for beautification from the municipality consistently since 2006. The amount provided has not changed in that period.

As the County is now mowing public areas within the Hamlets, the proposed version of Policy AG 014 has been renamed the Hamlet Beautification Policy and mowing has been removed from the policy. There is still a need to encourage hamlet residents to take action to maintain the appearance of their hamlet. This is a good way to build community pride and respect for the area, and engage the community to work together, at a relatively minimal annual cost. Additionally, this policy enables local community groups to conduct beautification activities that may be particularly desired by that community but do not fall under County Service levels, i.e. control of common weeds such as dandelions or purslane.



Changes in the proposed draft policy include

- Removal of mention of hamlet mowing
- Definitions including defining “weeds”, “beautification” and “grounds maintenance”
- Increases in the annual grant payment for some hamlets based roughly on hamlet population and hamlet size (area to manage).
- Adding an annual meeting in each hamlet between administration and interested community groups and organizations.

**Relevant Policy/Legislation Practices:** None

**Desired Outcome (s):** THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities Committee recommend that the County of Vermilion River approve the updated AG 014 Hamlet Beautification Policy as presented.

**Response Options:** THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities Committee recommend that the County of Vermilion River rescind Policy AG 014 Hamlet Mowing and Beautification Policy.

## IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

Organizational: Administration to implement policy for 2025

Financial: Additional grant money added to Agriculture and Environment Operational Budget for 2025.

Communication Required: Inform affected community groups of changes to Policy AG 014.

Implementation:

## ATTACHMENTS

1. AG 014 Hamlet Beautification Policy Sept 2024 draft.pdf
2. AG 014 (1<sup>st</sup> Revision); Hamlet Mowing and Beautification Policy (2007-06-25).pdf
3. HAMLET BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM Reporting Form 2022.pdf

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DATE: October 4, 2024